



FIRST SESSION - TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

of the

**Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

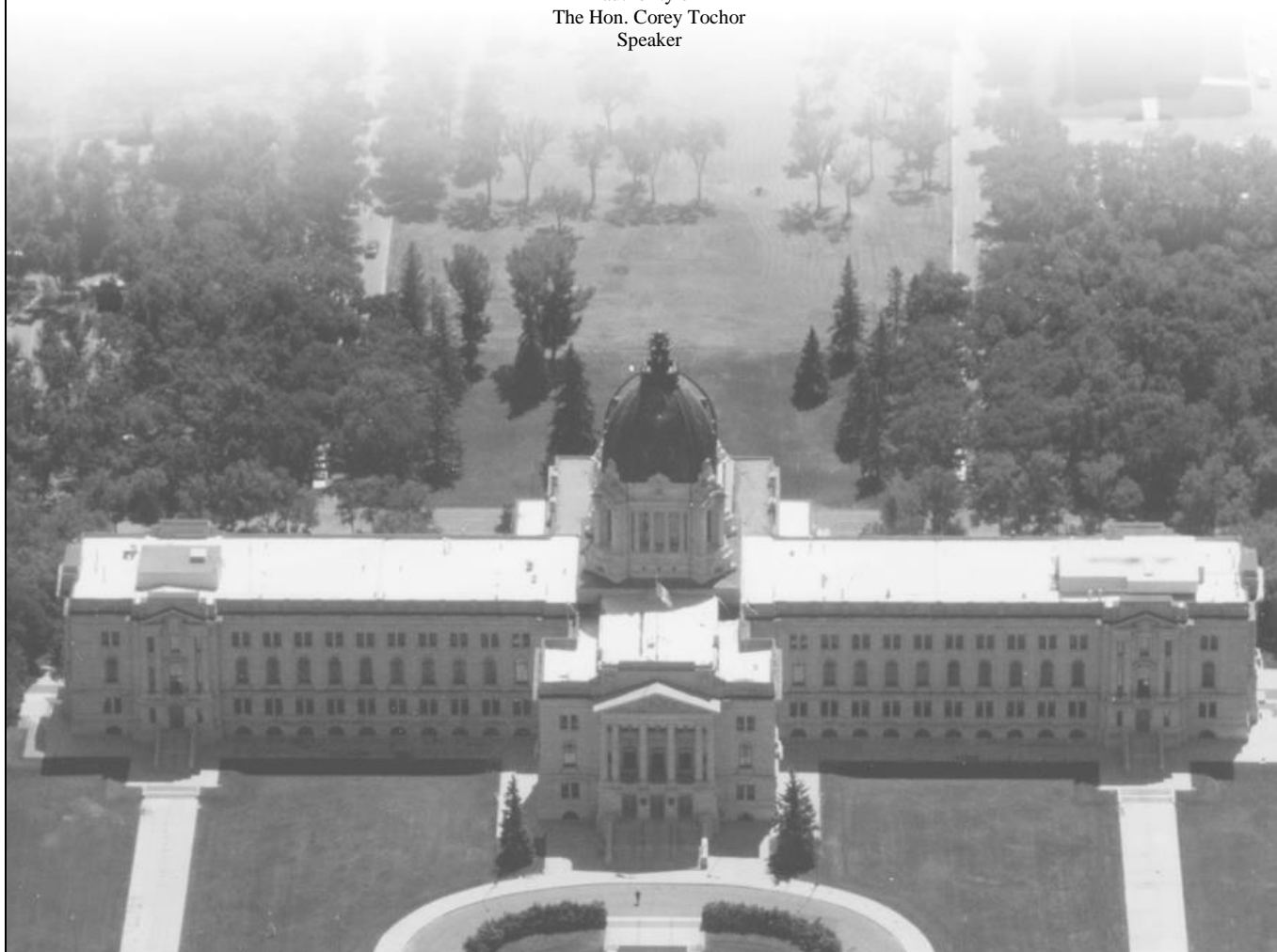
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**DEBATES  
and  
PROCEEDINGS**

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(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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**Beck**, Carla — Regina Lakeview (NDP)

**Belanger**, Buckley — Athabasca (NDP)

**Bonk**, Steven — Moosomin (SP)

**Boyd**, Bill — Kindersley (SP)

**Bradshaw**, Fred — Carrot River Valley (SP)

**Brkich**, Greg — Arm River (SP)

**Buckingham**, David — Saskatoon Westview (SP)

**Campeau**, Jennifer — Saskatoon Fairview (SP)

**Carr**, Lori — Estevan (SP)

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**Cheveldayoff**, Hon. Ken — Saskatoon Willowgrove (SP)

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**Lawrence**, Greg — Moose Jaw Wakamow (SP)

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**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)

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**Wotherspoon**, Trent — Regina Rosemont (NDP)

**Wyant**, Hon. Gordon — Saskatoon Northwest (SP)

**Young**, Colleen — Lloydminster (SP)

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**Party Standings:** Saskatchewan Party (SP) — 50; New Democratic Party (NDP) — 10; Independent (Ind.) — 1

**Clerks-at-the-Table**

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

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[The Assembly resumed at 19:00.]

### EVENING SITTING

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I'll call the Assembly to order. We'll resume debate on the motion moved by the Premier and the concurrent motion of amendment moved by the Leader of the Opposition.

### GOVERNMENT MOTIONS

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Moosomin.

#### Position on Climate Change and Carbon Tax

**Mr. Bonk:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. To further highlight the potential of growing soils, last fall at the Paris climate talks the agriculture minister of France, Stéphane Le Foll, proposed a declaration called 4 per 1000. Its mandate is to increase soil organic matter by point four per cent per year in the world's organic soils. It states if this is achieved, it would bring us back to pre-industrial levels of carbon in the atmosphere. The stated goal of this initiative is to engage stakeholders in a transition towards productive, resilient agriculture based on sustainable soil management and generating jobs and incomes, hence insuring sustainable development.

Boosting soil organic matter does more than just sequester heat-trapping CO<sub>2</sub>. It improves crop yields, increases biodiversity, and most importantly holds more water, preventing flooding and enhancing resilience to floods. With drought identified as a contributing factor to social unrest, the issue is not just about climate. It's about reversing desertification that has been destabilizing civilizations for millennia.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, about 30 countries are now signatories to this declaration. Saskatchewan is absolutely a world leader in this effort. We are poised to play a leading role globally, but our federal government has yet to sign.

Proper grazing management stimulates growth and carbon sequestration. These three Saskatchewan farms illustrate this point: the Hjertaas family near Redvers, for every kilogram emitted, 17 kilograms of CO<sub>2</sub> were sequestered; McNeils at Alameda, for every kilogram emitted, 25 kilograms were sequestered; the Corcoran family at Langbank in my home constituency of Moosomin, for every kilogram emitted, 39 kilograms of carbon were sequestered.

I spent a lot of my career working in these seasonal rainfall grasslands all over the globe. Some of these ecosystems are on the verge of collapse and are degrading and turning to desert at an alarming rate. Many of these areas of the world struggle with food security and political instability. Soil degradation is rampant and the amount of carbon lost to the atmosphere is staggering.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, believe me when I tell you that the technology and management techniques that we are employing

here in Saskatchewan are not only sorely needed, but are in high demand all over the world. We have the opportunity to heal the planet while producing food, employing people, and preserving cultures. In fact this may be the only option left in many parts of the world. In Saskatchewan we have the tools and knowledge the world is looking for.

Mr. Speaker, the innovation that has happened here in Saskatchewan needs to be rewarded, not penalized by a short-sighted carbon tax that disproportionately penalizes the very people who are arguably doing the very most for our planet. These people are the most ardent environmentalists we have in this country. They understand the land. They make their livelihood and it depends on the health of the land. The Vancouver Declaration states that we should, and I quote:

Work together to enhance carbon sinks, including agriculture and forestry, taking into account international best practices and accounting standards, to recognize their contribution to mitigating GHG emissions, and toward the establishment of a pan-Canadian offset protocols framework and verified carbon credits that can be traded internationally.

Well, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we are enhancing carbon sinks. We are using and developing international best practices. And we believe that we should be given credit for the good work we are doing here in this province.

Are we being penalized for being too far ahead of the game? Each Canadian has a carbon footprint of 18.9 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per year. Now keep in mind, Mr. Speaker, that Canada has 65 million hectares of farm land. At a sequestration level of 27.8 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per hectare per year, the average of the farms tested in Saskatchewan, each hectare farmed regeneratively will sequester more than each Canadian's footprint.

The thrust of climate activism has predominantly been negative. It tends to come out against something. It is sometimes hard for us to articulate what we're for. We believe we have a significant and dynamic story of success in this province in regards to carbon sequestration. It's a story worth telling, it's a story worth sharing, and it's a story we should get credit for. I can't think of almost anything that would offer more hope for the future.

I wholeheartedly support the motion put forward by the Premier and reject the amendment. Thank you.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Carrot River Valley.

**Mr. Bradshaw:** — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I would like to say it's a pleasure to get up and speak to this, but unfortunately it's such a disaster that it's not really even a pleasure, Mr. Speaker. The catch is, is this is going to be a terrible, terrible tax put on this province and all of Canada, really.

But, Mr. Speaker, I have to say that I can't totally blame our Prime Minister because I don't think he's got the wherewithal to figure this out. Really I think this goes right back to his major political adviser, senior political adviser, a fellow by the name

of Gerald Butts.

Now, Mr. Speaker, Gerald Butts was the principal adviser to Dalton McGuinty back in Ontario, and Gerald Butts was the designer of the disastrous power supply that they had out there. He wanted to shut down all the coal-fired power plants rather than looking at how he could fix them like what we have done here in Saskatchewan, and he wanted to go out and have all solar and wind and pay tremendous prices. I remember the solar, if I remember right, was eighty and a half cents per kilowatt hour. And they signed long-term contracts, and I think if I remember right, wind was in around 50 cents per kilowatt hour. And they signed long-term contracts.

Consequently what that has done is it's given Ontario the highest power rates in all of North America. And then Ontario sits back and it says, well why can't we get any manufacturers to come in here? Well let's say you had somebody like GM [General Motors] came in. They're going to set up a car plant. You know, next to wages one of their biggest costs is probably going to be the cost of energy, the cost of electricity. And in Ontario that cost has just ballooned so high that these plants are now moving to the US [United States] and to Mexico.

Gerald Butts left there, and in 2008 he became the president . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Oh yes, yes. I forgot about this other thing about Gerald Butts too. He also charged, when Trudeau had him hired and moved into Ottawa, he charged over \$100,000 for the move. So you know, you really got to question some of this.

And then in 2008 he became the president and CEO [chief executive officer] of the World Wildlife Fund. And we know what he said when he was president there. He said we shouldn't take any oil out of the ground. It should all be left in the ground. That was his thinking. We should leave all the resources, our natural gas and oil, in the ground.

Then in 2012 he started working for who is now the Prime Minister, for Justin Trudeau. And now he is a senior political adviser. I really think that that is where this is coming from. What he wants to do is he wants to basically destroy the economy that we have out West here, forgetting about all the equalization payments we've been sending down there, forgetting about our resource-based things that we have here. And, Mr. Speaker, this is going to be a disaster.

I actually have a letter here, and I just wanted to read this letter. It was sent to me from a trucking company that's right across the street from our office, a trucking company in Carrot River. It just says, and I'm quoting here:

To Fred Bradshaw,

Under the Trudeau carbon tax initiative, a \$50 per tonne tax would add 13.58 cents a litre or more to our diesel fuel price. This added tax would increase our operating costs by \$300,000 a year. As a result, our company will need to increase our freight rates for everything that we haul, including farmers' grain and fertilizers, adding costs to their already thin margins. We also haul Saskatchewan-manufactured products to the USA, and there we would struggle to be competitive with this kind of

a cost increase.

That came from a trucking company right in Carrot River. Three hundred thousand dollars out of their pocket — where are they going to get that money? Well it's going to be passed on. Their main sources are lumber, so that makes our logging industry non-competitive. It's fertilizer and grain. Those are the main things that they're hauling. This makes us uncompetitive. The only thing they can do is, it's got to go downhill.

Now, Mr. Speaker, as we all know, our lumber exports are mainly to the US. Guess what? US doesn't have a carbon tax. So that makes our lumber more expensive to put into the US, a competitive disadvantage obviously to our farmers.

And let's just say, let's just take a look and let's say China was buying a bunch of wheat. Now it's got to go on the market. Our wheat's going to cost us more money to raise here because it costs us more for our trucking, more for our fertilizer, more for our diesel fuel, more for everything.

So okay, so you're over in China, and Viteria is trying to make a deal with China. And they say, well we want \$7 a bushel for our wheat. And the Australians come along. They've gotten rid of their carbon tax, and they're also a major competitor for wheat over in China. They come along and we say, well we'll sell you the wheat for \$6. And we say, well here in Canada though it costs us more to grow it because we've got this carbon tax and everything, and besides that we're nice people. We're really trying to help things out. And the Chinese say yes, but it's a dollar more. Who do you think the Chinese are going to buy from if it's the same quality of wheat? They're not going to be buying it from Canada. They're going to be buying it from Australia. And it will slowly, slowly sink us out here in the West because we can only take so much of it going down.

Now let's take a look at the initiatives that we have been putting forward which the federal government will give us no credit for — none. We've got our farms, our agriculture land. Basically we're carbon neutral for the amount that our farmers . . . We've got the best farmers in the world, very innovative. Direct till seeding was basically invented here, actually at Bourgault. And they're selling their equipment over into Russia and various different countries.

We are sequestering. We're carbon neutral on the agriculture end. Plus a little over half of our province is boreal forest. We actually are putting, the people in Saskatchewan putting out less carbon than what we're sequestering. So we actually are doing a fantastic job here in Saskatchewan of getting rid of the carbon. We also have the world-leading Boundary dam.

Now it was mentioned by my partner from Saltcoats here about how there's 2,400 new coal plants being built in the world at the present time. We have the technology. We've got the only working technology to sequester that carbon, sitting right here in Saskatchewan. We're leaders. And what does the federal government do with us? They don't count that. They don't count that.

They forget that we live, we live in a large province with a small population. We have to travel. A very good example, the other day I was going to the dentist. I can't jump into a bus in

downtown Toronto and go a few blocks down to a dentist. No, I have to drive 80 kilometres to the dentist over in Tisdale. That's a 160-kilometre round trip. Of course I'm going to be using more fuel. But the federal government, our friendly Liberals that are in there right now in Ottawa don't even think of that.

They forget, they forget that on our farm we are putting carbon back into the ground. We're putting it in there. We're sequestering that carbon. I have land out there that hasn't been summerfallowed for 30 years. That is all going . . . That carbon is being sequestered back into the ground, but we are getting absolutely no credit for it.

As far as this being carbon neutral, really, Mr. Speaker, we all know that that's a crock. It was mentioned by one of the other members here that, you know, this money is going to go to Ottawa. It's going to up and disappear. You just wait. Ottawa will just take that money, and they'll love to put it into the likes of Toronto, the likes of Montreal.

Oh and speaking of Montreal, you know, here we have, they're buying oil. They're using oil the same as the rest of us. But what they want to do is they want to get oil from the Middle East. Like we have way better environmental standards within this country than what they ever even thought of out there. And take a look at Montreal for an example. They're the only, the only place that I know of in the world that their beluga whales have actually turned brown because of what they've been pumping into the St. Lawrence River there.

And the mayor of Montreal goes flying all over the world and guess what? Those planes aren't flying on pixie dust. They have to have fuel. And then he sits there and complains about the oil that we produce, but he doesn't complain when the cheque comes out there to help him out. He doesn't complain when the federal government goes and cuts him a cheque for a billion dollars in the Bombardier of which those airplanes, guess what, they're using fuel. They should be using fuel that is made right . . . or that comes right here from Western Canada, not that Venezuelan fuel or fuel that's coming from Saudi Arabia.

[19:15]

Now, Mr. Speaker, we could go on and on about many of these things, but Canada . . . I don't know where the idea even came from, other than from Gerald Butts via the Prime Minister. I think that what we should be doing on the world stage, Canada should be getting kudos for capturing all the carbon it does because we have a very small population and a very large country.

We have to look at the technology that we have developed out here, right in Western Canada. It was mentioned before about our crop sciences. We're putting out great crops, but can we compete on the world stage with these big taxes being thrown on us? No. We should be getting credit for that.

We're not getting credit for producing oil, and oil is not going to go away in the near future. Yes, there's going to be renewables. There's going to be things that come up. There's going to be newer technology, but it's not here yet. Everything, basically everything that we use is based on oil.

Very good example: I was watching the news there that one day when they were protesting in South Dakota about the pipeline going through there, and here they were, they had a picture of all these tents that were out there. The tents were made out of nylon, which is an oil-based product. And beside every one of those tents was an SUV [sport utility vehicle]. You know, Mr. Speaker, some of these people have to give their heads a shake as to what is happening.

It's been said many a time, we are not going to be competitive with the drillers in South Dakota if we start throwing taxes on. It's just not going to happen. But, Mr. Speaker, and this was brought up too. Like, why won't the NDP [New Democratic Party] go along with this? Why won't they stand up with the people of Saskatchewan?

I know in my area there is not, I have not talked to a single person who said that this was a good idea. Not a single person, Mr. Speaker. And I had people come along and approach me and say, you guys, you have to fight against that carbon tax. This is a disaster for Western Canada. It's a disaster for not just Saskatchewan but also Alberta, and I wish Alberta would stand up and say more about it, but unfortunately they have the NDP government over there also and who just can't seem to figure things out. They would rather go along with . . .

[Interjections]

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Order. Members will have ample opportunity to enter into the debate. Currently the member from Carrot River Valley has the floor. I recognize the member.

**Mr. Bradshaw:** — But, Mr. Speaker, so I'm going to go back. How come the NDP will not help out our good people of Saskatchewan? As my buddies here said, they would sooner help out a few protesters and try and have this goody-goody thing, this I-feel-good thing. The only reason Trudeau is putting this out there is he wants a seat on the UN [United Nations] and he wants to make himself look very pretty. And that's . . . I guess he does have nice hair, which I have to say, Mr. Speaker, is kind of a little bit of an attribute. But I really, really question where he is coming from.

And you know something, Mr. Speaker? When his daddy was in there before, we ended up with a unity crisis. We haven't had that, Mr. Speaker, since his son came along. We are going to have a unity crisis at the rate we were going and the rate that this Liberal government is shoving this down our throat.

Mr. Speaker, I know that there are many other people that want to be out here speaking and talking about this. So I am going to support the motion that our Premier brought forward and I definitely will not be supporting the amendment from the other side.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Highways.

**Hon. Mr. Marit:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm glad to have to have the opportunity to enter into this very important debate, Mr. Speaker. Many of my introductory comments have been well put by my colleagues, and I will get straight into my comments.

Our government opposes a carbon tax because quite simply, Mr. Speaker, it won't work. The driving force behind the carbon tax is meeting Canada's Paris commitment to reduce our carbon emissions by 30 per cent by 2030. But Canada accounts for 1.6 per cent of global emissions and Saskatchewan only generates about 10 per cent of Canada's emissions. On the other hand, 2,400 new coal-fired power plants — not existing ones, Mr. Speaker, new ones — are either under construction or planned around the world. These new plants will emit about 6.5 billion tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>, about nine times Canada's total greenhouse gas emissions.

This comparison really needs to be further explained. For Saskatchewan to hit the 2030 Paris emission target, we need to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions by about 22 million tonnes. Those 2,400 new coal-fired power plants will emit that much carbon, Mr. Speaker, in one and a half days. If we as a country reduce all our carbon emissions to zero, that reduction would be dwarfed by the increase that's coming from those power plants.

Proponents of a carbon tax will say it will be revenue neutral. That may or may not be the case, but a carbon tax will definitely not be sector neutral. All our key industries — energy, agriculture, mining — are energy intensive. The federal government didn't even bother to do any economic impact analysis on this.

Well I tell you what the economic impact is for Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. I haven't been minister very long, but I have a clear understanding of what the carbon tax will mean to the heavy construction sectors. Following the federal government's announcement, Shantel Lipp, the president of the Saskatchewan Heavy Construction Association, wrote a letter to the federal Minister of Environment:

Our view is that the implementation of a carbon tax as described by the federal government will have a direct and negative impact on the heavy civil construction industry within Saskatchewan. Many of our members are small- and medium-sized businesses who will not be able to absorb the increased cost of an imposed carbon tax.

We know there is more work to do building and repairing our highways, Mr. Speaker. The carbon tax will drive up our costs, which ultimately falls on the back of the taxpayers.

And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, many of these small businesses have been within the same family for generations. A good example of that is friends of mine, G.W. Construction. They started up more than 60 years ago with George Wilson, and now he's got sons and he's got grandsons taking over that family business, and they will be greatly impacted by this.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, today the president of the Saskatchewan Trucking Association, Susan Ewart, wrote a letter to Premier Wall. She said the following: The Saskatchewan Trucking Association has confirmed its support of the government of Saskatchewan in fighting the federal forced carbon pricing system for Canadian provinces.

Why would the trucking industry join our government in this fight? Analysts have estimated that there would be a

\$50-a-tonne carbon diesel tax; it will cost approximately 14 cents per litre more for diesel fuel and 12 cents a litre more for gasoline, so this dramatically drives up the cost for truckers.

How are they going to deal with this cost increase, Mr. Deputy Speaker? Will they eat the cost? Will they terminate staff and pass the cost along to the consumer? What would that mean? It would mean an increased cost in foods and goods. This will also make our exports less competitive, Mr. Deputy Speaker. There will be a serious cost for their industry, which again is ultimately borne by the consumer.

And Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'd also like to speak to what a carbon tax will mean to rural Saskatchewan. We know the carbon tax would cost a Saskatchewan family of four about \$1,250 per year just for gas, power and natural gas alone by 2022, not any other cost for food or any other goods that they purchase. And it could cost the average family farm \$10,000 per year, Mr. Deputy Speaker. The Wood River constituency is made up entirely of agricultural land, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I have lived and farmed there all my life and the impact to the agriculture sector would be huge.

Saskatchewan farmers are among the best and brightest in the world. Our farmers have adapted with new technology, protected their land, the environment and their livelihood. Zero till seeding, GPS [global positioning system] navigation are common practices. These innovations have saved fuel and fertilizer, which translates into less emissions, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, *The Western Producer* ran an article in their October issue on this topic. In their article it explained, zero till seeding results in an average of point zero three eight tonnes of carbon dioxide per acre per year. Based on the 2011 census, 23 million acres of Saskatchewan farm land was in zero till. That is equal to 8.74 million tonnes of annual carbon sequestered, which at a \$50-a-tonne carbon tax, holds a value of \$437 million, Mr. Speaker.

What impact will this have on all our machinery manufacturing in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker? What will be the cost of them getting their product around the world, the Bourgaults of the world, the Flexi-Coils of the world, the SeedMaster, the Seed Hawk and all those companies that are out in rural Saskatchewan, Mr. Deputy Speaker?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, earlier this month CTV [Canadian Television Network Ltd.] interviewed a farmer in Davidson area and his name was Gerrid Gust. He estimated that a \$50-a-tonne carbon tax would increase his costs by approximately \$80,000 a year. He said it's impossible to compete with the proposed carbon tax.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Wood River also has a power plant and a coal mine in it which employs over 400 people. What will happen to that plant, Mr. Deputy Speaker? This will have a huge impact, not only to the Coronach area where the power plant and the mine are but also to communities surrounding there, like Rockglen, Assiniboia, Willow Bunch, as far away as even Lafleche and Gravelbourg, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And it will have a huge impact on secondary business, on the grocery stores, the hardware stores, and tire shops and other businesses

in those communities, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, those jobs at that mine and power plant are good-paying union jobs with young people, young families working and living in those communities and supporting those communities. It is important and is an important part of our economy that we keep those businesses viable, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

If I can, I do want to read some of the letter that also my colleague from Estevan read from Mr. Leguee. If I could, I'll just read part of it because I think it's important:

A carbon tax has the ability to drastically increase my costs, without creating an incentive to reduce my emissions. In fact, I already have such incentives. Our farm's move to no-till started in the late 1980's, as many other Prairie farmers did, to reduce risk of soil erosion, increase soil organic matter, and, ultimately, increase [our] yields. No-till (essentially means that tillage is avoided if at all possible) has been a boon for our farm, and it allows the storage of massive quantities of carbon dioxide.

As equipment changes [on my farm] and my farm grows, there will be a continuous need to upgrade to newer machinery. Due to the emissions laws already in place, our new equipment has lower emissions but . . . [come at that same cost]. Emissions equipment on our tractors is faulty, unreliable, and expensive to fix. If my tractor's emission system has a plugged filter, it can shut down my seeding operation for hours, even days. When you have only two weeks to get your crop in the ground, this is hardly acceptable.

Adding a carbon tax to my farm's cost of production will make it less profitable, and ultimately less competitive with my neighbours to the south and across the oceans. I can only take what price is offered to me; I cannot pass along a carbon tax to my customers. I cannot switch to electric tractors, or run all new equipment to have the latest in emissions technologies. Sometimes my field needs to be blackened to keep sloughs from excess moisture, or to deal with high residue crops. That tillage pass already represents a cost to me, and I don't need a tax to encourage me to avoid it.

So, let's exempt farmers, right? Make it revenue-neutral? While that may seem a simple solution, how will you go about that? I still have to purchase fertilizer, crop protection products, fuel, machinery, and so on. If those industries are paying a carbon tax, you can bet they will pass along that cost. What about my grain buyers? If a craft beer manufacturer has to pay a carbon tax, they may have to reduce what they pay for their malt barley. That also costs my family farm.

If a carbon tax dries up my farm's costs without creating an incentive for me to reduce emissions, why have one at all? It does not achieve the required goal of reducing emissions, and hurts my family in the process. I thought your government was going to help the middle class?

Mr. Trudeau, please reconsider your plans to impose a

carbon tax on my province. You speak about working together as Canadians, of uniting us as a country. Your proposed carbon tax will be divisive, ineffective, and detrimental to Canadian agriculture. Your carbon tax will hurt my family's ability to make a living doing what we love to do — feeding the world.

[19:30]

I thought that's an awesome letter, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Of all the tools a government has to fight climate change, a carbon tax will do the most harm to the economy and have the least impact on emission reduction. There are better ways to fight climate change, Mr. Deputy Speaker. We need to protect our jobs, allow our economy to grow, and focus on adaptation and innovation to make a real difference in the global fight against climate change, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Unfortunately the members opposite won't join us. We need a unified voice to make our case to decision makers in Ottawa and other parts of the country. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I will be supporting the motion put forward by our Premier today, and I will not be supporting the amendment put forward by the opposition. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Buckingham:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I rise today, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to talk about an ill-conceived plan for a carbon tax on the citizens of Saskatchewan imposed on us by a federal Liberal government, a tax put in place without proper consultation and without any meaningful, in-depth research on how it will affect our province or our people.

Mr. Speaker, I spent the last 36 years in the trucking business and, Mr. Speaker, I can tell you that the transportation industry is what keeps our economy moving. Without the transportation industry, our everyday needs would not be met. This tax would do untold damage to Saskatchewan businesses and residents. The trucking industry would be one of those businesses hardest hit.

Let's think about it for a minute, Mr. Speaker. When we first arose this morning from our sleep, the first thing we done was turn on a light. Also that light bulb is in a lamp, and those things are delivered by a truck driver. Then we walk into the kitchen and we make ourselves a cup of coffee — things that were delivered by the trucking industry. You know, the impact of the trucking industry on our business, I don't think people realize how significant it is. A storm in the winter, and all of a sudden somebody doesn't get their milk, and they realize how vital trucking is to our economy.

You know, these are just a couple of items that I have illustrated within the first couple of minutes of getting up in the morning. But there are literally thousands of items delivered by the trucking industry that we come into contact with every day. And this is a short-sighted carbon tax, will do damage to the trucking industry that will affect each and every one of us. Without trucking, Mr. Speaker, our economy and our lives would be forever changed, and that is why this carbon tax issue must be put on hold as we develop better ideas on how to

combat climate change.

Let's look at the BC [British Columbia] model for a minute. They put that in, you know, a few years ago, and it's actually had the reverse effect.

So what kind of evidence? There is no solid, scientific evidence or research that supports the idea that putting a carbon tax on will change the outcome of climate change.

I have no doubt that climate change is occurring and will have a significant impact on our economy if we fail to act. A \$50 a tonne carbon tax will cost 13 to 14 cents a litre for every truck going up and down the road every day. The average truck uses about 500 litres a day at the trucking company I worked at, which would calculate out to about \$70 a day. That small trucking company that I worked for with 10 trucks would cost an additional \$700 per day or almost 22,000 per month or over 250,000 per year. As you can see, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that will have a huge impact on even a very small trucking company. Companies will be forced to raise rates or to reduce services in order to remain viable.

When you think of the trickle—down effect this will have on consumers, it will be very significant and drive up prices on almost every product or service in the supply chain. Another major consideration is the effect it will have on wages in the industry as trucking companies try to incorporate these costs. Now is not the time for a carbon tax on an industry so vulnerable due to the reduced prices on our commodities, and specifically the impact of lower prices in the oil industry. This carbon tax will undoubtedly sink many trucking companies if it is imposed.

And Ottawa tells us it will be revenue neutral. Well the only way we can be revenue neutral is to not impose the carbon tax and instead invest into other technologies to reduce the effect of climate change.

Saskatchewan has already invested more per capita than any other province in Canada through our carbon capture and sequestration project in Estevan. In the 2016 federal budget, the federal government allocated two billion for a low carbon economy fund. Why not use that money to find technology through our universities or through private enterprise or both? Why not develop a technology that we can export to other countries through innovation? Let's give our students and our business sector the opportunity to show just how smart Canadians are.

I also want to read a letter I received from the Saskatchewan Trucking Association, which represents 65 to 70 per cent of the rolling stock in Saskatchewan. And so I read the letter here:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that the Saskatchewan Trucking Association has confirmed its support of the Government of Saskatchewan in fighting a federally forced carbon pricing system for Canadian provinces.

The Saskatchewan Trucking Association board of directors agreed on October 22, 2016 that the implementation of a carbon pricing system such as a carbon tax would have a

negative effect on the truck transportation industry in the province. [Strong words.]

While the truck transport sector in Saskatchewan does acknowledge and support the creation of more environmentally friendly business practices, it supports the use of incentive-based programs and supporting innovative technologies to reach the goal of a greener economy.

Currently there is a plethora of technologies, some mandated, some voluntary, that are driving the changes required to meet harmful greenhouse reduction goals of both our province and country.

Environment Canada currently regulates the industry through a series of standards on equipment and emissions. The Phase I standards which were introduced in 2013 covered tractors and engines from model years 2014 to 2018. Phase II will encompass the entire vehicle — tractor, engine and trailer. The Canadian Trucking Alliance, the federal voice of truck transport on which the Saskatchewan Trucking Association holds 8 seats, has worked diligently with the Federal Government to ensure environmental regulation on commercial vehicles is implemented in such a way that it is effective in reducing harmful emissions.

“At no time in our industry's history have carriers' economic goals been more aligned with society's desires in terms of carbon emissions reduction than they are today.”

That by CTA [Canadian Trucking Alliance] President David Bradley.

The Saskatchewan Trucking Association supports an increase in incentive-based initiatives that would allow companies to more easily access existing and developing technologies. Such an example of this would be an accelerated rate of depreciation of assets that would free up capital to be invested in greener technologies.

The speed of regulatory change can also play an important role in adopting such technologies. Regulation needs adjustment to more efficiently allow the use of products such as boat tails and wide-base tires in the truck transport industry.

While careful consideration is required to ensure mandated technologies such as phase 1 and phase 2 engines are effective in Canada's unique operating conditions, optional technologies need to be more easily accessed more quickly within the province of Saskatchewan.

There is no desire for our industry to pollute more than necessary. It is key to our bottom line to reduce fuel consumption, as it is one of our highest operating expenses. The Saskatchewan Trucking Association board and its membership agree with you, Mr. Wall. Our focus should be innovation and easy adaptation, not taxation.

The trucking industry is a leader in green technology. It was long before the talk of carbon tax from the federal government. Small adjustments in how governments allow industry to use said technology will be much more



effective in fighting the global issue of climate change than yet another tax in an already heavily taxed industry.

The Saskatchewan Trucking Association is looking forward to continuing our existing efforts with both provincial and federal governments to create a productive business environment for the trucking industry that considers and protects the fragile environment of both Canada and the globe.

As proactive, trusted advisers, the Saskatchewan Trucking Association is a knowledgeable membership association that represents the collective interests of the truck transport industry through authentic advocacy and education. A not-for-profit, membership-driven organization, the Saskatchewan Trucking Association is the leader and voice for truck transport in the province of Saskatchewan.

That letter was signed by Susan Ewart, the executive director of the Saskatchewan Trucking Association.

So, Mr. Speaker, I support the Premier's motion, and I do not support the amendment. Thank you.

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

**Ms. Lambert:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It is a privilege to rise in the Assembly today to support the Government of Saskatchewan's position on addressing climate change and oppose the federal government's plan to unilaterally impose a national carbon tax.

Perhaps a good place to start is to define climate change. The definition posted on the Government of Canada's website states, and I quote, climate change is a long-term shift in weather conditions measured by changes in temperature, precipitation, wind, snow cover and other indicators. It can involve both changes in average conditions and changes in variability including, for example, changes in extreme conditions.

Climate change can be caused by natural processes such as changes in the output of the sun and in the amount of volcanic dust in the atmosphere. It can also be affected by human activities. In particular, human activities that involve burning fossil fuels — example, coal and oil — can change the composition of the atmosphere through emissions of greenhouse gases and other substances. The buildup of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere is the primary cause for concern about climate change now and into the immediate future."

Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is important to note that global warming refers specifically to an increase in the global average surface temperature. Global warming is an indicator of climate change. So what does scientific evidence tell us will happen as a result of climate change? Let's see what some educational resources have to say.

The Earth's climate is getting warmer. Rain patterns are changing. The sea level is rising, and snow and ice are melting sooner in the spring. These changes will affect people, animals,

and ecosystems in many ways. Global warming causes ice sheets to melt in icy regions. The result is rising water levels that can cause floods and destruction in low-lying towns and cities along water bodies.

Changing climate can cause the weather to become more extreme — be it droughts or heavy rains — with impacts on agriculture and food supplies of particular concern to a growing human population. Climate change can change the natural habitats of plants and animals. Polar bears and penguins cannot survive elsewhere. Plants and animals in hot regions cannot survive if the temperature becomes too cold.

[19:45]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is accepted that the global warming since the mid-1950s has been largely attributed to human influences. We do know that as we generate carbon and other gases to feed people and participate in the economy, carbon dioxide gas in particular causes the Earth to warm. This warming endangers our future, so a decision has to be made on what approach is best to limit global climate change, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Do we look at adaptation, whereby governments work with the sectors to ensure there are policies and technologies in place to assist with adaptation to the reality of climate change? A national cap-and-trade system that would place absolute limits on greenhouse gas emissions while allowing the trading of credits appears to carry considerable risk. This can provide emission reduction certainty, but not price certainty.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, another approach is a tax to help reduce carbon emissions. Carbon taxes provide price certainty, but do not provide emission reduction target certainty. Therefore I support the approach put forward by this government that we focus on innovation and technological development to address climate change. Why? Because it offers the potential to significantly reduce global emissions while causing the least harm to our economy.

Canada accounts for less than two per cent of the world's emissions. In Saskatchewan we are responsible for about 10 per cent of Canada's total. Just like our history of leading the country in volunteer work, we are prepared to do our part, and believe the best way to meet Canada's target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 30 per cent below 2005 levels by the year 2030 is through innovation and technology.

Saskatchewan is often called Canada's breadbasket, as we produce over 54 per cent of the country's wheat crop. Canada is the top mustard producer in the world, and 75 per cent of that mustard comes from Saskatchewan. In this province we have 40 per cent of Canada's arable land—more farm land than all the other provinces combined. This arable land absorbs millions of tons of carbon dioxide. Saskatchewan farmers have significantly reduced carbon emissions by producing more food on less land and reducing the use of diesel fuel. The practice of no-till farming has enhanced fuel savings and soil conservation.

Why should our farmers be penalized for carbon taxes on their fuel, fertilizer, and farm equipment when they have reduced carbon emissions and are near to producing net zero carbon emissions by extracting carbon from the atmosphere and

sequestering it in plants for the purpose of producing food? Stretch your memory back to elementary school when we learned about photosynthesis. People around the world need our high-quality food. We are producing more food and exporting more food as demand is increasing globally for our agricultural commodities. I am most reluctant to harm agriculture in this province through a carbon tax.

Mr. Speaker, we are the most trade-dependent province in the country. We are a province that exports, and the process of getting our Saskatchewan goods to our customers will become more costly with a carbon tax. The premise of this carbon tax is that it will modify behaviour of Canadian citizens. But will it really work?

British Columbia introduced a revenue neutral carbon tax in 2008, and emissions have been rising in that province since 2012. Even with a carbon tax, BC's greenhouse gas emissions are forecast to increase by 32 per cent by the year 2030. If this forecast is correct, there is no guarantee that a national carbon tax will achieve its goal of reducing carbon emissions. An Ipsos Reid poll conducted on behalf of Global News earlier this month found that 78 per cent of respondents agreed that the carbon tax would, and I quote, "... start with good intentions but eventually just become another source of revenue that does not achieve its goals."

Generating electricity accounts for about 20 per cent of Saskatchewan's emissions, Mr. Speaker. As the primary electricity provider in this province, SaskPower has a goal to reduce emissions by 50 per cent from 2005 levels by the year 2030. This goes beyond what is being asked for by the federal government. SaskPower will invest billions of dollars in upgrading the province's electricity system, and it's committed to 50 per cent renewable electricity generation by increasing renewables like wind and solar. SaskPower has also made the largest per capita investment in clean technology in the world with its carbon capture and storage technology at Boundary dam in Estevan.

As almost half of our energy is coal in this province, we have chosen to answer that challenge with our own innovation. At present about 40 per cent of the world's electricity is generated using coal. Today 2,400 coal-fired power plants are being built or planned in other countries. Our carbon capture technology can help the world clean up coal-fired electricity generation.

Our innovation with CO<sub>2</sub> storage doesn't stop with Boundary dam. New generations of carbon capture and storage are in the works in this province. There are three jurisdictions in Canada that are expected to post actual GHG [greenhouse gas] reduction from current emissions by the year 2030 according to the federal government: Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, and here in Saskatchewan.

We are already making strides towards efficiency and emission reductions without a carbon tax. I would like to take a moment to quote parts of an open letter to the federal Minister of the Environment from the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce. And I quote:

Canadians agree that a reduction in our carbon emissions is a positive goal, but also agree that the method of achieving

this goal must be sustainable from both an economic and environmental perspective . . .

The implementation of a tax . . . The direct and significant impact it would have on many energy and trade-intensive industries will be quick and dramatic. As most companies in these sectors are "price takers" and sell their products and services globally, they will not be able to pass on the increased costs which will cause real and serious impacts to their operations.

A blanket carbon tax will have a very negative effect on three key sectors:

Transportation . . . As a province that relies upon truck and train transportation for trade, these transportation methods have no clean energy option.

Agriculture. All fuels that power equipment will increase in price, as well as the related cost of fertilizers and the cost of steel in machinery. Saskatchewan agricultural producers have no option but to use fuels to produce the food that helps feed the world.

Heating. All companies who sell, pay for, use, or service heating for buildings, drying grains, and even drying potash will be impacted.

Mr. Speaker, the ABEX [Achievement in Business Excellence] Awards sponsored by the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce celebrates excellence in Saskatchewan business, recognizing companies for not only their business success but also their commitment to their employees and their communities, along with the growth they have achieved. I could not help but wonder at the awards banquet this weekend how a carbon tax would hinder the efforts of these Saskatchewan companies and disadvantage them with their global competitors.

Can it be said that a carbon tax will definitively reduce emissions? It cannot. Can it be said that a carbon tax will damage our Saskatchewan economy? It can. Potash, oil and gas, uranium, agriculture, Saskatchewan's major industries are high-emitting industries. They must move their products to international markets. These industries, mainstays of our provincial economy, will be hard hit by a carbon tax.

Can it be said that a carbon tax will prove costly to taxpayers in this province? It can. Heating, electrical, and transportation costs will climb. Products will be more expensive. My constituents of Saskatoon Churchill-Wildwood will pay more to heat their homes and drive their cars and buy their groceries. A carbon tax will take more money out of their pockets and the pockets of Saskatchewan families. How will we feel when someone we love loses their job as a result of the carbon tax which has little impact on mitigating global climate change?

Mr. Speaker, we all need to work toward solving the global problem of climate change. Saskatchewan needs to do its part, but we do not need to bear a disproportionate part. This carbon tax could serve as an impediment to growth if it is pushed through with no regard to the economic cost. The solution to climate change must involve fairness. The solution to climate change must protect our economy. The solution to climate

change must protect our jobs here in this province. We can be leaders in a solution to climate change, but the solution is not through a carbon tax. I will be voting in favour of the motion. I do not support the amendment. I move to adjourn debate. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** — The member from Saskatoon Churchill-Wildwood has moved adjournment of debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

## GOVERNMENT ORDERS

### ADJOURNED DEBATES

#### SECOND READINGS

##### Bill No. 16

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Harpauer that **Bill No. 16 — *The Adoption Amendment Act, 2016/Loi modificative de 2016 sur l'adoption*** be now read a second time.]

**The Speaker:** — I recognize Regina Douglas Park.

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my duty and honour to rise tonight to speak to Bill No. 16, *An Act to amend the Adoption Act, 1998*. This Act contains a few different types of changes. Most of them are fairly nonconsequential. They change the grammar. They change some of the language. It helps to modernize the Act, which is great, but they do have some changes in this Act that are a bit more consequential. And I'm looking forward to when our critic has the opportunity to ask some questions at committee with respect to these changes, but in any event until we have that time I am going to speak to them a little bit this evening.

So the bill, like I said, makes some fairly minor changes at first. It changes, for example, "Crown ward" to "permanent ward," which "Crown ward" frankly is a fairly antiquated term. It's not commonly used anymore, so it makes sense to change that. It also removes simple adoption from *The Adoption Act*. And from what I understand, that piece of the legislation was very rarely ever used in Saskatchewan, so it makes a lot of sense.

One of the more consequential amendments, Mr. Speaker, is some of the changes to the language around the child's best interest. Again, I think it'll be important for our critic to ask some questions about this in committee to find out exactly who was consulted with respect to this change, and we just want to make sure that all the i's are dotted and the t's are crossed, frankly, in this change.

Another change that this legislation has is changing considerations for the religious faith, if any, in which the child has been raised to more of a consideration on making sure that the adoptive parent that's chosen will essentially support the growth and the continuation of the child's cultural and spiritual heritage and upbringing when they're determining what is in the

best interests of the child, which frankly makes sense, Mr. Speaker.

In a sense this is a modernization of outdated language. There are many people, many families who maybe prefer the term a "spiritual faith" rather than a "religious faith." It removes the question as to, if you're not of a certain . . . If you're not, for example, of one of the Christian traditions, if it still counts towards consideration and best interests. There are many people whose spiritual beliefs may not be what we've traditionally defined as a religious belief, so it's important that those are reflected and those considerations are made so that children are placed with families who are going to respect that child's history and further it.

Another fairly consequential amendment is it increases the amount of time parents can revoke their consent to an independent adoption from 14 days to 21 days, which actually brings our legislation in line with the majority of other jurisdictions. When it was moved shorter to 14 days, that actually moved us outside of what was normal in essentially all the other jurisdictions except for Saskatchewan. And it places a fairly onerous burden on birth parents to make a very consequential decision, a very important decision, in a very short amount of time. So it's good that we're expanding that. Again I want to make sure that everyone is consulted on that. And I'm looking forward to our critic having the opportunity to look into that a little bit more.

[20:00]

This bill is also going to allow for assisted adoption benefits to continue to subsequent legal guardians if both adoptive parents pass away. From what I understand there was some issues with that in the past, so it's really good to see that we're trying to close some gaps to make sure that kids aren't essentially left in the dark in terms of being able to receive appropriate funding if the tragic situation occurs when both legal guardians pass away and they're sort of left in the lurch.

It also allows the minister to enter into payment agreements directly with a youth between ages 18 to 21 if the youth is engaged in educational or vocational plan. This is really important. It helps to recognize youths' independence from the family unit. Oftentimes once they turn 18 they'll, as many kids do, leave the homes of their parents, go to school, pursue their own goals and dreams. And this provides for them to essentially not be completely cut off financially. It gives the government a little bit of leeway in terms of being able to support these individuals.

Another fairly consequential amendment, Mr. Speaker, is an amendment to section 16 which actually restricts the court's ability to consider a child's voice in court subject to an age restriction. I'm interested to see a little bit more information about why this was done, if there was some sort of, if there was problems in the past that this is trying to resolve or if this is trying to simplify a procedure or if there was concern about anything that was going on essentially in the past. I'm hoping at committee there can be some answers with respect to that particular issue because it's not quite explained in the explanatory notes why this was done, and I wonder about that.

I believe . . . I can't remember if it was age seven. I think it was age seven that it's restricted to, whereas I know in other court proceedings, for example, there is the opportunity for children to have their interests reflected, maybe not their voices exactly heard directly, but there are children's counsel, for example, in child and family services proceedings. And where if a child is fairly young and perhaps they're not able to articulate their specific position on where they want to be placed, the children's counsel has the ability to essentially act as an amicus in terms of making sure that the best interests of the child are reflected in the court proceedings and that nothing is essentially left out. So it's important that even though a child is very young, that there are still avenues for making sure that their voice is heard in some way. So essentially I'm hoping that's going to be looked at as well.

I know that my colleagues have quite a few other comments to make and will be making future comments on these bills or this bill and many other bills. So with that, I will be adjourning debate.

**The Speaker:** — The member from Regina Douglas Park has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 16, *The Adoption Amendment Act, 2016*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

#### Bill No. 17

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Boyd that **Bill No. 17 — *The Power Corporation Amendment Act, 2016*** be now read a second time.]

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

**Mr. Belanger:** — Thank you very much. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased to stand in my place this evening to make some comments in reference to Bill 17, *The Power Corporation Amendment Act*. And, Mr. Speaker, the two primary sections of this particular bill that we want to spend a bit of time with . . . The first section really is a grammatical housekeeping update, Mr. Speaker, where I think in Bill 17 one of the thrusts or one of the purposes of this particular bill on the language is basically a housekeeping matter in which updates are required to change the word "his" to "his or her," and again the second section where they make reference to "he" when the proper language should be to "he or she."

So, Mr. Speaker, what this particular bill does, it removes unnecessary plurals by changing "person or persons" to "person" only. So the housekeeping bill is an area where, under this particular Bill 17, we're not going to spend not a whole lot of time, because obviously these are errors that are housekeeping in nature and obviously they want to reflect the proper language. And, Mr. Speaker, the New Democratic opposition, we don't have any problems with updating language and making sure that we are proper in some of the terminologies that we use.

That being said, Mr. Speaker, the second area of this particular bill is where the really . . . the crux of the situation lies, and that in a sense is where SaskPower is now allowing their borrowing limit to increase, Mr. Speaker, which we've always suspected would happen under the Saskatchewan Party.

We are seeing debt overall, right through the entire government operations, whether it's Crown debt or whether it's operating debt or whether it's just debt for the GRF [General Revenue Fund], that this debt continues to go up and up and up, Mr. Speaker. And now we're seeing that particular practice happen and occur under the SaskPower Corporation, Mr. Speaker.

And what the bill does, Bill 17, it primarily allows SaskPower's borrowing limit to increase to \$10 billion, Mr. Speaker, from an amount of 8 billion which was previously in place. So what the SaskPower Corporation is now doing under Bill 17, Mr. Speaker, is increasing this borrowing limit from 8 to \$10 billion, Mr. Speaker — and "b" for billion, Mr. Speaker. It's not million; it is billion.

So what happens, Mr. Speaker? A lot of people in the province are going to ask the question: if you're increasing SaskPower's borrowing limit from 8 billion to 10 billion, what is the \$2 billion required for? Obviously these are questions that are very, very important, and especially in the sense that we look at some of the cost of our power bills back home. They are increasing on a continual basis, Mr. Speaker, and these are some of the carbon tax scenarios that the current government doesn't want to admit to, Mr. Speaker. Obviously when people at home see their power bills going up and then going up again, we obviously point out to them that that's a carbon tax in its hidden form. And now we're seeing that not only are the power bills going up, but now the debt is going up from SaskPower, so the question people are going to ask is, where is the money going to? Why are you mismanaging our Crowns, mismanaging our Crowns so terribly?

And more importantly, Mr. Speaker, it doesn't make any sense in the sense of you seeing the power bills going up at home for the business community, for the farm families, for the average household in the province of Saskatchewan and these bills are going to go up higher and higher, Mr. Speaker. There's no bones about it. The Saskatchewan Party are going to make sure that these bills are elevated each and every year and yet they have the audacity here to stand in the Assembly to talk about carbon tax when they're carbon taxing our power bills on a regular monthly basis, Mr. Speaker, and that is certainly unfortunate.

So the question that we have at the outset of Bill 17 is why is it that not only are our power bills increasing, now the debt under SaskPower is increasing as well. What is the \$2 billion required for? Where is the primary thrust of that particular spending, Mr. Speaker? These are some of the questions that we have to know and we have to find out as the official opposition.

And, Mr. Speaker, we are finding out those details as time goes on. And we are going to certainly expose the Saskatchewan Party government for their mismanagement, not only of our general finances but certainly of something that the people of Saskatchewan are very proud to call their own, and these are our Crown corporations like SaskTel, SaskPower, and SGI

[Saskatchewan Government Insurance], and the list goes on.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think what's really important is that the \$2 billion increase in borrowing . . . We need to know where the money is going, Mr. Speaker, the increase in revenues as a result of the power bills being jacked up not once this year but twice. We also need to know where is the money going, Mr. Speaker, and is there any agenda that the Sask Party has for not only increasing our debt and then the GRF but also increasing the Crown debt? What is their overall game plan? Is it just to borrow, to borrow, to borrow, to borrow? Where is their management plan? Where are some of their objectives that they have outlined for these corporations? And these are some of the worrisome trends that we see, Mr. Speaker, with not only SaskPower but some of the other Crown corporations as well.

The overwhelming message we have from the opposition is the fact that once these Crown corporations are gone, they're gone forever, Mr. Speaker. And I think people ought to be told that every single day, but certainly unlike the Sask Party in the last election, Mr. Speaker. They hid a lot of these details from the people of Saskatchewan — not only the state of our finances but many issues around things like the GTH [Global Transportation Hub] land scandal, things around the increased debt for our Crown corporations, and now the discussion around selling SaskTel.

So, Mr. Speaker, these are some of the arguments that we make in the opposition, that we don't believe the Premier and the entire cabinet and the Sask Party caucus had the courage to tell the people the real story of what's going on in Saskatchewan — not only in SaskPower as the Bill 17 alludes to, Mr. Speaker, but our overall financial state, Mr. Speaker, the future of important Crowns like SaskTel, and of course all the scandals and the issues that have been raised over the last number of years with not only SaskPower but all the other organizations, Sask Highways and the GTH, and the list goes on.

So there are many, many questions we have as to the extra \$2 billion. We need to know what the money is used for. We need to know exactly how they are planning on spending this, especially in light of the fact that we have increased power bills that are going up and up in each and every turn that the Sask Party has the opportunity to. They are jacking up our electrical rates and thereby our electricity bills.

And to me, Mr. Speaker, the people of Saskatchewan are paying. They're paying each and every month for the Sask Party's mismanagement through increased power bills, Mr. Speaker, through increased power bills and yet they want to have more money, more debt put on the SaskPower Corporation. It just doesn't make any sense, Mr. Speaker. Mind you, it never made any sense. It never made any sense to the people of Saskatchewan to begin with, especially to the opposition.

And, Mr. Speaker, I think, I think the people of Saskatchewan have had enough of the Sask Party, had enough of their mismanagement. They've had enough of their scandals, and they certainly have had enough of putting our Crown corporations at risk. I say shame to the Saskatchewan Party, and tell the people in Saskatchewanland that, don't worry; that particular problem will come to roost in the Sask Party's lap.

We're going to continue hammering home the message that the Saskatchewan Party government doesn't have a clue what it's doing with our Crown corporation, doesn't know how to manage the finances, Mr. Speaker, and once again the people of Saskatchewan are on duty, are on duty to pay off the debt left behind by a party and by a government that is bereft of direction, Mr. Speaker, and certainly not knowledgeable overall on how to manage the economy, how to protect our Crowns, and how to build for the future.

So I think this is something that we certainly have to pay very close attention, and we are. We are. We encourage people that have information around SaskPower Corporation and some of the challenges that it faces and some of the debt that it's currently inheriting under the Saskatchewan Party government.

And, Mr. Speaker, what we want to point out is that, when it comes to SaskPower, the people in Saskatchewan want to keep the Crowns. I don't know how many more times we've got to say this to the Saskatchewan Party. They're highly valuable — SaskTel, SaskPower — they're highly valuable Crowns, and there are many others.

And they are the ones that create jobs. They create jobs for the people of Saskatchewan. They help develop the economy for the people of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, and they generate profits for the people of Saskatchewan, something that the Sask Party just can't do. Our Crown corporations are doing what the Sask Party cannot do. And they're playing their vital role and important role in making sure that Saskatchewan stays competitive, that Saskatchewan stays a province where good investment can happen, but at the same time, embracing the role of our Crown corporations to make sure that we're all doing our part to revitalize and continue stimulating our economy as a province.

So, Mr. Speaker, we have a lot of questions from the NDP perspective as an opposition. We pay very close attention to what they're doing with our Crowns. And again I reiterate to the people of Saskatchewan that the Crowns should not be for sale. And if you want to send a message, then I would highly recommend you stop voting Saskatchewan Party because that's exactly what they're going to do. They're increasing debt throughout all our Crown corporations because their intent is to sell it as soon as they can, Mr. Speaker. But once it's sold it's gone forever. And the first phase of their plan to really hurt our Crowns is to allow the debt to be placed against our Crown corporations, and this is further evidence, Bill 17, that they're increasing debt from 8 billion to 10 billion.

[20:15]

And, Mr. Speaker, this charade that the Sask Party is certainly trying to present to the people of Saskatchewan that they're not going to sell their Crowns, well I think that charade is over. People on this side of the Assembly know very well their game plan. And we ask all the Saskatchewan people very loudly and clearly to help us stand up to the Saskatchewan Party and protect our Crowns because they're highly valuable. And the Crowns do more for this province than the Saskatchewan Party government could ever achieve in their entire lifetime. And, Mr. Speaker, on that note, I move that we adjourn debate on Bill 17, *The Power Corporation Amendment Act*.

**The Speaker:** — The member from Athabasca has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 17, *The Power Corporation Amendment Act, 2016*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

### Bill No. 19

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 19 — *The Film and Video Classification Act, 2016*** be now read a second time.]

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

**Mr. Belanger:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Again I'm pleased to stand on my feet and present our initial comments around Bill No. 19, *The Film and Video Classification Act, 2016*. Again as I noticed, there's been a few changes in this particular bill, as you look through the intent of the bill and certainly the explanation that the minister has provided. And the two areas that the bill really touches on, Mr. Speaker, really talks about replacing a Film Classification Board with a film classification director.

In many ways, Mr. Speaker, what it primarily is saying that as we classify films, and there's a wide range of films that need to be classified for a number of reasons, in the past that we did have a Film Classification Board. But obviously, in streamlining some of the operations and costs attached to this particular bill, the government certainly wanted to go from a full board to a film classification director. And, Mr. Speaker, obviously there's financial considerations given as a result of this. Or is there a collaborative agreement? And as in the case the bill did touch on it a bit in terms of having a collaborative process with the BC government.

Mr. Speaker, we need to know what the intent of the bill is, and certainly we need to know what the impact of some of the changes attached to the bill. So what makes the difference? What's the better process, having a full classification board or having a classification director? These are some of the things that we need to find out, Mr. Speaker, because it's so important that this work continue.

Obviously families watch very carefully. They monitor very carefully what children watch on television or certainly in our theatres. And film classification boards certainly do their work. And a lot of folks out there appreciate some of the warnings that they afford to their children before they're allowed to watch certain videos and I think even games as well, Mr. Speaker.

I think what's important here is that we need to find out who the film classification director is. Is it a person or is it a government entity in a different jurisdiction, as I indicated earlier, that will be doing this kind of work? Is that collaboration with BC? Is that going to be now the process where, if we're simply going to ad hoc adopt what BC may determine as our practices in Saskatchewan when it comes to classifying videos or films, Mr. Speaker? We don't know the twists and turns attached to that and we certainly should.

Obviously at the outset, we talked about the importance of us having classification warnings for parents. It's a really important role that the government and certainly the particular Act plays. So we have to make sure that we are diligent and vigilant in making sure that the classifications are done properly, thoroughly, and as professionally as possible, all the while knowing that we are protecting our children's or the negative influences that could affect our children's lives, and that's important work.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we need to find out that the process that's a more effective process. We don't know that yet, but obviously that work will continue. And this is the reason why we have the process that we're now undertaking here in the Legislative Assembly, in a sense that these bills need to be vetted through the opposition. And we'll certainly get advice from people involved with this particular industry.

Finally the second point I would make as a result of the classification board, Mr. Speaker, we all know that the Saskatchewan Party, in their own limited view of things, killed the film employment tax credit, Mr. Speaker. It was a great verging industry. There was a lot of films being developed here in Saskatchewan. There were many jobs attached to that particular industry, Mr. Speaker. And then along comes the Saskatchewan Party in their own silliness, in their lack of vision, Mr. Speaker, and their own silliness saw this as a great program that was really doing wonders for Saskatchewan. Well they said, well we better not do it. We better not allow this to continue. Why, Mr. Speaker? Well because it was an NDP idea, and that's just plain immature, Mr. Speaker.

They should have continued supporting the film employment tax credit. It's something that was working good for Saskatchewan. It brought an industry to the province. And, Mr. Speaker, we often talk in the NDP circles that it's important that we do as much as we can to expand the opportunity to our economy, to make sure that we have as many efforts and in many sectors as possible, all the while knowing that agriculture and potash and oil and gas, they drive the economy. They're the main players. But in order for us to strengthen our resolve as a province economically, we must do all we can to certainly continue building different sectors.

And the film industry was a verging industry that was really starting to come into its own. It was strengthening. We met people involved with the industry and now, Mr. Speaker, as a result of the Sask Party, their lack of view and certainly their silliness, we're finding now that the film employment tax credit which was a great investment opportunity for the film industry, well they ended that film tax employment credit. And what happened, Mr. Speaker, is the film industry ended up drying up. And, Mr. Speaker, today we are a lesser province for it, and that's thanks to the Saskatchewan Party.

So if you see Bill 17, some of the . . . sorry Bill 19, some of the illogical moves, some of the silly moves tied to their ideology, that's ancient, Mr. Speaker. It's the same old, tired approach by conservative governments right across the country, Mr. Speaker. And we're seeing that the Saskatchewan Party is following suit. They are becoming a tired, old government, Mr. Speaker, that is bankrupt of ideas and proposing silly solutions like killing off the film employment tax credit, Mr. Speaker.

That's why on this side of the Assembly, we do know, we do know that they don't know what they're doing on the government benches, Mr. Speaker. Their job, their job, their job, Mr. Speaker, has always been . . . Their job was to criticize the NDP and fight the NDP.

When it came to governing, Mr. Speaker, they got a big fat F from the film industry. They got a big fat F because some of their silly moves here, some of their silly moves. And, Mr. Speaker, I would say further that the film industry will never forget the Saskatchewan Party government and the fact that they moved, and the fact that they moved, Mr. Speaker, to kill off a very important part of our industry, a very important part of our economy. And yes, the members across laugh, Mr. Speaker, laugh. They're talking about their 51 seats, Mr. Speaker.

And I would say to them, for the rest of their lives they're going to have to live with the fact that they hid a bunch of important details about a lot of things that concern the people of Saskatchewan out of the last provincial election. And they're going to have to live with that, Mr. Speaker. They lack the courage to tell the people the true state of our finances, Mr. Speaker. They lack the courage and conviction to tell people what is happening in the GTH land deal, Mr. Speaker. They lack the courage to tell the people what problems that they're having in the wide variety of industry, whether it's oil or gas, whether it's potash. And, Mr. Speaker, they sat on their hands. They sat on their hands, and they didn't tell the people of Saskatchewan the truth of where our finances were, and they can live with that, Mr. Speaker.

Yes, they won 51 seats but, Mr. Speaker, I've always maintained that it's good to win on principle, not hiding the facts from people of Saskatchewan. Because to me, Mr. Speaker, to me I think they hid a lot of information. They hid a lot of critical information from the people of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, and that's exactly why they can sit and gloat from their benches.

And the worst part is, Mr. Speaker, the province is now broke. The province is now broke. Why is it broke, Mr. Speaker? Because despite the fact that they had record revenues, they had money in the bank, and they had a lot of money in the savings account as well, Mr. Speaker, guess what? Guess what? The money now is gone. The money now is gone and the inheritance is spent and shame on the Sask Party. And it goes back to my assertion, from day one they didn't know what they were doing. They still don't know what they're doing, Mr. Speaker, and I ask the people of Saskatchewan to get rid of them, Mr. Speaker. Get rid of them. Put them back in the opposition where their only credible job was to blast away at the NDP.

But in the meantime people said, okay, we'll give you a chance to govern. And, Mr. Speaker, now we see. Now we see, Mr. Speaker. They've had their chance, and what do we have? We have record debt. We have record debt. Our Crown corporations are deep in debt and now they might be for sale. We have scandal after scandal, and worst part is their money's gone. Their money's gone.

And I can tell you one thing as well, Mr. Speaker. I'll almost

bet my mortgage, Mr. Speaker, almost bet my mortgage that two-thirds of them will head out of Dodge before the next election. You watch, Mr. Speaker. Two-thirds of them will head out of Dodge before the next election because they have to do something they never had before — figure out how to rebuild an economy, Mr. Speaker. Figure out how to rebuild the finances and figure out what we've always known, that it's important to diversify the economy, and making sure we had a burgeoning, successful film industry in this province of Saskatchewan is an important component of that. And they just don't get it, Mr. Speaker. They don't get it.

So on that point, Mr. Speaker, I'll point out to the people of Saskatchewan, be very worried because prior to the election they were saying, we're not going to sell SaskTel. And now, Mr. Speaker, they're saying well, we never got an offer. So why did the language change? Why did the language change?

So I say to the people of Saskatchewan, this bill, Bill No. 19, talked about the decimation of the film industry compliments of the Saskatchewan Party government. And they can gloat and brag from their benches, Mr. Speaker, but they gloat and brag from a position of hiding the exact truth from the people of Saskatchewan on our finances, hiding behind the exact truth behind what happened to the GTH land scheme, Mr. Speaker, hiding behind the true intent to deal with our Crowns. Now, Mr. Speaker, all that will come to roost. And I tell the people of Saskatchewan this, that we cannot forget the fact that they lack the courage to tell the people of Saskatchewan the full, true picture; not only on Bill 17, but on our finances. And the list goes on and on and on.

So on that note, Mr. Speaker, I move that we adjourn debate because we have a lot of issues to bring forward yet. I move that we adjourn debate on Bill No. 19, *The Film and Video Classification Act, 2016*. I so move.

**The Speaker:** — The member from Athabasca has adjourned debate on Bill No. 19, *The Film and Video Classification Act, 2016*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

#### Bill No. 26

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Duncan that **Bill No. 26 — *The Patient Choice Medical Imaging Act*** be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. Vermette:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join in on Bill No. 26, *The Patient Choice Medical Imaging Act*. You know the government last session introduced a bill that allowed for a patient to make the choice to pay. And you know, you have a choice to pay. And the second part of that bill was the company would have to offer a free imaging or a free . . . If you had one pay, you would offer the second.

Now having said that, we've been talking about privatization. Now they're going to repeal the bill. And all this does is repeal

legislation that they . . . Because a part of their campaign, they campaigned to add this to it. So now they're doing that. And what this does is repeals. But before we get into the details of that, I think it's important, Mr. Speaker, to talk a little bit.

I'm hoping there's other areas, I wish they would repeal some of the terrible decisions they made to northern Saskatchewan and many people that are suffering in this province because of the waste, because of the scandals, because of the money that they have promised. Whether you look at them: SkipTheDishes, \$3 million; you know, the Lighthouse in Saskatoon. This weekend we were there supporting the Lighthouse, trying to get their funding back, to get this government to change their decision on the most vulnerable, on the most vulnerable to change their decision, their mean-hearted decision to cut the most vulnerable, Mr. Speaker. And again, I wish they would repeal that decision, like take that decision and throw it in the garbage because that's where it belongs. You take the most vulnerable. And you know, we've seen hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of people protesting. It was nice, it was good to see people, citizens of this province.

The government says they're so popular. They brag about all the seats they got, how good it is. But again as my colleague talked about, did they share this with the public about the finances? Oh, we're not going to do this. We're not going to do that. We're not going to show this. We're not going to do that. But then after they're elected, you know, it's interesting. I've had people tell me — teachers, just people who are supporters of that government, the Sask Party government — say, you know what? They pulled the wool over my eyes. And some of them aren't so happy. They're not so happy.

[20:30]

So they can sit there and say, feel like the confidence, have at 'er. That's all right. If that makes you feel good, you have that. But I know there's people struggling, and they're not happy with the choices the government has made and not coming, you know, telling them everything that they needed to tell them. It's in the election, the platform. So they didn't come clean on a lot of stuff that they should have, and they should have made sure the public knew that. That's all people ask. Take care of their finances.

And, Mr. Speaker, this government has made choices that have impacted so many people. And I think about northern Saskatchewan, and I think about the leadership. I think about the community members. I think about the school divisions and all of them. They're going to come forward.

This government has turned their back on so many organizations and they, you know, the finances. They've had record revenue year after year. And yes, we see that there's times. But, Mr. Speaker, they're now wanting to take a bill and repeal it. They came in and great idea at the time, they said. We argued about this bill, our concern. And there's going to be a lot more concern from people about privatizing our health care, you know. Did they talk about their . . . Where are they going to go with this bill? And that's exactly where people need to ask.

You know, I listen to a lot of people and they talk about the health care and how important it is that everyone have access to

health care. We see the cuts of this government when it comes to mental health, addiction services. We see what happens because in my communities and in the constituency — and it's happening all over — we see the impact of the cuts from this government, the cuts that they have caused so much damage out there. They don't even realize it, and that's the sad part of it. They just go ahead and make their decisions. They don't consult, you know.

And you've got to be careful if you share your concerns with this government because they're known . . . And people, we talk about bullies, they passed bully legislation to protect people, but they need to have their own bully legislation on them so they can protect the people who want to complain, who come into this Assembly, who will raise the issues and the concerns. So let's bring in some of that legislation to protect individuals out there who want to complain and bring concerns, wherever it's from. We see how they've treated family members who've come in to this Assembly to share about their concerns about their loved ones or the issue that's facing their home, their family. And this government, you know, they have shown how they've treated some of them. And some of those people have come back to say how terrible it was. We see it in the media.

But having said that, they're making the decision and they're going to repeal. And they're going to come in with new legislation, and this legislation will give them an opportunity again, they're saying, for someone who's going to pay for the service. And like I said, they're going to do MRI [magnetic resonance imaging] and they're going to do the CT [computerized tomography] scan. And you're going to pay and then they're going to have to offer, that company, whoever they pay, the private company will have to give one back to somebody that's in the line. Now, we'll see who's waiting. And it is a lineup because I've heard some people say they're not sure where they are in their line. They're waiting patiently. They're waiting for a service to take care of them, to make sure, whether it's their loved one . . . So in that slow process line of waiting for a scan, the imaging, MRI, whatever they're waiting for.

Now this also takes it a step further. It's going to allow the government, the Premier, and cabinet to, you know, kind of through the back door . . . We're not going to bring legislation here where you have to bring legislation in when you want to change this. They're going to allow them to look at other areas that they can just — my understanding, and we'll make sure that that's clear — through order in council that they can just change some of this or add things to the legislation. That's very concerning because where does it go and where does it stop, you know. Where does it go? Where does it stop?

That's an interesting factor and I think there's a lot of questions. And we don't know who's been calling for this. You know, who have they consulted with? Who have they consulted with? We're not sure, you know, so there are questions that we will have to ask.

And there's a few of those members on that side really like to yell. I wish they would do that sticking up for Saskatchewan families who are struggling, but they don't do that, Mr. Speaker. They don't do that. Oh, they make it. They scream in here, but out there where the suffering is going on, we don't see



them doing much back home. Because I never seen any of them at the protest when, in Saskatoon at the Lighthouse, they were protesting your terrible, terrible impact. Any of you there? No, didn't see any. I seen MPs [Member of Parliament]. I seen people who are running. I seen a lot of people who care, Mr. Speaker, but I never seen any of the Sask Party there. Interesting I never seen them there. Well they're the ones making it.

But having said that, again where here we are going to privatize, the government privatizing. So they're privatizing. And we're not sure where they're going with this legislation, Mr. Speaker. Where? We don't know where they're going with this legislation.

Like you know, you hope at the end of the day that, through the process, that we can talk to people. In committee, I know my colleagues will be asking questions, the critic, and trying to clarify what exactly and why. Why add this opportunity for the Premier and cabinet to deal with other issues as well? I talked a little bit about it. But I think, Mr. Speaker, it's so important. It's so important that we make sure we go through this process.

But I think, you know, I think I've had an opportunity to speak on this one and to share some light. But I know my colleagues will have more comments to make on this. Maybe people will contact us and we'll hear from community members. And we'll see where it goes, but at this point, Mr. Speaker, I'm prepared to adjourn debate on Bill No. 26.

**The Speaker:** — The member from Cumberland has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 26, *The Patient Choice Medical Imaging Act*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

### Bill No. 28

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 28 — *The Extension of Compassionate Care Act, 2016*** be now read a second time.]

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

**Ms. Rancourt:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm happy to stand here and talk about the amendments to *The Extension of Compassionate Care Act*, Bill 28. This was produced and presented by the Labour Relations and Workplace Safety minister. And this actually, a lot of the information on this amended Act, the Sask Party Government tried to use that as an election platform, but it's actually due to the fact that the federal government has made some changes to the *Employment Insurance Act*. So they're just making these changes due to the new federal legislation. So the government that they just spent a lot of time today, you know, insulting with regards to what we had discussion earlier in the day, they're taking some of the credit for what they did after their election.

But regardless, we all know that compassionate care is important, and just like the minister also talked about when he presented this amended Act, you know, families are really important. And families have changed through the years, and so it's really important that we look into this and ensure that people will be able to take some needed time off work if they have a loved one that's ill.

So it looks like some of the changes that are going to be done here, they're going to increase it from 8 weeks to 28 weeks. But it also says like 26 weeks you'll get off and there'll be a two-week wait period, so I think that'll need to be clarified a little bit more when they meet in council.

And I also noticed there was some language with regards to job-protected leave. And so I don't understand exactly why it was worded that way, job-protected leave, so I hope that also gets maybe addressed once it's brought up to council.

And the word "family" oftentimes is really interesting because, you know, family can be so broad. And when you look at different people, their family, their auntie could have been like their mother, so does that constitute as a family member that they can take leave for? And how will they define what family is? So I also hope that they consider to continue to have that discussion with regards to what that's going to look like in the Act.

And so, like I said before, you know, our families are changing. And so we oftentimes have this sandwich generation that we talk about, you know. So like for myself I got younger children but I also have aging parents, and so oftentimes it's difficult managing both.

And I know when my father got very ill, as soon as he was in the hospital I left work. And I was very fortunate to have a manager that said, go and we'll handle things later. And so I fortunately didn't need something like this, but I can understand other people who are in this situation. When you have someone in the hospital that's very ill and a loved one that you care deeply about, it's hard to concentrate at work. You want to be with that person. And so, like I said before, you know, we need to make sure that there's an ability to do that.

So we have to meet the demands. We've got an aging population. People are living longer and longer, and so oftentimes things will come up in a person's lifespan that they have to go and spend some time with their loved ones in the hospital. And you know, most families, they rely on their income. They don't have a lot of give. They're living paycheque to paycheque. And so one person, or even if they have a dual family or if they're just the only provider, they can't afford to just not have an income for a period of time, and so they need to have these options of being able to take time off and be able to still, you know, meet the needs of their living arrangements.

And so also, like I said, like when you have someone who is sick and a loved one that you have to care for, this is mentally and physically draining. Like I said before, you can't focus on work. And it's really important that you manage your own mental health during that period of time because you might have the loved one that's ill, and then you might have other

family members that you need to care for. And so people will go through bouts of depression. Or even if your loved one is terminal — which I believe is the case of this compassionate care Act, that your loved one needs to be deemed as being terminal in order to qualify for it — and so a person oftentimes is going through the grief cycle before their loved one actually even has deceased.

You know, and so we've got to take that into account that people need to be able to have that time to process their emotions and be able to go through this. And this is going to, you know, help us for years before . . . If someone doesn't properly deal with their grief or their depression at that moment, that will end up with long-term mental health issues. And we've got to look at that long-term cost effect so we can provide families the resources that they need at that moment. Then we don't have to provide that later on in the course of life. So that's really important that we do that.

But I would really challenge this government to be a little bit more progressive with regards to this compassionate care Act. And what I would like to see is it maybe progressed farther. And I know the federal government talked about how they're looking into this. So maybe once their federal counterparts do, they'll make the changes here because that seems to be what they do, is they just make the changes when they have to.

But they're looking at maybe making it so that it's not a benefit that you only get when your loved one is terminal. They want to be able to help out families so that they could qualify if a loved one has a serious illness such as what if your partner . . . or like, I hate to think about it, but your child comes down with something serious like cancer and you need to take time off and be with them and care for them. So it would be nice to have that put into this Act and reflect that. And so I hope there is some consideration of expanding this so that, like I said before, that we could support hard-working families in our province so that they can have the benefits that they need to take care of their families.

So with that, like I said, so this is a very important Act and I'm glad that it's being addressed. And I am looking forward to hearing more about what's going to be happening with this Act. And I know that I have some colleagues that will want to add more information with regards to this discussion, so I move to adjourn this debate.

**The Speaker:** — The member from Prince Edward Northcote has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 28, *The Extension of Compassionate Care Act, 2016*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

#### Bill No. 29

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 29 — *The Justices of the Peace Amendment Act, 2016/Loi modificative de 2016 sur les juges de paix*** be now read a second time.]

[20:45]

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

**Mr. Vermette:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, to join in on the Bill No. 29, *The Justices of the Peace Amendment Act*. In this Act again they're repealing some things, but I won't get into the . . . As I spoke earlier, I won't get into the repealing of some of the other things the government should repeal, which I wish they would. But . . . [inaudible] . . . that they're repealing the traffic court of Saskatchewan Act and they're coming up with a different process so that you can have the Justice of the Peace deal with it outside of court and what it will do.

And I think we're going to have to ask some questions, but I'm not sure exactly what type of offences are they talking about. I know they're saying traffic, but I was wondering about this. So they're going to be . . . We'll have some opportunity, and I know in committee, to work through that.

So it also allows in this bill to create an assistant supervising Justice of the Peace that will act and take over in light of the Justice of the Peace not being there as a supervisor. He will be assistant, will be able to take over those duties, responsibilities. So they were adding more, but as they're adding and they're doing this, they're also . . . They're actually . . . It's going to be a senior Justice of the Peace, and they're also, in this Act, they're giving some provision to set some salaries, and I don't know what exactly the payments will be and I don't know . . . And I guess we'll have an opportunity to ask some of those questions, to figure out what exactly is it for a senior Justice of the Peace.

Now I don't know if that's a monthly salary or if it's on a case of when they come before, you know, and they're dealing with offences that they're going to decide the fine. And they'll have provisions in there — from my understanding, and we've got to get clarification — to impose fines. But they'll also have the provision in there, should you be an offender with a number of traffic tickets, that they'll have the ability to order that individual to take driver safety training to go back.

So they're making some adjustments and I know at the end of the day we'll have to find out in committee exactly what it is that they're, you know, they're allowing them to do because at this point it's not clear in here. But we'll ask those questions in committee and we'll get to the bottom. And it might be a very good thing and it might be . . .

And I'm not sure who's requested, and it might be the courts are asking for this for some help. Maybe there's been cuts; I don't know. This government wouldn't tell you if there's cuts or not, but maybe there's been some cuts in the area. Well I know in some areas of justice there has been, with the court workers. I know that's had an impact on many communities and it's unfortunate on the, you know, especially the Aboriginal people that were using those services to assist them through the court system. So maybe that's an area where we could look at changing and repealing that decision that this government has made, to put those back and to help the, you know, I guess some of those individuals going through the court system. So it's one way of having those court workers help.

But at this point, you know, I don't have any more comments on this bill. In committee I know my colleagues will have more and we can get to, once the minister and the officials are there, to ask exactly who and maybe we can find out exactly who requested it and what's the reason and get some of the clarification that needs to be then to go through that process to make sure if this bill has met everything.

So at this point I will adjourn debate on Bill No. 29, *The Justices of the Peace Amendment Act*.

**The Speaker:** — The member from Cumberland has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 29, *The Justices of the Peace Amendment Act, 2016*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

### Bill No. 30

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 30 — *The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy 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. I'm happy to rise to discuss the amendments on *The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. This is Bill No. 30 and this was presented by the Justice minister. And this is a really important one for me because, as my background being a registered social worker and a background with mental health, privacy is very important. Information about people's confidential situations are very important. And so I think sharing information should only be done when there's proper consent and proper documentation of that consent, and so that really needs to be a priority.

And it's been really troubling to hear in the news about situations where people have been accessing information that they're not supposed to be, or they didn't have a relationship with that person or for a variety of reasons. And so I think that's really troubling. And so I'm glad that this is something that is going to be more fully enforced and that it's going to be reflective of a lot of different agencies which I would've thought, you know, in this day and age, that we would have a lot of this enforcement already in place and that this information would have been applicable to all the government agencies.

Unfortunately, this was introduced as a result of inappropriate management of private information by this government. But nonetheless, at least this is important that it's being addressed at this point and further, hopefully, this issue won't ever be something that happens again.

So first of all, I would like to thank the Privacy Commissioner for the report and his recommendations. It was a really good report. I took the time to look at it and he did provide a lot of, a

number of recommendations. And it sounds like this is going to be something that's going to be ongoing, which is also something that I think is great because the Privacy Commissioner said that this information hasn't been updated for 22 years. Like that just, you know, really surprises me — 22 years. And if you think about the level of technology that's been introduced in the past 22 years, gosh, even at that time, I was still in high school, you know. So we didn't have the telephones that we have now. We didn't have the computer access that we have now, you know.

And so when you think about how we can access our emails on our phones and we can access anything . . . Like we just go on all these different portals, you know, and such. And so how did that impact the ability to keep things confidential and private? It's not just simply having a written file that you have in your office, enclosed in your locked-down file cabinet. This is like every day, all the time with us. And so we've got to make sure the things are confidential.

I remember when I first started at mental health, we couldn't phone clients unless it was on a land line because that would be the only guarantee that that was a confidential phone call. But now in this day and age, a lot of people don't even have land lines and so to phone people, you have to phone them on their cell. And I know one of the issues that we were dealing with was that a lot of people don't even actually use phone calls. They mostly use texting or Facebook messaging.

And so we're getting into this day and age of just multiple different ways of communication, and communicating with different people. And how do we ensure that all this information continues to be confidential so that people's private information is not being leaked?

And so like I said, I'm so happy that the Privacy Commissioner has taken this on and provided the report, and it was time for an update because of access and privacy. So thank you to him for all this information that he has given. And like I said, like this is a good start, but it doesn't meet all the needs.

So first of all, it sounds like one of the things that are going to be implemented is an increasing of penalties. And so it's a good idea to increase some penalties at some times on certain things, but how are these going to be enforced and who's going to be enforcing them? That's a good question to ask, especially when you're in committees. Like how is this going to be actually monitored?

And then the other thing is creating new legislature so that people aren't able to go into files or information that they should not have access to, you know, and how to find that out. How do you determine if people are accessing files that they're not supposed to, you know? And how do you monitor that? Like I said, especially with the technology in this day and age, are there ways, are there systems for that?

So that's a much more complicated issue for me to try to explain or . . . I don't even have that background, so I think it's important to talk to people who do have that information. And so I hope this is also discussed in committees.

And a couple of things that I was kind of concerned about was

the fact that the Privacy Commissioner recommended changing the maximum time for response from 30 days to 20 days, but I didn't see that reflected in this amendment. And this privacy amendment should be looked at about every five years due to the modern technology.

So like again, you know, we think about how technology had changed in 22 years. Every five years technology changes so rapidly. Like our phones don't even often times last more than two years before you're already two phones behind, you know. And so I think it's very reasonable for him to suggest that five years is a good time to review the Act, but I did not see that reflected in the amendment. So I hope that's considered.

So like I said before, as MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly], like we get a lot of confidential information from residents and people that we serve. And people tell us very sensitive and confidential information, so I believe that it's very important that we demonstrate how important, maintaining confidentiality. We need to set the bar, and we should be reflective of that.

And so this is a good start, amending this Act. I hope we look into including a little bit more what the privacy commissioner suggested. I'm sure my colleagues will have a lot more information that they'll want to add to this discussion.

And so I move to adjourn this debate.

**The Speaker:** — The member from Prince Albert Northcote has called adjourned debate on Bill No. 30, *The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Amendment Act, 2016*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

### Bill No. 31

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 31 — *The Local Authority Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Amendment Act, 2016*** be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure indeed to rise and join into this debate and follow my colleague who has been speaking with the partner bill, Bill No. 30. But mine's No. 31, *An Act to amend The Local Authority Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Amendment Act*. And it's a very important discussion we're having as my colleague pointed out. It's been 22 years since we've had an update and this is actually some new changes which I think are very, very important.

But before I start, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on my colleague's comments about the safety of land lines. So she may have not been around when there were party lines on phones, and that was not very private. Some of us will remember the old click, click and you knew it was your aunt on

the line. Somebody was on the line and you all went very cool. But it is interesting how things evolve and I can remember those things. It was always exciting to hear who's getting a call and . . .

**An Hon. Member:** — Telegraph.

**Mr. Forbes:** — A telegraph line and climbing up the pole to get the first line. But anyways I digress, Mr. Speaker. It is all very interesting.

And it is an interesting topic because it's like two sides of a coin, you know. Freedom of information and the right to know and then on the other side protection of privacy which is also so critical in our society and that goes back . . . And I know I was doing some research. This goes back hundreds of years to the first peeping Tom laws when you talk about privacy in our communities. This is serious stuff.

[21:00]

And so when we talk about this, it is odd. And I think about the presidential election that's happening with WikiLeaks and what's happening there in terms of right to privacy but also the freedom to know, and the debate around emails and what's private emails, and all of us as we become in the public eye. What is information that we have to share and what is information that is our own? And this debate will go on and on and on.

And so this is an evolution of that and I have to say that we've been well served. We have been very well served by the privacy commissioners, the current one and the one prior, both who were very astute in terms of research and the fine line of this discussion. But it's important to evolve and keep this in the public eye about what's the proper format.

And one that I just wanted to say that we're very, very glad to see is that the police service in our communities are now being brought into and under the local authority of freedom of information and privacy Act because we were one of the last, if not the last province, to have our police services be held accountable in terms of freedom of information. And I know and I have a lot of respect for our police chief in Saskatoon who has done so much and speaks so well in terms of how we can make our communities safe and how we can . . . the root causes of the crime. But one thing we don't see eye to eye on is the whole thing around privacy and the role of the police. I know there has been concerns around this within the police services and the leadership of our services. And I hope that as we get this going up and running that they can feel much more secure.

One of the big debates we're having in Saskatoon, as we speak in this election, is around police carding and the asking of people for identification in a random manner. The police will say this is a way to create safe streets, but we see right across North America where this has been challenged, as can be sometimes, profiling in some cities. And it can be seen as an infringement on human rights, whereas others will say there is a greater good, that it protects our streets, our homes, and people.

If they are out and it's late at night and looking kind of suspicious, then it's only reasonable to ask them who they are

and what their business is. But the question then becomes, what is reasonable, and is it reasonable grounds for suspicion for some illegal activity. And if there isn't, then these folks have the right not to say.

I think, in my opinion, the police will have a lot more credibility with this piece of legislation around the access to freedom of information because they will have to share more about what they're doing. Now we're not asking them to share all the details that may lead to significant arrests or charges, and we've seen that in our cities as it has evolved in terms of gangs or organized crime, that type of thing. So it's important to allow the police to do their work within the frames of our human rights, but I think that we all grow together.

They get more credibility when we see this kind of stuff coming forward. This is not an infringement or a way of stopping them from doing their work. It's a way of saying it's just a self-check and it's a way to check on what information are you gathering. Is it necessary?

You know, there's always this fine line between what you need to know and what you'd like to know. People like to know more, but what do you really need to know to get the job done? And this is what this bill goes a long ways to do, so this will be very important to move forward. And I am glad to see the government moving this forward, though it has been 22 years. And I know some of that was our time, but it has been nine years on their clock. So it is something that we need to see happen. And so with that, I think that's very, very important to have.

I think that we will see more and I look forward to this because I hope . . . This is, you know, one of the things the Privacy Commissioner said is that we should be looking at updating the legislation every five years. And I think that's a reasonable thing, particularly when you come to considering the evolution of technology. And I don't know whether five years ago we . . . We weren't talking about WikiLeaks. I'm not sure Facebook was as big as an issue. It might have been. I mean it seems to all blur really closely together, the whole social media thing, and what was there five years or not, and what was not there 10 years ago. But I think that we do need to keep looking at updating our legislation, and then maybe we get better at this, and the amendments become smaller and smaller and more refined. But this is an important thing to do.

The one area that I do want to flag and I want to make sure that we look at this and I urge the government to take a look at this is we know that there are, when it comes to the workplace, there are issues around privacy and also freedom of information in the public service but not in the private workplace. And I know across Canada . . . Alberta has legislation under the Conservative government that brought it forward there. I know it's happening, happens right across Canada. So I think this is one that I would flag and say this is something that we now would ask the government to turn its attention to and say how can we make sure our workplaces have the best privacy legislation, the best freedom of information legislation because the two do go together.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think that, as we said, the bill is . . . It comes out of the 2015 report. It's time for an update that the

Information and Privacy Commissioner called for. I think that 22 years is a bit too long. I think this is important in terms of the impact on police services, and it creates new offences for snooping on personal information, which is significant because we just need to feel confident that when we share our personal information, that it is secure, that it is secure. But as my colleague said, it didn't address the recommendation for changing the maximum time for a response from 30 days to 20 days. And the LAFOIP [*The Local Authority Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*] should have a requirement it be updated every five years to respond to modern technology.

So I know the minister says he's going to be working closely with the police services and other stakeholders to make sure that the regulations are strong and effective for the police and how it applies to *The Police Act, 1990*. But as I said, there are more and more questions about our police services in our communities, and I think this can go a long way to ensuring and restoring confidence that they are there for our communities and for our citizens and are not beyond a reasonable expectation of appropriate work.

So with that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would say this is a very, very important bill that we take a look at, and I'll be interested in hearing more about this from my colleagues. I know many of them will have lots to say about all of this and then when we get to the committee, and I hope the commissioner will be part of that committee hearings, that they will in fact invite the commissioner as well as the ministry folks along to have that discussion. So I would move adjournment of Bill No. 31, *An Act to amend The Local Authority Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. I do so move. Thank you.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member from Saskatoon Centre has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 31. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

### Bill No. 1

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. McMorris that **Bill No. 1** — *The Crown Corporations Public Ownership Amendment Act, 2016* be now read a second time.]

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

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise tonight and join in the debate surrounding Bill No. 1, *An Act to amend The Crown Corporations Public Ownership Act*.

Now it's been stated a few times, as we know, the bill removes Sask liquor and gaming association from *The Crown Corporations Public Ownership Act* and essentially allows the government to do what they did — and I will admit, say that they would do in their campaign — which was to sell 40 public liquor stores.

Now the Sask Party did fail to say quite a few things in the campaign. They failed to give us the true state of the finances. They failed to present a budget, which I like to call the death-by-a-thousand-cuts budget, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And it's not just me that describes it by that name, Mr. Speaker, when I talk in the community, to community-based organizations in particular, and non-profits in particular, that are doing front-line work helping to improve our province as they definitely echo that sentiment. This was a budget that was truly a death-by-a-thousand-cuts budget, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

So yes, they did campaign on this, but it doesn't give them the blank cheque that they think it does. There are still some really important questions here that are left unanswered. What this does is it provides for no more protection to any of the other SLGA [Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority] stores. So I'm a little bit worried about what this means for the future. We still do have some public stores. We have public stores that make a lot of money for this province and that do have jobs that are serving our communities.

So what does that mean for those jobs that are still left and what does that mean for liquor stores in those communities? Like I said, there's a lot of questions about this and I had the opportunity to ask some of those questions to the former minister for SLGA in estimates in the summer. Unfortunately pretty much all of my questions were, remained largely unanswered. The responses I received were political, and a lot of people want to know what's going to happen with these stores in terms of the promises that were made with the privatization of these stores.

For example, we've been told time and time again that these sales are going to be revenue neutral for the province. Well when I asked the former minister what does that mean, I couldn't get a response that I could understand and that frankly, that the stakeholders could understand, Mr. Speaker.

I know we're at the ... I believe we're at the request-for-proposal process through these liquor stores. We still haven't seen too much in terms of how that's been going, who's been granted those RFPs [request for proposal], who's made those applications. I do hope that it's been a robust application process. I do hope that there's been a lot of competition, and boy I sure do hope that those RFPs are going to be granted to local businesses ideally and all of these profits aren't going to go to Ontario and out of country like they have in other jurisdictions, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

And that's one of the main concerns with respect to this. And I'm hoping that the opposition will have the opportunity to actually be able to look at this and scrutinize it and make sure that it's being run in essentially the most efficient manner because there's been studies in the past that have said that there is no way that this could be done in a revenue-neutral manner, Mr. Deputy Speaker. So I'd really like to see some sort of cost analysis in how this actually is going to play out and how this actually does benefit the people of Saskatchewan because it really frankly hasn't been shown yet.

And there are still detractors to this. There is still a lot people who are very concerned about how this is going to play out. I know I had colleagues that were in some of the committee

meetings with respect to these privatizations and there were voices of concern. And they were, frankly, from business owners, and they were from business owners in smaller centres.

There was a woman who owns a business in the southwest end of the province, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and she was very concerned with having to do what she has to do now with changes to SLGA that require her to negotiate discounts with her local off-sale, Mr. Deputy Speaker, rather than through SLGA. And when her local off-sale is her competitor, it provides a situation for her that she finds very alarming, and she's not sure if she's going to be able to stay in business any longer.

Another concern is what's going to happen to the actual infrastructure? What's going to happen to these actual buildings once these SLGA stores are closed off? Because as I understand it, these RFPs do not include the actual infrastructure, that it's more just an RFP for the ability to open up a store, whether that's in connection with an already existing store or if it's a new building. But that actual infrastructure, that actual physical building is not a part of that RFP.

So what is this going to result in? Is this going to result in another empty building in a small town, like it has in other towns that already have been faced with this in Saskatchewan? Because I don't see how that is going improve the situation anywhere in this province, Mr. Speaker. It's quite alarming.

[21:15]

The government has said that this is going to improve better hours, better selection, new locations, more refrigerated product. Again, we still haven't seen whether or not this is actually going to come to fruition. And frankly, what I don't understand is why we couldn't modernize SLGA. Why we can't make SLGA competitive? I think the Sask Party seems to just want to let SLGA stores essentially wither and die. They're creating a situation where they have no chance of ever being competitive. It's a historical and typical conservative move, Mr. Speaker, frankly, to essentially strangle and starve public resources into the point where we feel as if the private sector is the only thing that can do this properly when public resources are underserved and underutilized. It's really creating an unfair playing field and essentially setting a disadvantaged situation up for the rest of the SLGA stores. And maybe what this government should be looking at doing is not just modernizing the stores themselves but modernizing SLGA.

I hear from, as critic for SLGA, from stakeholders all the time who have expressed so much frustration over the rules of SLGA and how they're constantly changing, how many hoops they have to jump through. It seems like the pricing keeps changing. They never know what's coming down the pipe next, who are they supposed to be talking to, who are they not supposed to be talking to. And if you don't think that that's true, feel free to talk to any of the many business owners in Regina, for example, who have expressed nothing but immense frustration over how to deal with SLGA. So maybe we should be focusing a little bit on improving that situation for our business owners instead of focusing on starving and then privatizing all of our SLGA stores.

We have many great craft brewers in the province. I'm happy to see that the government has said that they were going to put in, in two locations, two SLGA locations . . . So it's like the baby steps in terms of modernizing our SLGA stores, putting in craft beer dispensaries in those locations.

Now I don't see why we can't be doing more of this. We've been calling on this on behalf of the craft brewers of Saskatchewan for quite a while now. So I'm happy to see it's being done, but why does it have to be the tiniest of baby steps? Why can't we move forward on this, expand it, make it better? I'm happy to see that finally, after calling for it for a very long time on this side of the House, the craft brewers are now allowed to serve beer in their locations. Now thankfully for me and my staff, we can go across the street to the craft brewer location in the General Hospital neighbourhood to enjoy a beer and shop for vintage clothing actually, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's quite a great location.

These are logical steps in terms of modernizing SLGA. I don't see why this is so difficult. I don't see why the Sask Party has to stall and make the tiniest of baby steps in terms of modernizing SLGA. Instead we focus on privatizing these stores, and that's where their, apparently, their focus is on. So fine, if you're going to focus on this, then let's see you do this right. Are you doing this right? We don't know yet, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I haven't heard anything yet. My members on this side haven't heard anything yet about how the RFP process is going. I do sure hope that, like I said, it's a robust RFP process, that there's lots of competition, and that ideally those RFPs are going to local business owners because that's really what we should be doing in terms of improving the economy in Saskatchewan, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

So I'm looking forward to committee on this bill so that we can have the opportunity to ask some more questions, maybe get some more real answers from the new minister for SLGA with respect to these issues. With that, I think I will end this for now and adjourn debate on Bill No. 1.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 1, *The Crown Corporations Public Ownership Act*, 2016. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

### Bill No. 32

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. McMorris that **Bill No. 32 — *The Automobile Accident Insurance (Benefits) 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. Deputy Speaker. It is a pleasure tonight to get into Bill No. 32, *An Act to Amend The Automobile Accident Insurance Act respecting Benefits and Actions and to make a consequential amendment to The Traffic*

*Safety Act*.

And right off the bat I have to say that it's kind of an odd choice of words about benefits. There's no benefits to being involved in an accident. I mean there may be compensation, but it would be interesting to know if that's the best choice of word we could have. I mean I find this often when I talk to people about workers' compensation and accidents that happen and how, boy, if you could just not have that accident, that would be the very, very best.

And so we try to be as safe as we can, but sometimes things happen, and we have to make sure that everyone is treated fairly and appropriately. And this piece of legislation, over the years, has served to do that. And always the question is, has it been as fair as it can be? Will it ensure that people can continue on with the life that they had prior to the accident? In the case of death, is there a way of compensating the loved ones for that?

And it's interesting this piece of legislation tackles the issue of not compensating those who are in prison because it just seems to make very little sense to have people who have been involved in crime and then involved in an accident be receiving compensation while in jail. And a situation that may come to mind is stealing cars, getting into an accident while in that car, and then going to jail. It just doesn't make a lot of sense. And so I'll talk about some of these pieces.

You know, when we get into technical bills like this, really in many ways I know and I would think that the people who are working on these pieces of legislation have spent a lot of time balancing out what is fair, what is reasonable, and what is sustainable. And especially in this day and age when we're living longer and costs are significant, we have to make sure that's reasonable.

But I'll just take a minute to reflect on the second reading speech of the minister at the time. This goes back to June 15th, and he talked about how there's going to be more than 30 changes to this piece of legislation. And I won't go through them all, but of course he talks about "When an impaired driver causes a collision and is killed, the family impacted will now be able to sue the estate of the deceased impaired driver for pain and suffering or bereavement damages." And that's very important. I mean it's interesting as I'm reading this.

I'm going back and forth between the Bill and the legislation, but it looks like the compensation for a funeral now is about \$5,000. I'm not sure if that's been updated or not, but we know that in many cases, especially in the case of a sudden death that's caused because of drinking and driving, there is a great outpouring of feelings and so costs can be significant. And so this is important. So that's something that we look forward to and we think is important.

The list of offences that trigger the ability for an innocent party to sue has also been expanded to cover criminal negligence causing death or bodily harm, criminal negligence causing bodily injury, flight from a peace officer, and dangerous operation while street racing.

And that's very, very important. We've seen that become a major issue, particularly in cities like Vancouver. But I know in

Saskatoon we can think of late-night speeding cars that cause death on our streets, and this has been an issue. So this is important, and all the costs that come along with it, rehab benefits and counselling and that type of thing. So this is significant. And so he goes on and he says that there were "... many interested parties who influenced these changes through the consultations in 2014 and '15." And so we'd like to know who they were. That's important.

So in summary what we've seen, and I'll reflect on some more of these, but increases the amount of weekly benefits for employed injured persons from equivalent to 40 hours at minimum wage for fully disabled persons and 20 hours a week at minimum wage for partially disabled persons for those confined to a hospital, bed, or wheelchair. Prohibits SGI [Saskatchewan Government Insurance] from paying benefits to a person who's in prison. Prohibits SGI from paying benefits to a driver who is more than 50 per cent responsible for the collision, and convicted, as I've said, or charged with causing death or bodily harm by street racing, being negligent, or fleeing a peace officer, and has been found guilty in the last five years of causing death or bodily harm by street racing, being negligent, or fleeing a peace officer. So we'll have to take a look at some of the other changes at committee.

But when I look back at this, the original piece of legislation is pretty thorough and pretty prescriptive, and it talks about the benefits particularly to those who are, if the insured is a homemaker. So section 24(1) talks about, and this is just an example that I want to raise, section 24(1) is talking about somebody who is hurt who is a homemaker, and that person is eligible for \$300. That's the old legislation. So it's interesting that you would have to bring the legislation back every time you wanted to change that amount, so \$300. So we debate that, whether 300 is right, whether it's 320, whether it's 340.

But now what they've done for section 24(3), and I just use this as an example, now says that it's either going to be \$396 or a weekly benefit calculated on the basis of a 40-hour workweek, and the minimum wage established by pursuant to part II of *The Saskatchewan Employment Act*. So that's the minimum wage. We know that the minimum wage just went up, I think to \$10.75 an hour, I believe, somewhere around there. And so we can multiply that out quite easily. It's 400-and-some dollars.

So that is what someone who was a stay-at-home person is valued at by us, Saskatchewan legislature, saying that they're worth essentially minimum wage at a 40-hour workweek. I'm not sure how I feel about that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, because I could tell you I think homemakers are worth a lot more than that. In fact I think at the very least they should be getting a living wage, not a minimum wage. And we often talked about that. We debate that, whether that's \$15 an hour. I think in Regina the living wage is around sixteen seventy-five or something, when you take in the impact of the rent and groceries and that type of thing.

[21:30]

And even at, let's say, \$17 an hour ... You can do the math quickly: \$17 an hour, that's 2,000 hours a year, that's 34,000. That is not very high. That's not very much money who's fully ... who cannot work. And I think this is something that I'd like

to know a little bit more about because I think this is, especially when you're talking about a homemaker, it might be a single parent, a single parent and it doesn't talk anything about whether you have dependants or not.

Now I may be reading this wrong because ... This is the wonderful thing about doing debates like this is we get a chance to say, so how do they figure out the compensation or the benefits once you've been injured in an accident and if you cannot work and you have multiple disabilities? How do they figure that out with SGI? And is that a reasonable way? Well it's in the legislation. They have a very particular form letter if you're not working at the time and they consider you to be a homemaker. And I'm not sure what they do ... [inaudible] ... and we'll have to study this more. If you're a student or if you're an artist, what is the long-term impact of these kind of pieces of legislation? So with that I mean, this really shows how this is a very important piece of legislation.

And I know that when we get into committee, I hope that we have a pretty good discussion about, are these reasonable amounts? Is the compensation that's coming forward ... Particularly when we've seen a province like ours that's benefited so much for the resource activity of the past years, in the past years, but we've seen the cost of living go through the roof, and we know that minimum wage has not caught up with that. We know that we need ... Well there just has to be much more done. So are these reasonable amounts? Are these reasonable amounts particularly when we're putting into place now formulas that are ... Especially when we consider minimum wage, if we're not going to be revisiting this as we have in the past years.

In the past years we've revisited it because it was a fixed number — \$300. Is that reasonable? But at least we were visiting it; now we're not going to come back to this probably for many years. There'd have to be a big reason to come back because now there are formulas in place. And I think that in many ways that's locking people into poverty because of injuries, and that's not a benefit at all. That's not a benefit at all. And so I think we need to take a look at this and have a good long discussion about this. I think this ... a good long discussion about this.

I've only talked about one or two examples, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I understand that there's 30 changes here. We also understand that the government side is bringing forward more legislation around drinking and driving because some of the events that have happened in recent months. So I look forward to that. I look forward to what that might be in terms of this piece of legislation as well.

So I know my colleagues will have a lot to say about this. We've thought a lot about this on our side. But I think when we come to this particular piece of legislation, it's so prescriptive. And if we are locking into long-time amounts for compensation that are locking people into poverty, that's not, not a good thing. And as we've said, maybe it needs to have a revision or revisit clause: revisit every five years, every 10 years, to make sure that they're reasonable. As I said, we've seen minimum wage already falling behind.

We are, I think, the second lowest minimum wage in Canada.



We see our sister province beside us, in Alberta, going to \$15. Many are well above 11 and into the \$12 amount. And at this point, if we're locking people in, this may be a dangerous thing. And it could be, we could all have that impact because this is because of accident. These things are not planned and the tragedy of it, it could impact anybody, unfortunately.

So with that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is a very importance piece of legislation before us, Bill No. 32, *An Act to amend The Automobile Accident Insurance Act respecting Benefits and Actions and to make a consequential amendment to The Traffic Safety Act*. Apparently, some 30 amendments to this piece of legislation. I think we'll have to make sure we have enough time in committee to go through it all. But I would want to make sure we provide time for all our colleagues to have a good go at this. So with that, I move adjournment on this bill. Thank you.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member from Saskatoon Centre has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 32. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

### Bill No. 33

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Harpauer that **Bill No. 33 — *The Child and Family Services Amendment Act, 2016*** be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. Vermette:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to join in on Bill No. 33, *The Child and Family Services Amendment Act, 2016*. In this Act, I guess there's . . . Government has been getting into agreements with First Nations and different agencies, communities. And I'm not sure exactly who all they have been. But from what I could see, this provision, in your part of it, it gives a notice to go to legislation, to cancel an agreement, to end an agreement.

But having said that, I would like to . . . And it's interesting because I don't believe right now Métis . . . And I think about that, I realize there's agreements. I see there's a number of different agreements with First Nations. But I believe in the province of Saskatchewan there are none, agreements with the Métis community, Métis Nation of Saskatchewan or any of the communities that are Métis communities. So I'm not sure . . . And it's curious to see at the end of the day if there will be a provision and if government is looking at that. Like we're hoping, you know, at the end of our election with the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan in, I believe it's February, once that election is done. And we're hoping that the government could move forward, making sure that the Métis would have an opportunity to look after their children in care, and some type of agreement.

I know they've been called for years in light of the problem within the Métis Nation. It has its issues, but at the end of the

day they will resolve it and, you know, the people will go to the polls and they will elect The Métis Nation of Saskatchewan, who then . . . and we've seen some of the court rulings and we've seen court rulings that have favoured the Métis, and in the Supreme Court of Canada made it very clear.

So I think government's going to have, you know, to deal once and for all with the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan. There might be the Métis National Council as well that will put some pressure, and I think it's the right thing to do: to sit down with the Métis. Right now I know there's been . . . they have no funding, the provincial government hasn't, but I'm hoping at the end of the day when the new election comes in, the federal government is supporting The Métis Nation of Saskatchewan or the PMC [Provincial Métis Council] with getting everything in place so they can hold an election. And that process is happening and government's working with them.

After that happens, I think there's going to be, you know, an obligation on the province to deal with the Métis once and for all as well, and there's areas where they can improve. And that's one area that they can give authority. The Métis Nation does some great work; some of its organizations, affiliates, they do some great work. When I think of MACSI [Métis Addictions Council of Saskatchewan, Inc.] centre, Gabriel Dumont Institute, there are many great institutes that's within the Métis Nation that are doing some great work.

But again, hopefully this is one area government consult and work with them and get an agreement so that they can take care and be responsible for the Métis children in care. So really this agreement, again, doesn't allow for that. I can't see that, and in questions and answers, I guess, within committee we could find out. And my colleagues . . . And we can ask some of those questions and maybe there is opportunity for Métis Nation to take the responsibility of Métis children in care. It's the right thing to do, and I hope the government will do that at that time.

At this point I have no further comments on this bill, and I'm prepared to adjourn.

**The Speaker:** — The member from Cumberland has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 33, the child and family service Act, 2016. It is the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

### Bill No. 34

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Stewart that **Bill No. 34 — *The Provincial Lands 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 this evening to speak on Bill No. 34, *The Provincial Lands Act*. I see that there are no explanatory notes for this, because apparently when a bill is repealed and then replaced with a whole other bill, explanatory notes aren't provided. I'm not sure

if this is the way it's always been or if this is a new thing. In any event, it's a frustrating situation when you don't have any explanatory notes to go off of, and as an opposition you're told to go through the old Act and the new Act and go line by line to see exactly what the government has decided to leave in and take out and change and not change.

So frankly, Mr. Speaker, it's very frustrating when, like myself as Justice critic, you have to review a lot of these bills. Many of them are repeals of entire Acts, so you have to, without any explanatory notes, go through the whole thing and figure out exactly what's been changed and what hasn't been changed, and essentially why it's been changed is completely left up to anyone's guess essentially, Mr. Speaker. Or hopefully once it goes to committee you actually have the opportunity to get some of those questions answered, because you sure don't get them answered when it's tabled and you're not provided with any explanatory notes, frankly, Mr. Speaker.

What I do know with respect to this bill is that it does have quite an extensive change to *The Provincial Lands Act*, and it's quite important that this is done right and that stakeholders are properly consulted and actually listened to. From what I understand, in 2013 there were some consultations that were done on some proposed changes but because the changes were so criticized the government at that time decided to back down. I understand that some consultations were restarted earlier this year but the time frame for consultations was extremely short and there's already been some criticism with respect to these consultations.

And I think we have some right to be a little bit concerned because I think this government has shown quite well that they're, and I've said before in other debates, frankly, that they're not very good at listening to consultations and listening to stakeholders. And frankly, Mr. Speaker, this past budget is an indication of that. Because did they consult with the justice community when they decided to make cuts to the Aboriginal court worker program? I assure you they did not. They definitely didn't consult with the judiciary. Did they consult with the justice community when they decided to make cuts to the alternative measures program? I assure you they absolutely did not. Did they consult with the justice and corrections community and the community in the North when they decided to close Buffalo Narrows Correctional Centre? No, they certainly did not.

So there's obvious reason why we're concerned and we want to make sure that appropriate consultations are done and that this government is not running roughshod on a really important piece of legislation. So I'm hoping that at committee we're going to have the opportunity to exactly see who was consulted on this, why these changes were made, and we want to make sure that this is done correctly and that it's done in a way that we don't have to come back and make changes again.

I know my colleague spoke to some earlier bills where changes have been made to legislation time and time again. Essentially almost every two years, the government is coming back to this House with changes to legislation. So hopefully they're getting it right this time. And hopefully they got the consultations right this time because they seem to not have done that in 2013. With that, I think there'll be a lot more, especially that the critic for

this Act is going to want to talk about, so with that I will move adjourned debate on Bill No. 34.

**The Speaker:** — The member from Regina Douglas Park has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 34, *The Provincial Lands Act, 2016*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

### Bill No. 35

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 35 — *The Small Claims Act, 2016/Loi de 2016 sur les petites créances*** be now read a second time.]

[21:45]

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

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to get up this evening and speak to this Bill No. 35, *An Act respecting Small Claims and making a consequential amendment to another Act*. And I think this is again a significant piece of legislation from Justice. It is interesting. Many of us have had experiences regarding small claims. And I know I did as part of a house maintenance over a roofing job, so it's . . . Now that has been several years ago. I think maybe about 20, 25 years ago, and so the rules may have changed. But it is important that we keep, as I say, current and make sure that our legislation provides access to justice for everyone on both sides, on both sides, those who are claiming to have been done wrong and those who say no, this is all fair and reasonable, and there should be no claims against themselves.

And so I read with interest the minister's remarks, and they were informative. But it is a big piece of legislation. Now I need to say that it is some 24 pages, but it is in both English and French and so . . . And it lays out the whole process in fairly good detail and some of the new methods of doing this, including case management conferences and all of that processes.

And those are things that were not available back in the times that I had a case before this. Of course these are all things that are done without, in small claims, more often than not without the aid of legal services or lawyers. And so you know, you come into it as pretty much as an amateur . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Oh, they can't hear me over there. Oh, all right, I'll start over again, Mr. . . . Let me just back up this chair though so I can and move this over like that. Sorry about that. Thank you. And I take that finger wag as . . . All right, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do want to say, and I do appreciate the fact that obviously if nobody can hear me that they notice that, and they do want to hear what I have to say about this because I do think this is an important piece of legislation, Bill No. 35, *The Small Claims Act, 2016*. In fact I thought maybe I was on the wrong piece of legislation, but I was at the wrong desk.

But, Mr. Speaker, I will go ahead with talking about how important this piece of legislation is because for many of us we will have that experience of appearing before small claims, either as someone proceeding with a case feeling that they had been done wrong, whether it was through a service that should've been provided or not completely provided, or someone is making a claim against you and you feel, no, it was all fair and reasonable and the expectations were unreasonable. And so I think and it often is the case, and I'm not sure of all of the parameters of small claims, but the fact that we will be there without the aid of lawyers or legal services very much studying up on the law, as it were, and making the best case that you can . . .

And so it is interesting to see that this has come forward, and as I was just pointing out as I was flipping through, that it's fairly prescriptive. It talks about commencing a claim and as well case management conferences, that type of thing, things that have evolved over the course of time. But still there are people who try to evade the arms of justice, and whether it's just by simply not showing up at court or simply delaying or whatever, this piece of legislation that deals with that.

So I want to just reflect for a moment on some of the things that the Minister of Justice, when he brought this forward back in June 15th, he talked about. He talked about how, "The Ministry of Justice [has] developed the justice innovation agenda in 2014 with a vision to create understandable, timely, and affordable justice for Saskatchewan citizens."

Now that's interesting because this seems to be one part of it. We'd like to know the whole part of it and how this fits into that. It's interesting when we see these kind of announcements made indirectly as part of ministers' remarks, and you go, what? I had not heard of this justice innovation agenda before, and here we are two years later. So it would be . . . Now I'm not the critic for Justice so maybe others are up on this, but it would be something to know more about. So it's part of an agenda that, "... the ministry is reviewing the way justice services are delivered and what improvements can be made to ensure Saskatchewan citizens have access to these [very] important services." And so true.

So apparently last year, they conducted a review of small claims process and they went out with a consultation paper and they got some feedback from various groups and citizens. It would be very interesting to know what that scope was, how many people replied, whether these were people who had been involved in the small claims process — I assume it was — both those who felt that they had done well by small claims and those who felt that they weren't well served by it, and why weren't they well served by it. I think that's very, very important.

And so some of the recommendations that came out because of that review was the amendments. The monetary limits were increased from 20,000 to \$30,000. So that's a very important one. And some other changes were expanding "... the court's authority to award costs to be paid from one party to another." And the ability to award costs or giving the court authority to award costs where a party fails to attend or purposely delays any steps in the proceedings. Again that's huge because people don't have a lot of time and especially, as I said, if you're doing

this yourself without any support from a lawyer. If you're taking time away from work and you show up to court and the other person doesn't show up, then that is a problem. And so this is significant.

As well he talks about awarding general costs at the conclusion based on factors such as the behaviour of the party. So what we want to get away from is discouraging disruptive or uncooperative behaviour by the parties in court and making sure that if we can resolve the disputes in a timely and cost-effective manner, that's muchly appreciated by everyone, everyone involved.

So some of the things that we could expect is that all defendants will have to file a reply to a claim. And right now under the current rules, the defendant is not required to file a defence unless they are ordered to do so. So here's a good move, that you are expected to file a reply to a claim. And so it goes on and on to make sure that parties are actively engaged at an early stage in the proceedings and to promote a timely resolution on the matters.

And then it goes on about making sure that, you know, where a defendant fails to file a reply and does not attend proceedings, the bill clarifies the powers of the court to award a default judgment in favour of the claimant. But in the case if they had a reasonable excuse for not appearing, then in fact that can be reversed. As well that the bill will also grant the court authority to cite individuals for contempt in appropriate circumstances.

So again, maybe that was felt that was out of the scope of small claims. But in many ways, you know, it is interesting when you have . . . It seems odd that it doesn't really matter the amount of money sometimes. But there's a lot more to it, whether it's being respected or not respected. Somebody feels that they've been really badly treated. You know, small claims is a good venue to make sure people feel that they've had their day in court, as the saying goes. And so we think this is an interesting piece of legislation. And I think this is one that is timely and I'm glad to see it moving ahead.

There will be questions, I know, that many will have about this. We don't have more notes to explain some of the changes because they're repealing the whole bill and replacing — or the current piece of legislation — with this bill. And so I'm just going to leave my comments at that. But it's a good start.

We look forward to hearing others speak to this piece of legislation, particularly the critic. I'm looking forward to hearing her comments on small claims court. I think that she brings a lot of skill and talent and some opinions about small claims. And I know that it will be . . . When we get into committee, it won't be a small claim day. It will be big issues in the committee.

So with that, I would like to move adjournment of Bill No. 35, An Act respecting Small . . . No, Bill 36 . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Bill 35? 35. All right, I'm right — Bill 35, *An Act respecting Small Claims and making a consequential amendment to another Act*. I do so move.

**The Speaker:** — The member from Saskatoon Centre has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 35, *The Small Claims Act*,

2016. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

#### Bill No. 36

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 36 — *The Small Claims Consequential Amendments Act, 2016*** be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. Forbes:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to enter into the debate on Bill No. 36, *An Act to make consequential amendments resulting from the enactment of The Small Claims Act, 2016*.

And we may be getting ahead of ourselves because we haven't enacted *The Small Claims Act, 2016*. But in anticipation of that Act being moved and passed, we need to be ready for this. And it is always good to see that this government is practising anticipation of some of its work moving forward even though this is a small piece of legislation. And it took a lot of practice for them to practise that anticipation. We'll leave that at that because we know that the real meat is in Bill No. 35, and we'll focus on that.

So I would move adjournment of Bill No. 36, *An Act to make consequential amendments resulting from the enactment of The Small Claims Act, 2016*. I do so move.

**The Speaker:** — The member from Saskatoon Centre has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 36, *The Small Claims Consequential Amendments Act, 2016*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

#### Bill No. 37

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. McMorris that **Bill No. 37 — *The Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2016*** be now read a second time.]

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

**Ms. Rancourt:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm honoured to rise today to talk about the amendments, *The Traffic Safety Amendment Act*, Bill No. 37. And this was presented by the previous deputy premier and previous minister of SGI so it'll be interesting to see what the new Minister of SGI has to say with regards to some of these issues. And I'm sure that'll be discussed a lot in committees.

I guess I had more questions than I had answers when I was

reading a lot of this information here. And it seems like today's been a day of reminiscing a lot of our childhood and such. But I was looking at the child restraints requirements and there was a lot of discussion in there about what's required for different child restraint seats. It's been a while since I had to worry about that with my children. And I remember the days when I was a child and I was laying on the back of the window in the back of the car there, and so child restraints weren't really something that was a priority back in those days. But now I know it's really important that we have these safety precautions.

[22:00]

But when I look at it, there's a lot of variety. Like they say, you know, they have to be in a booster seat until the age of seven or up to 50 pounds. And I changed everything to pounds because they were in kilograms, and that's not the way I roll. And so like most children on average age of 11, they reach 50 pounds, so it's a good thing that at least the age seven. Now I have some grandchildren, so I talked to some friends and people that I know that know a lot about child restraints because I want to make sure they're safe because grandchildren are really important, where kids are . . . You're learning through that process, and then grandkids you really want to do the right thing with regards to them.

And a lot of people that I talked to, they said it's about keeping the brain and the muscles. It depends on the strength of the muscles of the child of which seat that they should be in. And so I know that's probably hard to measure but it should be something that should be looked into at one point with regards to, are our requirements for child restraints appropriate, and are we looking at the brain development and the muscle development of children when we're thinking about which child restraint we should be using?

But it got me thinking about that because part of this Bill talks about three-wheeled vehicles, and ensuring that children that are seven and under are not riding on three-wheeled vehicles. And so I guess we'll have to have some clarifications on what they mean by three-wheeled vehicles, and talk about like, should these requirements be on four-wheeled vehicles as well, like quads and such? And what was the rationale of coming to the age of seven of why they shouldn't be riding on these vehicles? And there just seems to be a lot of clarification that needs to be had with regards to committee, so I'm sure this will be all discussed at that point.

And another area that I was looking into was with regards to motorcycles. And my partner, he rode a motorcycle before, and when we talked about it he said that there was a time when there was no regulations with regards to safety requirements when riding a motorcycle. And in the United States apparently it's very lax as well as what the safety regulations are.

And I personally think that safety regulations are important, but I know that people who ride a motorcycle, they have some particular opinions with regards to this. And it looks like there's discussion on having even more protection, so not only with just regards to wearing a helmet, but needing to have eye protection and the footrests and such.

And again this isn't an area that I know a lot about, but I think it

wouldn't hurt to consult with some people who do feel very passionate about these issues and see what their concerns or what they would think about this, and some pros and cons with regards to all of that. But safety, of course, safety is always a good thing. You want to make sure that when people are on the road that their safety is a priority.

So a lot of the other things that are discussed in this bill is with regards to people who haven't paid their debt to SGI, and it could be with regards to impounded fees or other fees that they owe, and having some, you know, ability for SGI to be able to restrict their licence or ability to register vehicles. And I could see where it might be difficult for SGI, when people are owing them money, on being able to collect that and wanting to ensure that people make a payment schedule.

And there's some discussion here of how . . . I know when the minister presented this amendment he said that SGI worked hard at trying to establish payment plans with individuals who have payments due. And so I hope that they consider that and make sure that that's a priority so, moving forward, that people who have these unpaid dues, when they are able to start making their payments, they're not completely restricted. Because that could, you know, have an impact on them having employment or being able to get from one place to another.

So with regards to *The Traffic Safety Amendment Act*, Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will have a lot more information that they want to add to this discussion, and so at this point I'm going to move to adjourn this debate.

**The Speaker:** — The member from Prince Albert Northcote has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 37, *The Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2016*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

**Hon. Mr. Merriman:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I move that this House be now adjourned.

**The Speaker:** — The Government House Leader has moved . . . Okay. This House now stands adjourned until . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Well tonight has been a little bit of a troublesome one for me tonight. The House Leader has moved adjournment for the evening. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried. We stand adjourned until tomorrow at 1:30. Thank you.

[The Assembly adjourned at 22:07.]



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