



FIRST SESSION - TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

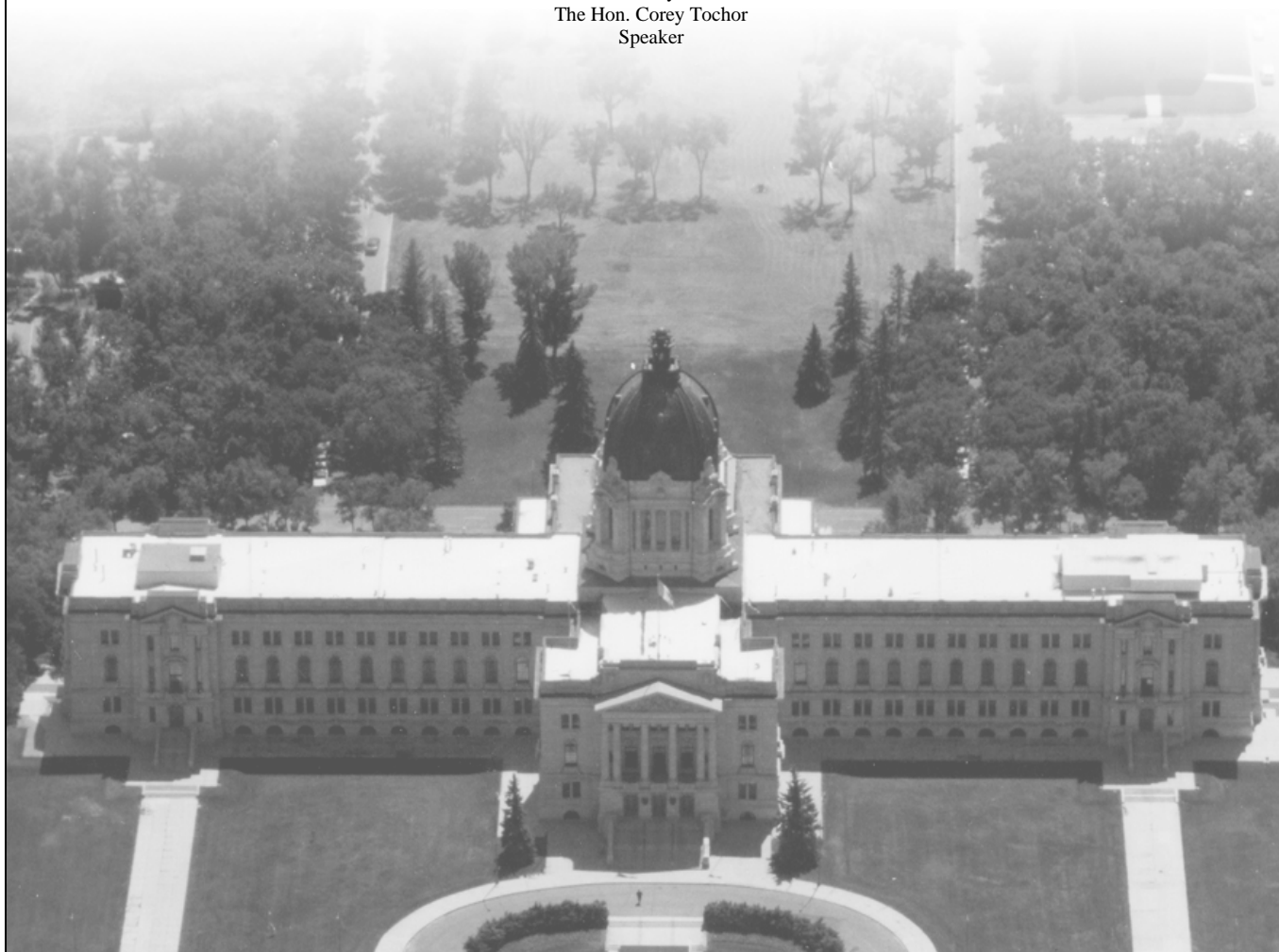
of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

(HANSARD)

Published under the
authority of
The Hon. Corey Tochor
Speaker



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

Speaker — Hon. Corey Tochor
Premier — Hon. Brad Wall
Leader of the Opposition — Trent Wotherspoon

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Chartier, Danielle — Saskatoon Riversdale (NDP)

Cheveldayoff, Hon. Ken — Saskatoon Willowgrove (SP)

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Lambert, Lisa — Saskatoon Churchill-Wildwood (SP)

Lawrence, Greg — Moose Jaw Wakamow (SP)

Makowsky, Gene — Regina Gardiner Park (SP)

Marit, Hon. David — Wood River (SP)

McCall, Warren — Regina Elphinstone-Centre (NDP)

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

Merriman, Hon. Paul — Saskatoon Silverspring-Sutherland (SP)

Michelson, Warren — Moose Jaw North (SP)

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

Morgan, Hon. Don — Saskatoon Southeast (SP)

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Olauson, Eric — Saskatoon University (SP)

Ottenbreit, Hon. Greg — Yorkton (SP)

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Rancourt, Nicole — Prince Albert Northcote (NDP)

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Sarauer, Nicole — Regina Douglas Park (NDP)

Sproule, Cathy — Saskatoon Nutana (NDP)

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Vermette, Doyle — Cumberland (NDP)

Wall, Hon. Brad — Swift Current (SP)

Weekes, Randy — Biggar-Sask Valley (SP)

Wilson, Hon. Nadine — Saskatchewan Rivers (SP)

Wotherspoon, Trent — Regina Rosemont (NDP)

Wyant, Hon. Gordon — Saskatoon Northwest (SP)

Young, Colleen — Lloydminster (SP)

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

Clerks-at-the-Table

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

Principal Clerk — Iris Lang

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[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Deputy Premier.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Leave for an extended introduction?

The Speaker: — Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. I recognize the Deputy Premier.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all members of the Assembly, I'm pleased to introduce some very important guests in the Legislative Assembly today. Primarily they represent our province's finest first responders who put their lives on the line on a daily basis to protect all of us, as well as others who do some very important work in regard to mental health and in providing a safe and secure province. They have joined us for the introduction of some legislation a little later today.

In no particular order, we are joined by Casey Ward, president, Sask Federation of Police Officers; Dr. Nick Carleton, associate professor, psychology, University of Regina; Clive Weighill, chief of police, Saskatoon Police Service; Evan Bray, chief of police, Regina Police Service. People may know Evan Bray as probably the newest police chief in the province, so we welcome him to his rookie year.

Morley Desmarais, president, Saskatoon firefighters; Doug Lapchuk, president, Sask Volunteer Fire Fighters Association; Lloyd Zwack, president, Saskatchewan Professional Fire Fighters Association; Kyle Sereda, president, Saskatchewan Emergency Medical Services Association; Paul Hills, Saskatoon Paramedic Association; Tracy Zambory, president, Sask Union of Nurses; Denise Dick, first vice-president, Sask Union of Nurses; Julius Brown, coordinator, OSI-CAN [Occupational Stress Injury — I Can] project of the Canadian Mental Health Association, Saskatchewan division; Cathleen MacPhee, PTSD [post-traumatic stress disorder] Saskatchewan, Regina; Hazel Ritchie, PTSD Saskatoon; Leanna Korevaar, PTSD Sask; Derek Snow, trainer with Citadel Canine Society; Gord Hewitt, president, Moose Jaw Firefighters association; Bill Howes, vice-president Local 553, Moose Jaw Firefighters; Kevin Tetlow, president, Regina Professional Fire Fighters Association; Brian Seidlik, vice-president, Regina Professional Fire Fighters Association; Rossel Marion, provincial service officer, Royal Canadian Legion; and finally, from the Workers' Compensation Board, we have Peter Federko, CEO [chief executive officer], and board members Larry Flowers and Garry Hamblin.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask that all members join me in welcoming these individuals to their Assembly today.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to join with the Minister of Labour in welcoming these esteemed guests to their legislature today. Today, the minister pointed out, we've got leaders from labour. We've got folks who do a really wonderful job in advocating and building better mental health supports here in Saskatchewan, folks who lead and support their employees or their members. Many people in the gallery today who are always willing to share with both sides of the House how things could be better here in Saskatchewan, taking the time to sit down with all of us to share your thoughts and ideas.

There's some in the gallery who I count as friends. So I'm very glad to see you here all today. And thank you for all that you do in your community across Saskatchewan in creating better workplaces and ultimately a better province. So thank you for all that you do, and I'd like to welcome you on behalf of the official opposition.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from The Battlefords.

Mr. Cox: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And to you and through you, to all the members of this Assembly, I'd like to acknowledge and welcome the members of the Association of Saskatchewan Realtors up in your gallery, Mr. Speaker. We have realtors here today from Yorkton, Estevan, Swift Current, Lloydminster, Moose Jaw, Regina, Saskatoon, and from my own constituency, the Battlefords.

Mr. Speaker, we had the opportunity to meet with them this morning as well as at their MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] reception. I would just ask all members of this Assembly to join me in welcoming them to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And on behalf of the official opposition, I want to join the member opposite in welcoming those folks from the real estate community here to their Legislative Assembly. We understand you've had meetings with government and we really appreciate the advocacy that you bring forward. The issues that you bring forward are important. They are long-standing issues that need attending to so we're very hopeful that your conversations were fruitful and we wish you all the best. But particularly we want to thank you to your Legislative Assembly or welcome you to your Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Estevan.

Ms. Carr: — Mr. Speaker, to you and through you I'd like to introduce, in your gallery, my sister Lynda. Lynda, give a wave to everybody. Lynda is my much younger sister of 11 months and she's always been a great support and helps me throughout everything I've done in my life, so I just wanted to introduce her and say thank you for being my sister, and welcome. And I'd like everybody to welcome her on behalf of this Assembly.

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

Mr. Makowsky: — Thanks a lot, Mr. Speaker. Once again it's my pleasure to introduce a group of students from F.W. Johnson Collegiate again this afternoon. There's grade 10 students this time. There's 34 of them, and their teacher is once again Mr. McKillop. It's good to see him again. I had a good meeting with them yesterday. And Ms. Matic is accompanying this group of students. I look forward to meeting them after question period. I ask all members to help me welcome them.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. While I was on my feet, I failed to mention someone that I think is very important. We have many guests in the gallery who are very important, but as a resident of Saskatoon and as the Health critic, I'd like to give a special shout-out to Chief Clive Weighill. As a daughter of a police officer, a police officer who is very proactive and supportive of community policing . . . Chief Weighill has done a remarkable job in making that service, I think, what people in Saskatoon want, Mr. Speaker. But I'd also like to commend him for the work that he has done on the Action Accord on supporting the stabilization unit at the Lighthouse. So thank you, Chief Weighill, for all the advocacy and work that you do in ensuring that people in Saskatoon get the supports that they need. So thank you. And I'd ask all members to welcome Chief Weighill to his Assembly.

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I know the entire Assembly is aware of the impact that the Regina bypass is having on the local economy. It's the single biggest job creator Saskatchewan has seen since the railway. It's supporting 8,200 construction jobs in this province, and I'm proud to introduce one of those 8,200 people here today.

Seated in your gallery, Mr. Speaker, is Will Williams. Will, can you give us a wave? Thanks. He's a project coordinator with the Regina bypass design partners. And he's accompanied today by Reagan Seidler from SaskBuilds. Mr. Speaker, Will was born and raised in Regina and attended Campbell Collegiate, which isn't far from here. This spring he graduated from the College of Engineering at the University of Saskatchewan and now he's come home to start his career on the bypass and contribute to the economy and the community that raised him.

Will, on behalf of the Minister of Highways and myself, thank you for joining us today. We're so pleased projects like the bypass are providing opportunities for young people to stay, work, and raise their families right here in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. So I'd invite all members to welcome Will to his Assembly.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise again today to present a petition to improve PTSD coverage for Saskatchewan workers. Mr. Speaker, the petitioners point out that post-traumatic stress disorder can severely impact the lives of Saskatchewan workers. They point out that delay in diagnosis and treatment for PTSD can be detrimental to recovery and that PTSD is not on the list of workers' compensation illnesses presumed to be work related in Saskatchewan. They also point out that many workers suffering from work-related PTSD are burdened by lengthy investigations and approval processes. I'd like to read the prayer:

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

Mr. Speaker, this petition today is signed by citizens from Saskatoon. I so submit.

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

Mr. Brkich: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have petitions here from the good citizens of Saskatchewan opposed to carbon tax that king Trudeau is forcing on the people of Saskatchewan, a tax that's going to be a threat to our economy and make unaffordable increases to the cost of living to each and every citizen:

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

Signed by the good citizens from Davidson and Kenaston. I so present.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition to stop the redirection of funding of the Northern Teacher Education Program Council, Inc., NORTEP. As a recent report shows that 94 per cent of NORTEP's grads found employment in the North, and NORTEP has improved the teacher retention rates in the North as well, NORTEP has a positive economic impact in northern Saskatchewan and they also provide high quality, face-to-face instruction and services to students.

And the province's financial deficit cannot be fixed by cutting indigenous education in the North and a program that has served the North for well over 40 years, Mr. Speaker. And the prayer reads as follows:

We, in the prayer that . . . respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Saskatchewan Party government to immediately restore

their five-year agreement to fund the Northern Teacher Education Program Council and to continue to fund NORTEP-NORPAC programs in La Ronge.

It is signed by a number of people throughout the province, Mr. Speaker. And the three pages that I'm presenting today are people that are primarily from Air Ronge, La Ronge, and I so present.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present a petition regarding cuts to the Lighthouse program. The people who signed this want to bring to our attention the following: that this government has repeatedly indicated that the Lighthouse stabilization unit in Saskatoon keeps individuals out of hospital emergency rooms and jail cells. The estimated savings for the government with the announced cuts in September is under \$1 million, but the subsequent ER [emergency room] costs alone could be several million dollars.

In 2015, the Provincial Auditor called upon the Ministry of Social Services to provide the correct amount of assistance, not to revoke this essential service and thereby putting the most vulnerable at extreme risk. And these ministers are now trying to place the responsibility for repairing budget deficits on those experiencing addictions, unemployment, and poverty and who are living from day to day without proper services.

The prayer reads as follows:

They request that the Government of Saskatchewan immediately reverse their recent cuts to funding that allows extremely vulnerable people to access the services of the Lighthouse stabilization unit in Saskatoon, and revisit their imposition of a strict and narrow definition of homelessness in November of 2015 which forced the Lighthouse to cut back its hours of essential service in February of 2016, and to take immediate steps to ensure that homeless people in Saskatchewan have emergency shelter, clothing, and food available to them before more lives are lost.

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

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition in support of Wakamow Valley Authority. And we know that as a result of the passage of *The Wakamow Valley Authority Amendment Act, 2016* this past June 30th, the Wakamow Valley Authority lost its statutory funding of \$127,000 from the Saskatchewan government in addition to the \$30,000 in supplementary funding. And this loss of annual funding negatively affected the ability of Wakamow to maintain and conserve its lands and repair its facilities and provide services to its community. And of course there were job layoffs as a result as well. I'd like to read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request

that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan take the following action:

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

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

And the people signing this petition come from Yorkton and Moose Jaw. Thank you so much.

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

Ms. Rancourt: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to present to you a petition condemning the Sask Party's cuts to the SAID [Saskatchewan assured income for disability] program. After nearly a decade of wasting the economic boom and blowing through the savings, the government is now forcing the province's most vulnerable people to pay for the Sask Party mismanagement. That the Sask Party's latest cold-hearted cut will take money away from people who are unable to work due to a disability; that the government's heartless decision to cut funding to the SAID program will hurt hundreds of Saskatchewan residents with disabilities; that many people who are being hurt by the Sask Party cut live with serious illnesses such as multiple sclerosis, cancer, autism, and many other illnesses; and that contrary to the Minister of Social Services' claims, the government underfunds clients in regards to shelter allowance; and that shelter allowance should be reflective of the current rental costs. I will read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Saskatchewan Party government to stop their plan to cut the SAID funding and immediately restore funding for those living with a disability.

This petition is signed by residents of Regina, and I do so present.

[13:45]

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

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present the following petition on early learning and child care. Mr. Speaker, the residents who have signed this petition wish to draw our attention to the following: across Saskatchewan, licensed non-profit child care centres are taxed inconsistently. Many of our licensed non-profit child care centres pay commercial property taxes, and this is not done in Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, BC [British Columbia], or New Brunswick.

Child care is essential to our economy yet most centres struggle to balance their budget. This issue threatens both the number of child care spaces and the quality of care. Child care centres are institutions of early learning and childhood development, and it is appropriate that they have the same tax treatment as schools.

I'll read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan recognize that licensed non-profit child care centres provide programs that are foundational to a healthy society by including them in *The Education Act* and exempt all licensed non-profit child care centres in Saskatchewan from property tax through changes to the appropriate legislation.

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by residents in Yorkton. I do so submit.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present a petition calling for a halt to the Sask Party's sell-off of SaskTel. The petitioners point out that, in the recent campaign, the Sask Party promised that they would not privatize SaskTel. They point out that instead of the Sask Party looking at their own waste and scandal, the Sask Party is now talking about breaking that promise and looking to sell off SaskTel to make a quick buck. The petitioners point out that SaskTel is owned by all of us, that it was built with Saskatchewan hard work, innovation, and pride. Mr. Speaker:

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

Mr. Speaker, this particular petition is signed by individuals from Carrot River and Saskatoon. I so present.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Donation to Children's Hospital Foundation

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we all know very well the incredible generosity of Saskatchewan people, and the people of Swift Current, my constituency, are no exception. Mr. Speaker, today it's a great pleasure for me to recognize two of these very special people from my hometown of Swift Current: Duane and Bev Smith. They are successful business people in southwest Saskatchewan. They've recently donated \$500,000 to the children's hospital of Saskatchewan.

This very generous gift will support a family playroom in the day medicine unit in the new hospital. It is a special place where parents and caregivers and families can relax with their kids that might be going through therapy for treatments like cancer or other serious illnesses.

Mr. Speaker, Duane and Bev made their first contribution of \$100,000 at last year's children's hospital radiothon in Regina, and then they decided to go even higher to boost their commitment to what we see today — a total of a half a million

dollars. It's one of the biggest donations to the hospital to date, and the Smiths have very good company, Mr. Speaker.

The Children's Hospital Foundation has received 4,700 donations from individuals, 990 corporate donations, and 47 donations from foundations. Fifty million has been raised so far to the goal of 75 million, and there can be no doubt at all that that objective will be met to coincide with the government's investment so that Saskatchewan will have a modern, well-equipped children's hospital in Saskatoon. Thanks to Duane and Bev Smith. I'd ask all members to join with me in recognizing all the donors to the children's hospital.

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

Prince Albert Celebrates 125 Years of Ukrainians in Saskatchewan

Ms. Rancourt: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On September 26th I was pleased to attend the flag-raising ceremony at Prince Albert City Hall Memorial Square in recognition of the 125th anniversary of the arrival of the first Ukrainians to Saskatchewan. I know my friend the Leader of the Opposition also attended events here in Regina to mark this important milestone.

Mr. Speaker, several people of Ukrainian descent were present for the flag-raising ceremony and the kickoff to their special week. It was wonderful to see children in traditional Ukrainian clothing in attendance. There's no doubt that Ukrainian youth in Prince Albert embrace their culture and heritage and have not forgotten their roots. These young people make me optimistic that Ukrainian traditions and knowledge will be passed on and that future generations will be aware of their heritage.

There are many people of Ukrainian heritage in my constituency of Prince Albert Northcote. Many of these people work hard at keeping their traditions and culture alive, from dance competitions held each year to sold out perogy suppers held by local churches each month. There's no doubt that in Prince Albert, Ukrainian culture and traditions have become interwoven with all the other cultures and traditions.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members join with me in acknowledging the 125th anniversary of Ukrainians in Saskatchewan and in Prince Albert.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Lloydminster.

Community Living Fourplex Opens in Lloydminster

Ms. Young: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I had the privilege representing the government at the grand opening of an amazing new community resource in Lloydminster last month, the Bea Fisher Centre's new community living fourplex. This new facility is an assisted living complex that provides the supports necessary for their clients living with intellectual disabilities. It provides them the opportunity to live independently.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud that our government had a big part in making this project possible. We provided a quarter of a million

dollars in funding as well as a \$900,000 mortgage — this in addition to the funding we provide the Bea Fisher Centre on a yearly basis to offer needed supports to the Lloydminster region.

Mr. Speaker, this is a great story for the Bea Fisher Centre and will be an invaluable addition to the already three group homes and day programs for more than 100 individuals.

It was a great event, but the aspect that stood out the most was meeting some of the new residents who now call the new complex home. In speaking with one young man, he was excited to purchase kitchen utensils and furniture for the first time in his life. He was thrilled to be moving into his very own place.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask all members to join me in congratulating the Bea Fisher Centre for the opening of this new assisted community living fourplex and congratulate all the new residents on moving into their new homes. Thank you.

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

Students Hold Fundraiser for Residential School Memorial

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last week students at George Lee School in Regina held a carnival to raise funds for a memorial and to raise awareness about a dark chapter in Saskatchewan's history.

From 1891 to 1911, more than 500 children were stolen from their families and taken to the Regina Indian Industrial School. Many of those children died while attending the school and were buried in unmarked graves near the school building.

After learning about the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's call to action and after visiting the cemetery where dozens of children are buried in unmarked graves, Shelly Reed's grade 7 class decided to organize a fundraiser to help pay for a memorial at the residential school cemetery site. Mr. Speaker, we thank these students for their leadership and their commitment to reconciliation. Thank you.

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

New Physicians in Preeceville

Mr. Dennis: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Dozens of physicians have recently begun practising in Saskatchewan, improving access to health services for residents across the province. This month 10 new international medical grads are practising in Saskatchewan, thanks to the most recent results in the Saskatchewan international physician practice assessment program. SIPPA is a made-in-Saskatchewan program that opens the doors for family doctors trained in countries around the world. Since SIPPA began in 2011, more than 190 new family physicians have completed the assessment and are practising in our province.

Mr. Speaker, I am very happy to announce through the SIPPA program, the community of Preeceville, which is in my

constituency, has a new physician: Dr. Shamsheer Singh. Dr. Singh has joined another new physician, Dr. Catharina Meyer, at the facility with Dr. Morteza Shahrestani and nurse practitioner Dawn Kennedy in providing health services to Preeceville and surrounding area, Mr. Speaker.

Saskatchewan is also making progress in more locally trained family medical graduates in the province. Since completing the postgraduate program, 40 new family medicine graduates from the University of Saskatchewan are practising in Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in welcoming these new doctors to Saskatchewan.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Melville-Saltcoats.

Melville Student Wins Gold at Skills Canada National Competition

Mr. Kaeding: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise in the House today to congratulate Dallas Schutz from the Melville Comprehensive school on winning the gold medal in welding at Skills Canada National Competition.

Moncton, New Brunswick played host to this national skills competition on June 6th and June 7th, where the competition brought together more than 500 secondary and post-secondary students from across the country. Participants showcased their skills in 45 different trades while competing against exceptional students from across the country in an Olympic-style competition.

Mr. Speaker, Dallas Schutz was in grade 12 at the time when he showed the country his talent. His winning projects were a lighthouse and a grain elevator that were incredible examples of his welding talent, especially the grain elevator that is reminiscent of the iconic prairie buildings that are often seen in rural Saskatchewan communities.

Mr. Speaker, Dallas Schutz acknowledges much of his success is due to his Melville Comprehensive School welding instructor, Dennis Muzyka, who spent hours with him honing the tricks of the trade. It is evident that MCS [Melville Comprehensive School] is doing an exceptional job at preparing its students for the future, as they have also sent students to compete nationally in carpentry, outboard power equipment, cabinet making, cosmetology, photography, and TV video.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask all members of this Assembly to join me in congratulating gold medal winner Dallas Schutz and his teacher Dennis Muzyka on this amazing accomplishment. Thank you.

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

Violence Prevention Week in Saskatchewan

Mr. Makowsky: — Thanks. I'm pleased to rise today to inform members that this week is Violence Prevention Week in Saskatchewan. The aim of this week is to raise awareness on how gender and interpersonal violence and abuse is an issue that impacts everyone. This week is proclaimed at the request of

the University of Regina, through their Man Up Against Violence initiative. The minister referenced this program just yesterday when the U of R [University of Regina] Rams Football Club was here.

This initiative focuses on the leadership role of men in addressing all types of violence through education, training, partnerships, and awareness. Mr. Speaker, our government is committed to reducing interpersonal violence and abuse, and to build upon existing work occurring between all levels of government and with community partners.

Our government offers various programs to help prevent or intervene in response to violence through victim and child protection services, mental health and addiction services, therapeutic domestic violence courts, and indigenous-specific training programs. An online course aimed at preventing child abuse is now available through the Ministry of Social Services.

We also support STOPS to Violence, an acronym which means Saskatchewan Towards Offering Partnership Solutions. This organization brings together a network of individuals, communities, organizations, government, and the private sector to promote healthier communities and to reduce interpersonal abuse.

Mr. Speaker, we take the issue of interpersonal violence and abuse very seriously and believe that we are all part of the solution. Thank you.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Auditor's Report and Details of Land Transaction

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, day after day the Premier has failed to answer serious but basic questions about the Sask Party's GTH [Global Transportation Hub] land scandal. We hope today that that'll finally change.

In her report, the auditor pointed out that the land speculator who supported the Sask Party had access to the decision of cabinet on the land purchase before it was public. The auditor exposed this. It's also been exposed through investigation.

To the Premier: what has he done to find out who leaked this confidential information?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

[14:00]

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you. Mr. Speaker, that is not what the auditor says in her report. Moreover, Mr. Speaker, consider this. The document to which the Hon. Leader of the Opposition is referring points to the fact that cabinet authorized a purchase price from this individual of 105,000 per acre. He says that this document was leaked to that purchaser. Why then would that purchaser accept an offer of \$103,000? The offer that he accepted was \$103,000. The leaked document would have shown that cabinet authorized more money than that. As has been reported, I think on CTV [Canadian Television Network

Ltd.], that individual left money on the table.

Mr. Speaker, there was no leak of the document. Cabinet authorized agents of the government to begin negotiations. That part would have been known to the purchaser because the negotiations were under way.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — This is getting more outrageous by the day. The Premier gets to his feet and tries to claim that he saved \$2,000 in a deal that's become abundantly clear to Saskatchewan people that he wasted, paid three times more than he should have and wasted tens of millions of hard-earned Saskatchewan people's dollars. My question back to the Premier that wasn't answered: has he investigated this confidential cabinet leak?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, there was no leak. Had there been a leak, the leak would have been of a document that said the government's prepared to pay 105. The guy settled for 103. I think the facts are pretty clear in this case. It's, by the way, why the auditor doesn't reference this as a leak. She might have said it's notable, but it's not a leak. Often, Mr. Speaker, government will authorize an agent to go ahead and begin negotiations. That part would have been known to the other party because he was involved in the negotiations.

Mr. Speaker, this doesn't fit the narrative over there. It doesn't fit what the NDP [New Democratic Party] desperately want this case to be. The fact of the matter is that same Provincial Auditor's report that he quoted from says there was no wrongdoing. There were no fraud. There were no red flags as a result of her report. Will he accept the auditor's findings in that regard? Does he agree with the auditor when she makes that conclusion, Mr. Speaker?

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — The Premier can't make up the facts. Page 16 of the auditor's report clearly highlights this information, the information that was in the hands, the cabinet information that was in the hands of the land speculator, the land speculator that this government paid way too much for this land for.

What is the question, you know, to the Premier? Does he even think this is good practice? We know he likes to flip cars. Would he ever let the seller of a car that he's purchasing know that he's intent, that he's going to purchase it before he negotiates a price?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — No, Mr. Speaker, I wouldn't. In fact if I knew I was prepared to sell a car for \$105,000 — it would probably have to be like a Hemi 'Cuda, I would probably say — but if I was prepared to sell a car for \$105,000, I wouldn't let the other person know that. And I certainly wouldn't leak them the documents, which is precisely what's happened here.

Mr. Speaker, in the press release that accompanied the Provincial Auditor's report that the Leader of the Opposition is now quoting because I know he believes the work is good, she says in the press release, and I quote, "The audit did not find evidence of conflicts of interest or indications of fraud or wrongdoing by the GTH management or board of directors." She went on to say to the media on July 4th, "We're always looking for red flags, and because this is a land transaction, we did look for conflicts of interest. And we didn't find any evidence of . . ."

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — It goes on to say, the auditor does, "We didn't find evidence of conflict of interest [and I'm quoting] or indications of fraud or wrongdoing in the course of our work, so there were no red flags there."

To the Leader of the Opposition: does he disagree with the Provincial Auditor's findings?

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — The Premier of Saskatchewan needs to read that report. It was scathing. It exonerated no one, and the very fact of the information in question here today is on page 16 of that report. Let's be clear. This is confidential cabinet information. This was a leak. And the Sask Party's actions defy Saskatchewan's common sense.

To the Premier: why would he tell anyone that you're going to be buying their property before they've ever negotiated a price?

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

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — There was a negotiation to purchase the property, Mr. Speaker. Of course we expressed an intention to purchase the property. And as far as his contention, there was no leak, Mr. Speaker. There was no leak. The negotiating . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — There was no leak, Mr. Speaker. If the buyer had the cabinet document in question authorizing the property to be purchased for \$105,000 an acre, why in goodness name would he accept \$103,000 an acre? Just as a point of logic, Mr. Speaker, their contention doesn't make any sense.

The Provincial Auditor fully canvassed the matter. The Provincial Auditor concluded that there was no leak. She concluded there was a notable transaction along with many, many others that she examined in that report. And at the end of the day, her conclusion was that there was no wrongdoing, there was no fraud, and there was no conflict of interest.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — The question was to the Premier, not to

that minister. And the Premier can yuk this up all he wants, but Saskatchewan people whose dollars were wasted certainly aren't laughing. This deal cost Saskatchewan people millions of dollars. This leak of information and that money went straight into the pocket of a donor.

I'll give that Premier one more shot to change his mind and come clean. Is this Premier sure that he wants to stay with his defence on this inexcusable leak?

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

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Mr. Speaker, we have answered every question directly that has been put to us with regard to this matter. The Provincial Auditor addressed every single one of the matters being raised by the members opposite. The Provincial Auditor's conclusion was that there was no wrongdoing, that there was no fraud, and there was no conflict of interest. The members opposite seem to continuously be questioning the conclusion that was come to by the Provincial Auditor.

My question for the Leader of the Opposition is, do you accept the report, the investigation done by the Provincial Auditor? Yes or no?

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — This is inexcusable. And we have the question again that went to the Premier with no answer. And I guess the question is, how does the Premier think that he can simply brush off a confidential leak of this sort of information that clearly compromised taxpayers. The Premier yuks it up, a deal that's wasted millions of dollars of hard-working Saskatchewan people's money, Mr. Speaker.

How can the Premier justify that it's somehow appropriate for that land developer to have that private, confidential cabinet information before the deal is done?

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

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — You know, Mr. Speaker, this is a very good illustration of what happens when you come into question period unprepared, unprepared to ask questions based on answers that you received. The member opposite received very clear answers. There was no leak, Mr. Speaker. Logic would point that out. We've already explained why. Why would the developer take less than was . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Would the member from Athabasca please come to order? I recognize the minister.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Logic would dictate, why would the developer take less than which cabinet had approved if they had advance information of that? It doesn't make any sense, Mr. Speaker. There was no leak.

The auditor fully canvassed these matters. The auditor had

access to all of the documents, all of the individuals. The auditor did a very, very thorough audit with full authority to examine all of these matters. And once again, Mr. Speaker, her conclusion was that there was no wrongdoing, there was no conflict of interest and there was no fraud — a conclusion that doesn't seem to be agreed with by the members opposite.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — The fact is that the Premier and the Sask Party paid almost three times as much for this land as they should have. How can the Premier claim that that information in the hands of that developer didn't compromise Saskatchewan taxpayers?

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

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The auditor had full authority to canvass all of these matters and her conclusion was that there was no wrongdoing.

The auditor did identify challenges in terms of communications between the ministries of Highways and Infrastructure and the Global Transportation Hub. She made 10 recommendations. Those recommendations have been fully accepted by the Government of Saskatchewan. We're working very hard on implementing those recommendations. That's where our focus is, is making sure that we can move forward with these recommendations in place to ensure that we have a successful resolution, a successful outcome, and the GTH moves forward and is the great success that we know it's going to be. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Funding for Education

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, instead of distancing themselves from their colleague from Lloydminster's unacceptable and unfounded attacks on school boards, it's been noted that her colleague had heckled that it's school boards' "choice" — their choice, Mr. Speaker — to cut students' supports, cut educators.

This is far from a choice for school boards. This government has them over a barrel. And when students aren't getting the education that they deserve, and educators are out of work, this government offers flippant responses. In the last year, over 1,200 Saskatchewan jobs were lost from education.

Why don't the members opposite care about that? And why don't they care about kids getting the support that they need in the classroom? And, Mr. Speaker, why doesn't the minister care enough to admit that underfunding education is his choice?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Well, Mr. Speaker, here we go again. We will have to stand in this House on a regular basis and correct the members opposite.

Mr. Speaker, when told that the operating grant to school

divisions had increased by 33 per cent, which is an accurate statement, Mr. Speaker, the Education critic responded by saying, "A large portion of that is capital." Mr. Speaker, that's wrong. The 33 per cent is the increase to the operating and does not include any portion of capital. The \$1.4 billion we've invested in capital is over and above our operating.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to give the member opposite the ability and the opportunity to stand in the House today and correct the mistakes that she made when talking to the *Leader-Post* yesterday, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, the minister doesn't like my comments, so let's try comments from someone else. For a third year in a row, Saskatoon Public School Board had to dip into their reserves just to balance their budget. And as the board Chair said, "None of the cuts that we made are sustainable in the long term." He goes on: "The big part of what we do affects the classroom." And again: "We don't have the final say on funding that school divisions get, and we certainly don't control the number of students that come into our system."

That doesn't sound like much of a choice to me, Mr. Speaker. Besides, the budgets are submitted to the minister for approval. Since the government is solely responsible for funding education in every way, how can the minister stand there and not accept responsibility?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, the member opposite appears to be saying that somehow this is all the government's responsibility, that there is no role for the boards in trying to have some kind of autonomy. If the member opposite wants to stand in her place and advocate for doing away with school divisions, let her take that position and stand up and be accountable for having said that. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to give her the opportunity to stand in her place and correct the mistakes that she made when speaking to the media yesterday.

Mr. Speaker, we're a government that increased spending on capital like never before in this province. The \$1.4 billion that we invested in capital is over and above everything that we spent on operating, Mr. Speaker. And I'd like the member opposite, who is an honourable person, to stand in her place today and acknowledge that.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Funding for the Northern Teacher Education Program

Mr. McCall: — Mr. Speaker, we heard last week from both the Premier and the Minister of Advanced Education that they want to support the North. In fact the minister has said, "We need to champion a strong North so that people can go to school, train for jobs, and live and build families in a vibrant northern community."

The sad thing is that's exactly what the NORTEP-NORPAC [Northern Professional Access College] program has been

promoting — schooling, jobs, and strong communities — and this minister wants to take that away, take away autonomy from the North and from indigenous communities. And when the minister was asked about how much money the supposed efficiency measure would save them, she had no idea. So what will it take for this government to keep its promise and honour the five-year agreement they signed in 2015 to ensure that NORTEP-NORPAC carries on its vital work in the North?

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

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, NORTEP Council is not NORTEP programming, Mr. Speaker. Our intention is to broaden the umbrella of opportunities and accessibility for northern students, not to shrink them. And as I have said, this is about finding the best northern-based solution for the delivery of teaching and professional access programs for both NORTEP, Mr. Speaker, and all northern students.

And I was very, very heartened to hear that NORTEP council has decided to move forward with stakeholder meetings and submissions from potential partners. It has submitted timelines for going forward. That's great news for everybody. That's great news for the North, Mr. Speaker.

[14:15]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Mr. Speaker, it's a study in doublespeak from that minister. This issue needs a straight answer. One thing the minister got wrong last week is the fact that there is a chronic shortage of teachers in the North. We know that the Northern Lights School Division started out this school year with six vacancies, and they still have three unfilled teaching positions.

We know that over 80 per cent of graduates from this program stay in the North, so they are cutting a program that would help train community teachers when there is a need for community teachers. That is not building a stronger northern Saskatchewan. It is certainly not keeping Saskatchewan strong. When will this minister get the facts straight and honour the commitment that this government made to the students, to the teachers, and to the northern communities that are counting on the vital work of NORTEP-NORPAC?

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

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What I said, Mr. Speaker, was that there were more students interested in pursuing teacher education than there are spots. That's not inconsistent with the comment by Ken Ladouceur, director of education for the Northern Lights School Division, that there's a chronic shortage of teachers, Mr. Speaker. That's why we have to make sure that there's sustainability and growth in the North and that needs are being met.

And there's always more work we can do, Mr. Speaker, but the success rates speak for themselves. We've seen a rise in enrolment in post-secondary institutions by First Nations and Métis students across this province: 29 per cent since 2007-8,

Mr. Speaker. Let's build on that in northern Saskatchewan. Sixteen thousand new learners enrolled in post-secondary institutions by First Nations and Métis students — let's build on that, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Mr. Speaker, perhaps the minister or the Premier can tell the House how it is that they signed the five-year funding agreement for NORTEP-NORPAC before the election, and then mere weeks after the election — an election which saw a graduate of NORTEP run for that party in La Ronge and in Cumberland, Mr. Speaker — how it is that mere weeks after the election, they come in under the aegis of transformative change to say that our signature on the agreement wasn't worth the paper the signature went on?

How is it that they said one thing before the election, Mr. Speaker, that the North counted on and something very different after?

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

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Once again, Mr. Speaker, this is about finding the best solution, the most sustainable solution for the future of the North so that northern students can continue to thrive, build lives, have jobs, and train in the North, Mr. Speaker, for the betterment of all communities. And again I am so heartened that NORTEP council . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — I recognize the minister.

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — I'm so heartened, Mr. Speaker, that NORTEP council has agreed to move down this road and meet with prospective post-secondary partners to secure that sustainable, high-quality delivery of northern education teaching programs for the best of the province, Mr. Speaker, for the best of the North.

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

Funding for Lighthouse Shelter

Ms. Rancourt: — Mr. Speaker, yesterday we heard the minister say that the Lighthouse didn't receive any cuts. But the Lighthouse says they now have \$700,000 less to provide their funding, their programming. Can the minister explain what happened? Can she explain this to the people the Lighthouse now has to turn away?

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

Hon. Ms. Beaudry-Mellor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would say again, as I said yesterday, that we are funding the Lighthouse in the exact same way that we did last year. And we're funding the Lighthouse in the exact same way that we fund every other emergency shelter in the province of Saskatchewan.

And further to that, if there are individuals who don't have a place to sleep in cold weather, we have a cold-weather strategy whereby any individual who presents themselves to a shelter, if there's no space at that shelter, can go to another shelter, Mr. Speaker, and if they cannot find any place to stay there, are provided with a meal voucher and a hotel for the evening so that they can stay out of this cold, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Rancourt: — Well it seems like the Minister of Social Services is more than willing to throw the Lighthouse under the bus as well. Yesterday when the minister was asked if the Lighthouse was confused about the cuts, she said, "Well that's one of the reasons we are meeting with them." Mr. Speaker, the minister is more than happy to insinuate that the Lighthouse is confused about how much money they are getting. This is pretty rich coming from the new Social Services minister who seems to have as much trouble as the last minister keeping her facts straight.

Yesterday the minister denied that they had connections to the Lighthouse in North Battleford. But then she talked about funding the Lighthouse in the same way that they fund every other emergency shelter in the province. So which is it? Will the minister admit that they provide provincial money and have a connection to the Lighthouse in North Battleford or not?

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

Hon. Ms. Beaudry-Mellor: — Mr. Speaker, first of all, we don't have a contract with the North Battleford Lighthouse, which I did also say yesterday. Secondly, Mr. Speaker, I would go on to say that we have created 252 shelter spaces here in the province of Saskatchewan as a government. We've increased per diem rates at least eight times since we formed government. And in addition to that, people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness are those who we'd categorize as hard to house. We've invested 332 new housing units for precisely those folks, to the tune of \$34.4 million, Mr. Speaker. I think we've got the facts quite right here.

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

Support for Children in Care

Ms. Rancourt: — Mr. Speaker, she's not making any sense. Yesterday she said instead of letting people stay at the Lighthouse, they are putting people up in hotels. This is interesting. Instead of the Lighthouse, which saves the government over \$20 for every \$10 invested in its programs, the government thinks it makes sense to put people up in hotels.

Well I think the people of Saskatchewan would like to hear more. Do they really think that hotels are the solution for homelessness? And since we know the Sask Party loves to use hotels as a stopgap for all kinds of their shortfalls, can the minister tell us how many kids in care are currently staying in hotels?

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

Hon. Ms. Beaudry-Mellor: — I thank the member opposite for the question about kids in hotels. As of last night, there were nine children in hotels in the province of Saskatchewan. This is an issue which I take very, very seriously, and the ministry takes very, very seriously. Having children in hotels is not the option that we would like to ever see. And our government is working very hard to make sure that we provide options for families and children in care outside of that, including foster families, which we have done in a recent campaign to promote awareness for foster families in Saskatchewan, which we've talked about in this House, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Rancourt: — Mr. Speaker, even the Children's Advocate says that having children in hotels is irresponsible and shouldn't be done. It's not the right place to put kids in care. So what exactly is this Ministry of Social Services doing to avoid having kids in hotels?

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

Hon. Ms. Beaudry-Mellor: — Mr. Speaker, I would again say that this is an issue that is near and dear to me, and so I thank the member opposite for the question. There are a higher number of children in our care, and it's a significant concern to me, not only as the Minister of Social Services, but as a mom.

We've increased the budget for child and family services by 175 per cent since we formed government. We are committed to keeping children in their homes. When they're not able to keep children in their homes, we are looking for extended family members for them to stay with, or persons of sufficient interest. We are trying to raise the number of people who have foster homes in our community, Mr. Speaker.

I would agree 100 per cent that hotels are not the place for our children, but there are an increasing number of incidents, Mr. Speaker, where we have to apprehend children, unfortunately in the middle of the night in criminal circumstances. And that makes a short-term stay in a hotel an unfortunate reality.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 39 — *The Workers' Compensation Amendment Act, 2016*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Deputy Premier.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 39, *The Workers' Compensation Amendment Act* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety that Bill No. 39, *The Workers' Compensation Amendment Act, 2016* be now introduced and read a first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Principal Clerk: — First reading of this bill.

The Speaker: — When shall the bill be read a second time? I recognize the Minister of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I request leave to consider all stages of the bill immediately.

The Speaker: — Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. Leave has been granted and I recognize the Minister of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety to move second reading.

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 39 — *The Workers' Compensation Amendment Act, 2016*

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure to move second reading of Bill 39, *The Workers' Compensation Amendment Act, 2016*, which establishes a rebuttal presumption for workers claiming workers' compensation benefits for a psychological injury.

Mr. Speaker, it is a priority of this government to keep workers safe and protect them from harm. Often people must turn to the WCB [Workers' Compensation Board] for support when they suffer physical or psychological harm. Our goal is to reduce the barriers workers may face when seeking support for these injuries.

Saskatchewan will be the first jurisdiction in Canada to legislate a presumption for all forms of psychological injuries. Some jurisdictions have legislated that they recognize only post-traumatic stress disorder; however, that did not go far enough. This amendment establishes a presumption for workers who are suffering or have suffered from psychological injuries that stem from traumatic events at work.

Under this legislation, the worker is provided the benefit of the doubt that a psychological injury such as PTSD occurred during the course of employment unless there is evidence to the contrary. A worker will continue to have to be diagnosed as having a psychological injury by a psychiatrist or psychologist and provide that information to the Workers' Compensation Board. The onus will not be on the worker to prove that the injury is work related.

Earlier this year the members opposite tabled legislation to establish a presumption for those who are suffering PTSD because of trauma they have experienced through their jobs. Mr. Speaker, the amendments that we've introduced expand the presumption to include all psychological injuries suffered at work. We've also heard from groups representing first responders in our province — police, firefighters, medical profession, and others — who are regularly exposed to trauma as a regular part of their jobs. While presumption is not limited to individuals working in these fields, we know that they are at a greater risk of suffering the emotional and psychological

impact of dealing with trauma on the job.

Mr. Speaker, this amendment allows us to better protect those who protect us. In recent years there has been greater public awareness of the impact psychological injuries such as post-traumatic stress disorder have on those who suffer, their families, their friends, and their colleagues. As we learn more about PTSD and similar injuries, we learn more about the stigma that is attached to mental health issues. A fear of the possible reaction from others prevents many from seeking the help that they desperately need. Establishing this presumption is an assurance to anyone suffering that they will be believed. It is my hope that this change to the law will encourage people to feel comfortable and confident enough to come forward and seek support from the WCB.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the members opposite and the groups in the province that came forward to stress how necessary this legislative protection is. Mr. Speaker, one of those individuals is Jennifer Chouinard, who worked at a crisis nursery, who suffered grave harm because of this type of injury. Many of the individuals that are affected put their lives at risk for you and for me. For that we owe them an enormous debt of gratitude and we thank them. That is the least that we can do to protect those who protect us.

I want to thank the representatives from the many groups that are here with us today. Among them are the Saskatchewan Federation of Police Officers, Saskatoon Police Service, Regina Police Service, Saskatchewan Professional Fire Fighters Association, Saskatchewan Volunteer Fire Fighters Association, Saskatchewan Emergency Medical Services Association, Saskatchewan Union of Nurses, Saskatoon Paramedic Association, Canadian Mental Health Association, PTSD Saskatoon, Workers' Compensation Board. I hope we can continue to work together to help those in their personal struggles with the impact of trauma.

[14:30]

Mr. Speaker, I know the member opposite wants to make some statements and I understand that at the time when she is on her feet, she will be applying for leave to withdraw Bill 601 that was introduced in the last session.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise in the House to speak to Bill 39. I'm very glad to see the government move on this. Shortly after we conclude business on this bill, I will be withdrawing my own private member's bill.

Bill 601 was an amendment to *The Workers' Compensation Act* which would have also seen all workers who are exposed to traumatic events on the job who then receive a diagnosis of PTSD get prompt treatment and support for their illness because their illness would have been presumed to have been caused by the traumatic events or event.

I was proud to put this bill forward and I'm proud to be part of an opposition who not only works on holding this government

to account but one who is more than eager to provide solutions as well.

I want to start by thanking all the organizations and individuals with whom I've had an opportunity to work on this issue for some time, some sharing their policy ideas and many simply sharing their own stories of hoop jumping through WCB to get support for their psychological injury, and even those who have chosen not to file with the WCB because they feared the process at a time when they were already struggling mentally and vulnerable.

Some are here today and many are not. You know who you are, and thank you. Your stories have moved me, sometimes to tears, and helped me realize that as a legislator, we could and should do better for our citizens.

Better coverage for psychological injury is not a new topic to this legislature. The Saskatchewan Professional Fire Fighters Association brings us concerns on behalf of its members from across Saskatchewan every year and this has included PTSD and the need for presumptive coverage for first responders.

In 2015 my colleague from Saskatoon Centre called on the Minister of Labour to include PTSD immediately in a list of presumptive illnesses. Provinces across this country have been making these changes to their workers' compensation Act in recent years. Alberta, Ontario, and Manitoba have moved on presumption and New Brunswick and BC are in the process. It's important for us in Saskatchewan to move in that direction too. And again I thank the minister and commend him for his work on this.

Mental health and addictions issues are important to Saskatchewan people as evidenced by the number of people who participated in consultation with the government's task force that led to its mental health and addictions 10-year action plan, which sadly has yet to see very much action. Mental health and addictions issues are also important to the opposition, hence the reason the NDP included presumptive coverage for PTSD in our election platform.

As the Health critic and a member of a caucus of individuals who believe strongly that mental illness and mental health issues should not be treated any differently than physical illnesses, we saw presumptive legislation for PTSD being an important tool to reduce stigma and to speed up treatment for those affected by experiences on the job, as well as an opportunity to help people get healthy and able to carry on, living full and productive lives.

I've heard stories from social workers, nurses, police officers, firefighters, paramedics, late-night workers, mine workers, folks frankly from across all sectors who have talked about their experiences they've had. For some, it was one incident that triggered their illness; an armed robbery or watching a colleague injured and killed on the job. For others, it was a cumulative process of witnessing many tragic and difficult events over the course of their employment. Whether it's one incident or many incidences that caused the injury, a psychological injury is an injury nonetheless and all workers deserve to receive the appropriate supports.

I know that there are people who are doing remarkable work across the province on supporting those who have suffered psychological injuries. Thanks to folks like Jen Chouinard who couldn't be here today and Cathleen MacPhee with PTSD Saskatoon. I've heard of good work going on in the Saskatoon Fire Department on identifying and supporting those with mental health concerns. I've also heard of action around helping prevent PTSD and other psychological injuries in the first place; like the efforts around building resiliency in the members of the Saskatoon Police Service. I commend these organizations and the many others who are helping prevent injuries in the first place and those who are standing with employees when they are injured.

But for all those people who need treatment and support right now, this bill cannot come soon enough. The opposition will support the quick passage of this bill today on the expectation that it will not be a bill that lies dormant on passage, but that it will come into force within weeks. We understand that the regulations are ready to go and we want to see it in force, frankly, by November 1st. We look forward to the Minister of Labour making this happen. With that, I move to adjourn debate.

[Interjections]

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, the member opposite indicated that she wishes to adjourn debate. I think she may wish to withdraw that.

The Speaker: — The member from Saskatoon Riversdale has clarified that she is removing the adjournment of the debate so that we can carry on. The question before the Assembly is the motion moved by the Minister of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety that Bill No. 39, *The Workers' Compensation Amendment Act, 2016* be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Principal Clerk: — Second reading of this bill.

The Speaker: — To which committee shall this bill be committed? I recognize the Deputy Premier.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I designate that Bill No. 39, *The Workers' Compensation Amendment Act, 2016* be committed to the Committee of the Whole on Bills and the said bill be considered in Committee of the Whole on Bills immediately.

The Speaker: — This bill stands committed to the Committee of the Whole on Bills.

Principal Clerk: — Committee of the Whole on Bills.

The Speaker: — I do now leave the Chair for the House to go into Committee of the Whole on Bills.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ON BILLS

Bill No. 39 — *The Workers' Compensation Amendment Act, 2016*

The Chair: — Members, the item before the committee is Bill No. 39, *The Workers' Compensation Amendment Act, 2016*. Clause 1, short title, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried.

[Clauses 1 to 6 inclusive agreed to.]

The Chair: — Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan, enacts as follows: Bill No. 39, *The Workers' Compensation Amendment Act, 2016*.

I recognize the minister of workplace relations and worker safety.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — That too, Mr. Chair. I move that the committee report the bill without amendment.

The Chair: — The minister has moved that the committee report Bill No. 39 without amendment. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried.

I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Mr. Chair, I move that the committee rise, report progress, and ask for leave to sit again.

The Chair: — The Government House Leader has moved that the committee rise, report progress, and ask for leave to sit again. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried.

[The Speaker resumed the Chair.]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of committees, the member from Last Mountain-Touchwood.

Mr. Hart: — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the committee to report Bill No. 39, *The Workers' Compensation Amendment Act, 2016* without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall this bill be read a third time?

I recognize the Deputy Premier.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 39 — *The Workers' Compensation Amendment Act, 2016*

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I move that the bill be now read the third time and passed under its title.

The Speaker: — It has been moved that Bill No. 39, *The Workers' Compensation Amendment Act, 2016* be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Principal Clerk: — Third reading of this bill.

The Speaker: — When shall the committee sit again? I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — The next sitting of the House, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

I recognize the member from Saskatoon Riversdale.

Ms. Chartier: — Mr. Speaker, I request leave to withdraw Bill No. 601, *The Workers' Compensation Amendment Act, 2016* from the order paper.

The Speaker: — The member of Saskatoon Riversdale has requested leave to withdraw Bill No. 601, *The Workers' Compensation Amendment Act, 2016* from the order paper. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. The member may proceed to move her motion. I recognize the member from Saskatoon Riversdale.

BILL WITHDRAWN

Bill No. 601 — *The Workers' Compensation Amendment Act, 2016*

Ms. Chartier: — Mr. Speaker, pursuant to rule 15(3), I move to withdraw Bill No. 601, *The Workers' Compensation Amendment Act, 2016* from the order paper.

The Speaker: — The member has moved to withdraw Bill No. 601, *The Workers' Compensation Act, 2016* from the order paper. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. Pursuant to rule no. 15(3), in order for the Bill No. 601, *The Workers' Compensation Amendment Act, 2016* is withdrawn from the order paper.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

GOVERNMENT MOTIONS

Position on Climate Change and Carbon Tax

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by Hon. Mr. Wall:

That this Assembly supports the Government of Saskatchewan's position on climate change as outlined in the climate change white paper released on October 18, 2016; and further

That this Assembly opposes the federal government's plan to impose a national carbon tax.]

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

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and I want to take this opportunity to thank the Premier, Mr. Speaker, for raising the conversation over the last number of days and the last number of weeks, Mr. Speaker, on what is a very, very important discussion for the people of the province of Saskatchewan, the people across the province and industries across the province. Mr. Speaker, it's an important discussion. It's one that needs to continue, and it's one now that he has brought to this legislature, Mr. Speaker, and I think it's an important discussion for us to have here as we all represent people across the province of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to take a moment to thank colleagues on both sides of the House for entering into this debate. As I said, it's an important debate and it's important for us to represent the people of the province, Mr. Speaker. And I want to thank all of those colleagues, both on the opposition side as well as on the government side, Mr. Speaker, for taking part in this debate in representing their constituents.

As well, Mr. Speaker, just a quick note to thank the members of . . . the people across the province of Saskatchewan that have reached out, I know, to myself, to the Premier, and to members of the government, Mr. Speaker, appreciating that where our stance is and what we're doing to combat climate change here in the province of Saskatchewan and, in particular, our stance when it comes to a federally imposed carbon tax and the effect that that would have on people in the province of Saskatchewan.

[14:45]

Mr. Speaker, there's no denying this: we have a problem. And it's not just a problem in this province of Saskatchewan. It's not just a problem in our nation of Canada. Mr. Speaker, climate change is real and it's a global challenge.

And make no mistake, Mr. Speaker, this debate about a federally imposed carbon tax, despite the potential jurisdictional challenges that it may have, if this federally imposed carbon tax is imposed on the provinces and the nation of Canada, in Saskatchewan it will be the single largest tax increase ever experienced by the people of this province. The largest tax increase, I might add, with quite questionable results when it's with regards to actual carbon reductions in the province, Mr. Speaker, and across the nation for that matter.

This federal carbon tax will directly impact Saskatchewan businesses, it will directly impact Saskatchewan jobs, and it will be felt by Saskatchewan families and household incomes. And it's for these reasons, Mr. Speaker, that I will not be supporting the motion, and I strongly urge the opposition members to drop your amendment.

Mr. Speaker, I will not be supporting the amendment, and I urge those opposition members to drop their amendment, stand for Saskatchewan people, and let's send a unified voice to our federal government, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity to listen to a number of speeches yesterday with respect to this very important motion. In particular, Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity to listen to the member from Nutana, the NDP Environment critic, Mr. Speaker. And I noticed in her speech, and I picked this up, that she said the best indicator of future behaviour is past behaviour. Well, Mr. Speaker . . . And she made it in reference to the emissions in the province of Saskatchewan rising about 8 per cent since 2005.

I would point out that it's during the same period of time that the GDP [gross domestic product] in the province of Saskatchewan rose 24 per cent and over 150,000 people moved into this province, Mr. Speaker. BC, Mr. Speaker, since 2010, is up over 4 per cent with their emissions, and they have a carbon tax.

Mr. Speaker, this compares, this compares starkly with the 16 years that the NDP had the opportunity to make a difference with respect to emissions here in the province of Saskatchewan. And it's during those years of NDP reign in this province, Mr. Speaker, that they were making policy decisions such as increasing taxes 21 times, Mr. Speaker. They increased the PST [provincial sales tax] three times. They increased income tax twice. And they increased the fuel tax three times.

Mr. Speaker, it's these types of NDP policy decisions that resulted in job loss in the province. People were leaving the province in droves. They had no future here, Mr. Speaker. It's during this time that many of the friends that I graduated with left this province. Mr. Speaker, it's also during this time of NDP reign, 16 years in the province of Saskatchewan, where our greenhouse gas emissions in Saskatchewan rose 70 per cent.

Mr. Speaker, given an opportunity . . . And the amendment that the NDP put to this motion, Mr. Speaker, proved this, as well as a motion, I might add, at their provincial meeting this weekend made by the Leader of the Opposition's constituency with respect to the amendment, Mr. Speaker. But given a moment's opportunity, the NDP would implement this federal carbon tax on Saskatchewan people. It would affect Saskatchewan jobs and

Saskatchewan families because, as the member from Nutana states, the best indicator of future behaviour is past behaviour, Mr. Speaker, and they'll do it.

Mr. Speaker, in the way of background, a little bit on just what got us to this here today, to this point of working with our federal government on, or not working with them on, a federal-imposed carbon tax, Mr. Speaker. If we back up about a year, to COP [Conference of the Parties] 21 in Paris, France, Mr. Speaker, where the climate change conference was held, which is rather ironic as France is now one of the nations in Canada that is looking at removing their carbon tax on their coal-fired electricity. Very ironic indeed, Mr. Speaker.

But we had the Premier of this province as well as the previous Environment minister of this province, the member from The Battlefords, attended that conference in France, and upon returning it was the Prime Minister that asked the first ministers to meet in Vancouver, Mr. Speaker, to talk about how we can address climate change here in the nation of Canada. And it's at this Vancouver meeting that the Vancouver declaration was signed, outlining the collaborative work that would occur between the provinces, between the territories, and between the federal government in this new era of collaboration with our federal government.

Mr. Speaker, that Vancouver declaration outlined efforts and discussed efforts so that each jurisdiction can contribute, so that we can contribute to our Canadian commitment of reducing emissions here in Canada by 30 per cent by the year 2030. The Vancouver declaration identified four working groups, Mr. Speaker, and they were to focus on areas to address climate change, understanding that efforts, challenges, and successes may be different in respective regions of the country.

Mr. Speaker, in the first few days of this past month, there was Environment ministers that were to descend on Montreal to look at some of the work and to clarify some of the work that these working groups had performed, and to pass on recommendations from those working groups through the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment from across the nation back to the first ministers' table later this year so that we could actually clarify a pan-Canadian climate change plan here in the nation of Canada.

Mr. Speaker, sadly this entire process was circumvented. It was circumvented when our Prime Minister, as our Environment ministers met in Montreal, our Prime Minister rose in the House of Commons and he acted and he indicated that the federal government will act and impose a unilateral carbon tax on all provinces across the nation of Canada. It'll start at \$10 a tonne in 2018 and move to \$50 a tonne in 2022. Mr. Speaker, what that means to Saskatchewan, a carbon tax of \$50 a tonne is a two and a half billion dollar impact to our economy here in the province of Saskatchewan. It's 11 cents on a litre of fuel and to each family it increases their taxable bill each year by \$1,250.

And I know there's been some indications, Mr. Speaker, by federal counterparts that this tax could be revenue neutral, if you will, and the province could give it back. Well the fact of the matter is, Mr. Speaker, is many of those individuals, through carbon leakage and other job losses that we may experience in our economy here, aren't going to have a job. So

they aren't going to be here to give it back to, to begin with.

And, Mr. Speaker, I think it's also prudent for us to recognize that this government, over the last 10 years, that through prudent governance and great efforts, that we have already taken 112,000 people off the tax rolls here in the province of Saskatchewan. We're doing that already, Mr. Speaker. We don't need a carbon tax to make these kind of efforts.

Mr. Speaker, this pan-Canadian approach will not work for the province of Saskatchewan and I think I've indicated, how could this possibly be a revenue-neutral exercise? Mr. Speaker, it was at this point when the Prime Minister rose in the House and indicated that he was going to unilaterally impose this carbon tax on the people of the province, including the people of Saskatchewan, it's at this point that I thought that this new era of federal-provincial collaboration just wasn't going to work out that well for us.

Mr. Speaker, the territories, Nova Scotia, as well as Newfoundland and Labrador, I think they seemed to agree at that point in time that this collaboration wasn't just all it was cracked up to be. Mr. Speaker, the members opposite, their retort to this, Mr. Speaker, and I do encourage them to drop their motion and join with us with a unified message to our federal government, but they say that Saskatchewan should have already acted on this file. Well, Mr. Speaker, I'm here to inform this House and inform those members and inform the people of Saskatchewan that the Government of Saskatchewan and the people of Saskatchewan have acted on climate change. We've acted mightily and we'll continue to do so.

And I think what the NDP mean when they say that we should have acted on this file, and again the amendment displays this, the Leader of the Opposition had a motion this weekend that displays this or his constituency association did, Mr. Speaker, but what they mean is when the Government of Saskatchewan should have acted already is that we should already have a carbon tax here in the province of Saskatchewan. And given a breath of opportunity, don't kid yourself, Mr. Speaker: the NDP would impose that the very first thing. And you don't have to look very far west here to understand what they would do, given a day in government.

Mr. Speaker, the federal NDP, their federal NDP family has already indicated that a \$50-a-tonne carbon tax is not high enough on Saskatchewan families. They'd like it to be higher, Mr. Speaker. These members want it implemented earlier. It's quite an alarming state of affairs.

Mr. Speaker, even more alarming, even more alarming is for some of the members opposite, this type of economic suicide that we're talking about is not fast enough for their unrealistic ideology. In addition, in addition to a carbon tax, Mr. Speaker, they want to discuss things like shutting down the entire coal industry here in the province of Saskatchewan. If they can't do it directly, they want to knee-cap that industry, along with other industries such as mining, such as manufacturing, such as pulp, such as oil and gas and even agriculture, through their misguided ideology. Mr. Speaker, they want to discuss policy such as the Leap Manifesto, for crying out loud.

Mr. Speaker, this would attempt to tax and regulate industry

into moving away from our province. With that, they would take their jobs and, Mr. Speaker, they will use all tools at their disposal to succeed in this, including imposing a federal carbon tax on the people of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, as I said, two and a half billion dollars removed from our economy, 11 cents a litre on fuel, and a family of four will increase their taxable rate by \$1,250. These are the costs that the federal government would like to impose on Saskatchewan business, Saskatchewan jobs, and Saskatchewan families. The NDP think it should be implemented quicker and it should be higher.

Mr. Speaker, we are told, usually by some entity such as the Ecofiscal Commission or someone like that, that the carbon tax is the cost that is required to change behaviours here in the nation and here in the province. And unfortunately I fear that that may be an accurate description of what a carbon tax will do.

In an economy such as Saskatchewan, where we have over \$32 billion worth of exports — those exports are agriculture goods or natural resources that we have here, energy and manufactured goods — my fear is that it most certainly will do just that. It'll change behaviours. Saskatchewan companies may choose to operate in other regions of the world and they may move Saskatchewan jobs away with them.

Mr. Speaker, last week I was up at the Saskatchewan Mining Association's environmental forum and I had the opportunity to walk through and look at some of the items in the trade show. And I had the opportunity to talk to a number of people involved in the energy sector, Mr. Speaker, involved in the mining sector. And I asked them directly, I said, what effect will a carbon tax have on the industry that you work in? And I heard a couple of answers. Mr. Speaker, the first answer I heard is, companies will simply go away. They didn't say they'd go broke; they said they'll just go away. And they'll take their jobs with them, Mr. Speaker.

I also heard from another individual there that we are already, with respect to drilling energy wells, Mr. Speaker, down in the Bakken oil play, that we're already at a competitive cost disadvantage with south of the forty-ninth parallel.

Mr. Speaker, oil drilling in the Bakken is a real risk that that is going to move just south of the border. Potash developments will consider other areas of the world with a federally imposed carbon tax on Saskatchewan and a carbon tax in our province will reduce the competitiveness of our agricultural producers relative to their counterparts in the USA [United States of America] and in Australia where they don't have a carbon tax.

And I think of Gerrid Gust up at Davidson with the quote that he made, Mr. Speaker. As a farmer up in the Davidson area, I think he's in around the 16,000 acres, and he said, "A carbon tax in Saskatchewan will literally bite the hand that feeds you." And I think that sums it up in the way of agriculture.

Mr. Speaker, my fear is this: with a federally imposed carbon tax on the province of Saskatchewan, the behaviour that is going to be changed is that Saskatchewan people will lose their jobs that were once available right here in the province and in

our community. That's carbon leakage, Mr. Speaker, and that's a concern that this government has, and we'll continue to stand up and fight for the people of Saskatchewan on that account.

Mr. Speaker, this is not an opinion that I hold solely. Carbon leakage is a fact. It's a proven fact and it was identified in a working groups report that we were looking at in Montreal, quite frankly, in the carbon pricing mechanisms working group, as a risk to carbon-intensive regions of Canada like Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, the report goes on to state this, and I quote, "This will create a period of transition where some firms will need to change production processes and some individuals may need to change employment." Mr. Speaker, I want to repeat that last bit again, "... where some individuals may need to change employment." It's no wonder I left the meeting, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Saskatchewan people.

Mr. Speaker, carbon leakage is already occurring right here in Canada. It is not that long ago Ontario and Quebec had virtually all of their natural gas supplied from Canadian sources, predominantly Western Canadian sources. Mr. Speaker, recently this has changed with only 30 per cent of their supply now coming from Canadian sources and this has been due to (1) a carbon tax, or (2) the planned implementation of a carbon tax.

Well, Mr. Speaker, we're pleased to be here today because there is another way. There's a way that's been discussed and put forward in the white paper not too long ago. And there's a way that does not pull two and a half billion dollars from the economy in the province of Saskatchewan. There's a way that does not take jobs from Saskatchewan communities. There's a way that does not pull \$1,250 from each family across the province and doesn't move Saskatchewan jobs to other regions of the world.

Mr. Speaker, there's a way for our province that includes moving to 50 per cent renewables, unlike NDP Alberta that's committed to moving to 30 per cent renewables. Mr. Speaker, that's why we released the wind siting guidelines the other day, so that proponents are able to put those ... so that we can achieve that goal of 50 per cent renewables.

Mr. Speaker, there's a way in our province that includes investment and adaptation in research of crop varieties at the Crop Development Centre at the University of Saskatchewan, investment in things like the Global Institute for Food Security.

Mr. Speaker, there's a way in our province that includes the recognition of potential offsets in uranium exports and in agricultural carbon fixation. Mr. Speaker, there's a way in our province, and there's a way globally for us to enhance and utilize technology that will allow us to clean up transitional fuel sources, transitional fuel sources like coal.

[15:00]

Mr. Speaker, right now as we speak, Turkey is planning to double its coal power capacity by the year 2019. That's the addition of 60 000 megawatts. Twenty-four hundred coal-fired electrical generators are to be added worldwide in the next short while. And there is a way, Mr. Speaker, thankfully, with 15, 15

large-scale carbon capture and storage projects that are now operating worldwide. One of them is at Estevan, Saskatchewan at our Boundary dam 3 by our Crown corporation, SaskPower. Mr. Speaker, worldwide there's 15 operating. There's another seven that are under construction right now with the potential to fix 40 million tonnes of carbon.

Mr. Speaker, carbon capture and storage technology is being recognized worldwide, and it's part of the solution in reducing our industrial emissions globally and it's part of the solution globally in addressing climate change.

Mr. Speaker, exporting technology in agriculture. Small nuclear reactors and carbon capture and storage give us the opportunity to broaden the conversation far beyond Saskatchewan's 10 per cent of Canada's 2 per cent of global emissions. Mr. Speaker, working with our federal government and other nations to champion technology efforts that we already have here in place in agriculture, in carbon capture and storage technology, in nuclear research at the Fedoruk Centre. We need to utilize our research and development capability that we possess right here in the province of Saskatchewan and in the nation of Canada. This will allow our province and our nation to really contribute meaningfully to the global effort of climate change, much more meaningful than any carbon tax.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I will not be supporting the NDP amendment. In no way does it stand for Saskatchewan jobs and Saskatchewan communities or for Saskatchewan families. I simply cannot support that. I will be supporting the main motion. Thank you.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the proposed amendment moved by the Leader of the Opposition:

That all words in the motion after "supports" be struck out and replaced with the following:

the implementation of *The Management and Reduction of Greenhouse Gases Act* so that Saskatchewan can, once again, show leadership in reducing carbon emissions and earn back credibility on this file; and further

That the Assembly condones the Premier for his failure to address climate change after nearly a decade in power and for giving up Saskatchewan's voice and credibility when it comes to protecting Saskatchewan's interest and our environment; and further

That this Assembly opposes the federal government's plan to impose a national carbon tax.

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

Some Hon. Members: — No.

Some Hon. Members: — Yes.

The Speaker: — All right. Those in favour of the motion say yea.

Some Hon. Members: — Yea.

The Speaker: — All those opposed say nay.

Some Hon. Members: — Nay.

The Speaker: — The nays have it. Call in the members.

[The division bells rang from 15:03 until 15:08.]

The Speaker: — All those in the favour of the motion please stand . . . amendment motion.

[Yeas — 8]

Wotherspoon	Chartier	Belanger
Sproule	Forbes	Rancourt
Beck	McCall	

The Speaker: — All those opposed to the amendment motion please stand.

[Nays — 47]

Wall	Moe	Stewart
Wyant	Reiter	Morgan
Harpauer	Doherty	Duncan
Beaudry-Mellor	Hargrave	D'Autremont
Heppner	Boyd	Cheveldayoff
Marit	Eyre	Merriman
Harrison	Ottenbreit	Ross
Weekes	Brkich	Hart
Kirsch	Bradshaw	Steinley
Makowsky	Phillips	Lawrence
Docherty	Michelson	Doke
Cox	Olauson	Steele
Young	Fiaz	Dennis
Parent	Bonk	Carr
Nerlien	Lambert	Buckingham
Kaeding	McMorris	

Principal Clerk: — Mr. Speaker, those in favour of the amendment, 8; those opposed, 47.

The Speaker: — I declare the motion lost.

It is my duty pursuant to rule no. 54(3) to warn the Assembly that the member is about to exercise his or her right to close the debate. Afterwards all members will be precluded from speaking to the question; therefore, if any member wishes to speak, let him or her do so now. I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you. Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. And I want to thank members for joining in the debate and for the vote that just happened to defeat the amendment, the vote that is about to happen whereby we hope there's support for the main motion.

But, Mr. Speaker, there's something I wanted to get on the record, in light of the fact that some news coverage from yesterday's events, I think needs to be presented perhaps more broadly in this debate, and perhaps is actionable. And the coverage I'm referring to, I think it was on the CTV news coverage of yesterday's events on this issue, wherein towards the end of the story the federal minister, Mr. Goodale, was

asked for his response to the concern expressed by this legislature . . . [inaudible] . . . on both sides of the House with respect to a nationally imposed carbon tax. And Mr. Goodale again said, for the second time, said that, well the government, I guess, once we fully impose the carbon tax on the provincial government, they're going to get all the money back. And that's about \$2.5 billion, and they could eliminate income tax. And it was left at that, Mr. Speaker.

And I have a concern for those who would have watched the coverage or have heard this response from the federal government, which really does need some clarification. It bears some further discussion. It is the second time Mr. Goodale has said these things, that once this carbon tax is fully imposed, there's going to be enough there — 2.5 billion — that you can eliminate your provincial income tax. And for some, that might sound pretty appealing.

Mr. Speaker, let's remember where the carbon tax is coming from. Let's remember who would be paying that \$2.5 billion out of our economy. It would be those carbon-intense industries that we talked about yesterday. It would be companies like Evraz. It would be the mining industry in this province who already face tough competition from places like Russia and Belarus. It would be our oil and gas sector, Mr. Speaker. It would be our agricultural sector, not just the primary producers, but those who are engaged in value added.

Yesterday I think I put on the record that COPA [Canadian Oilseed Processors Association], the association that represents canola crushers in this province, have indicated that the cost of the Liberal carbon tax when fully implemented would be \$15 million per plant.

[15:15]

Does Mr. Goodale or any of the other federal Liberals truly believe that any of those jobs at that plant — after levying a \$15 million tax on the plant — that any of those jobs would still exist to benefit from the elimination of income tax? That is the point that Saskatchewan is trying to make to the country.

We have, in our economy, sectors that we're very proud of that are carbon intensive. They will pay, they will pay the lion's share of this \$2.5 billion in taxes. So perhaps if it all were to come back, Ottawa sent us all back to our government for us to give out, Mr. Speaker, in the way of income tax relief, there just aren't, there won't be the people working in Saskatchewan to benefit from that.

So I want to indicate to members of the House that I'm going to be sending a letter to Minister Goodale on this narrow issue — well not just only on this issue — asking him to represent the interests of Saskatchewan. We have found him to be co-operative. We have worked with him on a number of files, and we know Minister Goodale has Saskatchewan's interests at heart. I think it's very important that there will be a manifestation of that commitment, especially on this issue of a carbon tax that would very much harm the province's economy.

So we want to send him a letter. I'll be making it available to all members if they're interested, and I'm hoping that the Leader of the Opposition would co-sign the letter. He hasn't seen it yet, so

no one should ask him immediately. That wouldn't be fair. But if he sees the letter, and if it speaks generally to the Saskatchewan interest and specifically to refuting this case, this thing that's been thrown out there, that we can eliminate your income tax with what we're going to take out of the carbon tax, I hope that he might sign it.

I know we couldn't come to an agreement on the motion, you know, Mr. Speaker. I understand why that might be. They're, for the reasons they've laid out, unwilling to support that second part of the motion. And we can't support the second part of the amendment. That's the way this place works sometimes.

But I think we can find some common ground with respect to a letter to our federal minister that represents the province's interest, asking him to do so in the matter of the carbon tax, and moreover to lay out very clearly for all that would read the letter that this notion of revenue neutrality is not applicable to Saskatchewan. It is not germane to this discussion because carbon tax may be revenue neutral, I guess, but it is not sector neutral, and it is not jobs neutral. It's not investment neutral. And those that will pay the most, those sectors that will pay the most, those families that will pay the most, are in the industries in this province. And that case needs to be made very, very clear to the federal government as a result of the debate we've had.

So, Mr. Speaker, with that I would again want to thank all members for participating in the debate we've had and for their ongoing vigilance on this particular issue. We need to be defending Saskatchewan's interests here. This is a very, very important matter before our province, and I look forward to the support of members, regardless of where they are on the political spectrum, in the defence of those interests.

The Speaker: — The Premier has moved:

That the Assembly supports the Government of Saskatchewan's position on climate change as outlined in the climate change white paper released on October 18, 2016; and further

That this Assembly opposes the federal government's plan to impose a national carbon tax.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: — No.

The Speaker: — Those in favour of the motion say yea.

Some Hon. Members: — Yea.

The Speaker: — Those opposed say nay.

Some Hon. Members: — Nay.

The Speaker: — Yeas have it. Call in the members.

[The division bells rang from 15:18 until 15:19.]

The Speaker: — All those in favour of the motion please stand. the motion:

[Yeas — 48]

Wall	Moe	Stewart
Wyant	Reiter	Morgan
Harpauer	Doherty	Duncan
Beaudry-Mellor	Hargrave	D'Autremont
Heppner	Boyd	Cheveldayoff
Marit	Tell	Eyre
Merriman	Harrison	Ottenbreit
Ross	Weekes	Brkich
Hart	Kirsch	Bradshaw
Steinley	Makowsky	Phillips
Lawrence	Docherty	Michelson
Doke	Cox	Olauson
Steele	Young	Fiaz
Dennis	Parent	Bonk
Carr	Nerlien	Lambert
Buckingham	Kaeding	McMorris

The Speaker: — All those opposed to the motion, please stand.

[Nays — 8]

Wotherspoon	Chartier	Belanger
Sroule	Forbes	Rancourt
Beck	McCall	

Principal Clerk: — Mr. Speaker, those in favour of the motion, 48; those opposed, 8.

The Speaker: — I declare the motion carried. I recognize the Government House Leader.

TRANSMITTAL MOTION

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to move the following motion:

That Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Legislative Assembly, transmit copies of the motion as well as verbatim transcripts of the debate to the Prime Minister of Canada and all federal opposition leaders.

The Speaker: — Is leave granted first?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. I'll recognize the Government House Leader with his motion.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move the following motion:

That Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Legislative Assembly, transmit copies of the motion as well as verbatim transcripts of the debate to the Prime Minister of Canada and all federal opposition leaders.

I so move.

The Speaker: — The Government House Leader has moved

That the Speaker, on behalf of the Legislative Assembly, transmit a copy of the motion as well as verbatim transcripts of the debate to the Prime Minister of Canada and all federal opposition leaders.

Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 2

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

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise this afternoon and continue on into the adjourned debates part of the day. And of course this a very important part because this is the chance we have to reflect on the bills that the government has brought forward. And of course the bill I have before me today is Bill No 2, *An Act to amend certain Statutes to Standardize Provisions respecting the Fiscal Year End of certain Crown Corporations*. And it's a pretty short bill, and it talks and refers to Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation, the Saskatchewan Government Insurance, the Saskatchewan Opportunities Corporation, the Saskatchewan Telecommunications Holding company, and the Saskatchewan Water Corporation.

And so it is straightforward. And it is one thing to say that we want to standardize, after all these years, the year-end of the fiscal year. And after all these years of something's working well, now this government has decided that this is an issue, and it's Bill No. 2 of their post-election session, which is incredibly ironic that this is the biggest deal they had before. But it isn't because, you know, this is an issue that we talk a lot during the debate, is around this government not being forthcoming with the true state of affairs when it comes to the budget. And of course they wanted to delay that, delay that.

We all thought we should have the election and people should have a clear accounting of what's happening in this province and what the government plans were, and we all know that as the budget. And the budget they did not want to release, of course they said they had done no work, no work at all. But we

all know no work at all leading up to the election, in the months leading up to the election, that in fact they were all standing by as they watched this province in the one of the toughest years it's had in terms of its resource revenues and different issues like that. And of course we don't buy that for a minute. We know they were working hard. They knew what was going on in this province. They were making plans.

And we saw that with NORTEP as a prime example of where they signed a contract before the election for five years and then right after the election their signature wasn't worth the paper it was written on. They cut that and now they've got some doublespeak going on about how they want to make it more equitable, but we know that when you have good programs like that, that you can't cut them.

And we saw it with the Lighthouse where for some reason, facing hard times, they'd rather put people up in a hotel room than in a building, a facility that's already prepared for homeless at a much reduced cost. But it'll be interesting to see how this government, again through some sort of doublespeak saying they never had . . . that they're not cutting, but it sure looks like a cut. You know, when it walks like a cut, talks like a cut, it probably is a cut. And this is what this government is doing.

So they knew, they knew before the election what the true state of affairs were here in this province of Saskatchewan, but they hid it from the people of Saskatchewan. And then right after, right after we got back . . . Right after the election we had them come back with the budget. In fact it took them six weeks, because I think in their planning they wanted to have the session in the month of June, just leading up to the summer months when people are away on holidays and people were not going to be paying attention to the tough issues that we had at hand in the province in terms of cuts and the reality that this government had mismanaged the provincial budget and the provincial Crown corporations over the eight years plus, almost nine years of Sask Party rule.

Here they were, they couldn't withstand the tough times and they didn't really, frankly, Mr. Speaker, have the courage to go to the people to say, this is what's happening in the province; this is the state of affairs. They didn't have the courage, didn't have the guts to stand up and tell people what was really going on.

And so we see how they, through this kind of innocuous bill on one hand, to say well we're going to standardize the year-ends. So the year-ends . . . And how good fortune it happened to be that they were able to tack on three months to the Crown corporations. And by doing so, the net effect of that, moving their year-ends from December 31st to March 31st and gaining three months, they were able to collect as much as \$100 million extra in terms of dividends from the Crown corporations. What good luck that was in terms of helping, softening the blow of this province's budget.

[15:30]

And of course we know the Minister of Finance, who is . . . And I can't believe it, you know. One of the things that I have to say is he is not very good at doing his homework. And he

loves to holler over at us and he seems to be reading all our stuff, but really he should focus on his own homework, has failed this province in terms of delivering a first quarter report. And he said the media reports were . . . that there wasn't much to see. Well maybe because he hadn't done his homework there wasn't much to see. You know, I've heard that before, not much here. And then you start to say hey, where there's smoke there is fire. And it may not be a lot of smoke but the fire is pretty hot.

So here you have an ability . . . because you have three more months of income, and that three more months of income came out to be about \$100 million. But as well, you could then soften what the deficit looked like and that had a huge effect.

But you know, Mr. Speaker, the people of Saskatchewan see through that kind of work. They have big question marks, because when they start to see these things, all these little things adding up . . . And you know, you just kick the can down the road when you take three months out of last year and add it on to this year. This year is going to be short by three months when they come around, you know.

And so, Mr. Speaker, this is all going to come home to roost. And so I have a lot of questions about this. And while this will be something that I know we'll all want to speak on over here . . . But I think they're important points to raise to the people who are watching at home.

We've seen this government delay, delay, delay taking responsibility. And as the Premier says — and my colleagues, we all remember this — he says the greatest indicator of future performance is past behaviour. And here is one of these things where they want to change things up, change things up so we're not getting the accurate picture. Either they delay the release of the budget . . . And everyone was saying, you've done your work. We all know you do your work.

Everybody knows the budget cycle here in Saskatchewan. The budget cycle starts early in September, where the Minister of Finance . . . And I'm sure they did it over there. They released what the expectations were for the different ministries, what the thresholds were, and where there was going to be a 1 per cent increase or 2 per cent increase or holding budgets to a negative 2 per cent.

All those messages would have gone out. Those directives would have gone out from the Ministry of Finance early in September. People would be already working within the ministries to prepare budgets, and they would be meeting in October and November with the treasury board to say, these are our budgets or tentative budgets. How do they fit into the big picture?

To say that there was very little work done would be inaccurate, inaccurate. And people of Saskatchewan should have been able to see what the state of affairs were, the true state of affairs, in Saskatchewan. But this government instead chose to put all of that aside and say, no, let's wait until later, in late spring if not June, to have the budget presented.

And when you have a bill like Bill No. 2 which starts to clean up the mess that they've created, there will be lots of questions

about this and the impacts, because we have Crown corporations that have been working very, very well. SaskTel, SaskPower, SGI, all of those, they have people who do this work and we've never had issues about aligning their year-ends.

And you know, it does take a long time because in our committees we have them present their annual reports, and it's very important that they're timely. That's one of the more pressing issues is their annual reports and the ability to meet and make sure we're current on their annual reports. And this bill doesn't really address that, and the minister at the time who brought this forward really didn't see that was a concern. He just . . . [inaudible] . . . just wanted to, as they say over there, standardize.

But you know, Mr. Speaker, I am deeply, deeply concerned about their use of language. When they say one thing you really have to wonder if they mean something else and something gravely different, gravely different than . . . And I mean gravely because I am deeply concerned. This is not a light matter. This is a huge issue, and it's one that we should take seriously. And in committee we will have questions about why the rush. Why Bill No. 2? You know, No. 1, No. 2, No. 3, No. 4 should be the vision for the four years going ahead. It shouldn't be the Finance minister's fixing up his first big mistake, his second big mistake, his third big mistake, his fourth big mistake. I'm wondering about whether he's going to eliminate . . .

It'll be interesting to see when we get the second quarter report. Will we see that? My prediction here is it will be released Thursday, December 1st, the day after we leave. The day after we leave, the Minister of Finance will have the second quarter report. Sounds like . . . Yes, well I just have to say the Minister of Finance suffers from a serious credibility issue, and he every day gets weaker and weaker and weaker because he just can't deliver reports and budgets on time. He just can't deliver reports and budgets on time. You know, what happened during the election, he refused to bring the budget forward. And then he just didn't do the first quarter and he definitely will be trying to get out of the second quarter. So mark your calendar, December 1st, or it could be in the next week of December, but that's what I'm thinking.

So, Mr. Speaker, this is an important bill. Small as it is, it really is an indicator of where this government is and where it's heading over the next four years. Very minimal vision about where we want to go forward, but trying to fix up their mistakes of eight years of mismanagement of our province's finances.

So with that, Bill No. 2, *An Act to amend certain Statutes to Standardize Provisions respecting the Fiscal Year End of certain Crown Corporations*, I would adjourn debates on that. Thank you.

The Speaker: — The member from Saskatoon Centre has moved adjourned debate on Bill No. 2, *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Crown Corporations' Fiscal Year End Standardization) Amendment Act, 2016*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 4

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

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

Ms. Rancourt: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm honoured today to stand up in the House and talk about *The Queen's Bench Amendment Act*, Bill No. 4. This was presented by the Minister of Justice and Attorney General.

So this Act, it's a really important Act for the province here. It really has a lot of structure for our court system and a lot of the people who work in the court system rely on things that are in this Act to ensure that things go smoothly.

And so the amendments to this Act, some of it is to like, enforce decisions made by dispute resolution panels under free trade agreements to make that a little bit easier. And so that's important because we know how important free trade is within our province, and we want to ensure that that language is a little bit better and easier to resolve.

This also allows the minister to keep a list of lawyers who can be appointed as court-ordered or appointed lawyers, regulating their compensation. First of all, I think it's very important that we look at regulating compensation for private lawyers that are being contracted to do work for the province. We know that we have Legal Aid here and Legal Aid does an excellent job with providing legal services for people who don't have the financial resources to afford their own legal representation. But we also do know that our legal aid workers, they have really heavy caseloads and that they're oftentimes overworked. And I believe we need maybe more of these lawyers in these departments.

But I've been hearing more and more about cuts to legal aid which I don't think is the right direction to go because we know that legal aid, you know, provides a necessary service in our community, and we have . . . Oftentimes, people who are involved in the legal system don't have the financial means to pay for their own legal representation but that the government, in order to compensate for that and help out with those caseloads, they oftentimes contract other lawyers out. And there's been a lot of dispute about the compensation that they receive, and so I think it's really important that we have some regulating rules on how that compensation is going to be done.

Also like keeping a list of the lawyers that are able to do that, that's also important so that when we need to find out who can provide that service, then everybody's well aware of who in those different communities are able to do that work. Oftentimes, getting a court-appointed lawyer can be a challenge to get. I know that applying for a lawyer . . . Like, we have people who are in our justice system: they oftentimes have a lack of education; they have literacy challenges. And I'm worried about some of the amendments to this, that it might make it even more of a challenge for them to be able to apply for legal representation. And so we've got to ensure that when

people need legal representation that the fact that they maybe have a lack of education or literacy issues isn't a barrier for them to be receiving their rights of getting that legal representation.

And another issue that I was concerned about with regards to this Act is, will clients be able to have their choice for a lawyer. I know sometimes having that legal relationship — it's an intimate one, and you need to feel comfortable that your rights are being represented. And sometimes, there might be a conflict of some sort. And oftentimes in smaller locations such as, I'll give the example of North Battleford or Prince Albert, a person might not feel comfortable with the very few lawyers that we might have representing, you know, especially in legal aid, so being able to have the ability to say, I'm not comfortable with this. Legal representation is a right for people, and they should be able to have that ability to choose who their legal representation is. And so I hope the amendments to this Act don't provide a barrier for that, and I hope there's a lot of discussion with regards to that when this hits council.

Also, how can this government ensure the individuals who cannot access legal aid but require counsel are not unfairly hindered by the procedural requirements when applying for court-appointed counsel? So again like, we want to make sure that the process to apply for a lawyer is not going to be a barrier for people who are in these situations.

And one thing . . . Like, if people don't have that confidence in their counsel or they lose their ability to pick a counsel that they feel confident in, that could provide a waste of resources and could be a challenge that results with trials going up for appeal. And so that might become more of a waste per se, you know, in the court system and having things being done repeatedly. Because it's really important that the defendant feels comfortable with who is representing them, so I think that needs to be considered as well when reviewing the amendments to this bill.

And I also think that the removal of the right to choose counsel is a Charter of Rights issue so we've got to ensure when we're making amendments to bills that it's not going to be a Charter issue. Because if it does become an issue with regards to that then we'll be back at this table and making amendments again because we've got to ensure that people's rights are being respected. And that's what the Charter of Rights and Freedoms is there for, is to ensure that we have rules and regulations that are going to be representing people and ensure that things are going in a respectful manner.

So again I would want to make sure that we look at the amendments here. And my colleagues, we have a couple of legal representatives here, and so they're very competent in being able to review these kind of bills and the amendments with regards to them. And I have a lot of confidence that they will review these with a fine-tooth comb and assure that they ask the appropriate questions in council with regards to that.

[15:45]

So I am sure my colleagues will have more information that they'll want to add with regards to this bill and some of the potential concerns or maybe the good things about the

amendments that are happening with this bill. So with that, I am going to let them have some more discussion with regards to this bill, and I move to adjourn this debate.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 5

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

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to enter the debate on Bill No. 5, *The Electronic Information and Documents Amendment Act*. Mr. Speaker, this is a fairly straightforward and simple bill. This particular bill makes it legal for real estate transactions to take place using electronic documents without the requirement for paper documents which in 2016, Mr. Speaker, I think is a pretty important thing to be able to do.

I think some minor things to note: it changes references from department to ministry. That was a change that this government had implemented when it came to power in 2007, taking departments and turning them into ministries. It also repeals section 4 so the Act now includes:

documents that create or transfer interest in land and that require registration to be effective against third parties.

This is a fairly simple bill, Mr. Speaker, and as such . . . Often housekeeping bills come before us, and we've actually seen, in this legislative session, there isn't a particularly heavy legislative agenda on the part of this government. I must say though today, we had the opportunity to pass a very important bill on post-traumatic stress disorder and other psychological injuries. So I would say that that was one of the government's more pressing pieces of legislation, and we were happy to give it quick passage. But generally speaking, it's a fairly light legislative agenda at the moment, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

And we often see, obviously over time, bills needed changing for language purposes, those kinds of reasons, and this is one of those around moving from department to ministry. But what we've also seen in my time here as an MLA which has been almost seven years now that we often see bills come before us not for those little tweaks around language that's outdated but because the government didn't quite get it right on previous bills. And we've seen sometimes bills before us in a very short period of time two or three times, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

So with respect to Bill No. 5, *The Electronic Information and*

Documents Amendment Act, 2016, the minister points out in his remarks that the real estate and credit union communities actually requested some of these changes. And I have a letter from SaskCentral that says that this amendment would put Saskatchewan on a level playing field with several other jurisdictions in Canada, pointing out that, reading from this letter from SaskCentral dated August 5th, 2015 to the Hon. Gordon Wyant:

Bringing this amendment forward would also put Saskatchewan on a level playing field with several other jurisdictions in Canada. On July 1st, 2015 the Ontario government implemented similar changes to its *Electronic Commerce Act*. We are also advised that Manitoba, Quebec, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, and Prince Edward Island also allow electronic signatures to facilitate real estate transactions.

So I'm very glad to see that the government has sought input and has input from stakeholders who will be impacted. That is absolutely critical because you catch unintended consequences of legislation when you actually talk to people who are impacted by bills, Mr. Speaker. That is very important to do, and this hasn't been something that we always see this government do. For example, right now they embark upon consultation processes that are often not particularly lengthy or particularly robust in the parties with whom they're engaging, Mr. Deputy Speaker. So I'm glad to see that there is some support for this bill from people . . .

The Deputy Chair of Committees: — Why is the member on his feet?

Mr. McCall: — With leave to introduce a guest, Mr. Speaker, and with apologies to my colleague.

The Deputy Chair of Committees: — The member has asked for leave to introduce guests. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Chair of Committees: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mr. McCall: — But just barely. No, just kidding there, Mr. Chair of Committees. Anyway, again thank you very much, Mr. Chair of Committees, and to my colleagues, and certainly to the member from Saskatoon Riversdale for enabling me to say a word of hello and welcome to an individual that served in this Chamber with dedication and some distinction. Mr. Chair of Committees, I'm speaking of course of Mr. Kim Trew, first elected in 1986 I believe, in the riding of Regina North and then, you know, a few elections later finished up 25 years of service to the people of Saskatchewan in the riding of Regina Coronation Park. As you know, Mr. Chair of Committees, sometimes the names change on these things, but certainly a lot of the terrain remains the same. And certainly when I was able to arrive in this Assembly, it was having known the good work of Mr. Kim Trew and had a lot of respect for him over the years.

This is an individual that comes from Beechy country originally, Mr. Chair of Committees and is not exactly back in Beechy but has moved out to that neck of the woods. And he and his wife, Lorna, are now resident in the community of Elbow where they're enjoying their retirement and spoiling their grandkids and all of those good things.

But, Mr. Chair of Committees, again thank my colleagues for allowing me to say a word of welcome and congratulations. This is his first time back on the floor since he had retired in 2011. So please join me in welcoming Mr. Kim Trew.

The Deputy Chair of Committees: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Riversdale.

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 5 — *The Electronic Information and Documents Amendment Act, 2016* (continued)

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's my pleasure to again enter the discussion on Bill No. 5. And I just too want to join with my colleague in welcoming Mr. Trew to his Legislative Assembly. I only had the opportunity to serve with Mr. Trew for a couple of years, but it was indeed a pleasure to do so. So welcome, Mr. Trew, to your legislature.

Back to Bill No. 5, *The Electronic Information and Documents Amendment Act*. So as I said earlier, this bill makes it legal for real estate transactions to take place using electronic documents without the requirement for paper documents. And again, this is 2016 and is something that is really important.

As the Health critic, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I recognize very well the importance of electronic documents and the need to move more thoroughly to electronic health records. So we're talking about electronic information here and this is a government who has spent a great deal of money moving to electronic health records but hasn't been able to get the job done, Mr. Speaker.

I know in my own health region of Saskatoon not every hospital has the capacity to share records. It always amazes me when I go see my own doctor, my general practitioner, and her office has been on the leading edge of using electronic health records. And I could see her and then show up at St. Paul's Hospital after perhaps waiting in the ER for many, many hours because of over-capacity issues, and they wouldn't in fact know that I'd ever seen my doctor just a few short days because we don't have a seamless system of electronic health records.

Anyway, Mr. Speaker, with respect to this bill . . . So I had mentioned earlier that SaskCentral had been consulted on this, so part of our work as the opposition going forward, we need to reach out to other organizations to see if the realtors, other folks, to see if they feel like these are the right changes or if there are other things that could look a little bit differently. Do we need amendments? So that will be the work that we'll be doing going forward as the bill seems fairly straightforward. But sometimes things that seem so straightforward aren't always such, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

I know that I'll have colleagues along the way who will also weigh in to this debate. So with that, for the moment I would move to adjourn debate.

The Deputy Chair of Committees: — The member from Saskatoon Riversdale has moved amend to Bill No. 5. Is that agreed? . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . The member has moved adjournment to Bill No. 5. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Bill No. 6

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

The Deputy Chair of Committees: — I recognize the member from Prince Albert Northcote.

Ms. Rancourt: — Thank you, Deputy Speaker. I'm honoured to stand today to talk about Bill No. 6, *The Statute Law Amendment Act*. This was presented by the Minister of Justice and . . . This is Bill No. 6 and this bill was last revised in 1978, it said, so I do believe that it is really time to look into these bills. I believe that we should regularly make sure that language in bills are updated and 1978 . . . Well I was just a young gaffer at that time.

So I think that was a long time ago to be able to change the language, and a lot of language has changed since then. We oftentimes will change descriptions of things, like there was a lot of changes here from ministry to department. It used to be department; now they're going to become ministry. They're going to be changing wording such as provincial magistrate to Provincial Court judge. That was previously how we would refer to judges but now we've changed that language.

So it's important to, you know, reflect that, like I said before, in our Acts. And so this particular Act, though with changes with regards to the language and the grammatical changes and some of the references to the errors that might be presented in there, it's going to have an impact on a variety of different Acts and they're listed all in these Acts here. And there's such a list of them that I could go on and on and on and talk about all the Acts that'll be affected with some of the changes from this one, but I won't go through that today. I'll leave that maybe for someone else to discuss. I think once this hits committee that maybe they'll want to discuss this a little bit more about how that language changing on this particular Act will impact some other Acts here too.

And it looks like the Acts that it'll impact go . . . a variety. It'll impact some of the Ministry of Social Services Acts, some of the Ministry of Justice, and a variety, like I said before. So it'll be important to discuss a lot of these changes in council but I agree that it's really important that we update the language and ensure that grammar is correct. And I hope we don't wait another 38 years to review this, but I probably won't be around at that time if we do so. Oh, maybe. Who knows, apparently.

So like I said before, you know, I think a lot of my colleagues will have a lot more to add with regards to some of these

changes, and a lot of this discussion will probably be had on committees' agendas. So with that, I am going to move to adjourn this debate.

The Deputy Chair of Committees: — The member from Prince Albert Northcote has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 6. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Bill No. 7

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

The Deputy Chair of Committees: — I recognize the member from Prince Albert Northcote.

Ms. Rancourt: — Thank you, Deputy Speaker. I'm proud to stand here and discuss Bill No. 7, *The Statute Law Amendment Act (No. 2)*, and this was brought in by the Minister of Justice.

[16:00]

And I just had the pleasure to talk about Bill No. 6, which is really closely related to both Bill No. 6 and 7. Basically, from my understanding, Bill No. 6 is the English Act and Bill No. 7 is the bilingual one. So of course it makes sense, if we're going to be making some changes to Bill No. 6, that we should make the appropriate changes to Bill No. 7, just in the different language.

So I said before, Bill No. 6 wasn't updated since 1978, so there's a lot of different language that needs to be changed and the grammar needs to be changed and there are some reference errors. And some of these changes are going to impact some of the other Acts, and so again this will need to be discussed in committee. But this will obviously be the bilingual Act, but it should be reflective and be the same as what the English Act also looks like.

So I think there'll be a lot of discussion in committee with regards to this, and I'm sure a lot of my fellow members and colleagues here, they'll have a lot to add. And so, like I said, this will have a lot of changes to some of the other Acts. And I'm really proud that we do have some of these Acts in both languages. Like it's really good that we represent both the English and the French language.

And I was reading here something to do with . . . I think it was the Minister of Justice that said that there was three languages. I'm not quite sure what he meant by that and which exact languages that would be, but I think that would be interesting to find out a little bit more. Should have some interesting dialogue and questions in committee. And so I'm looking forward to finding out what the end result will be with regards to the changes to this Act. And so I'll be talking to my colleagues and other members with regards to that.

So at this time though, I believe that I'm going to move to adjourn the debate with regards to this bill.

The Deputy Chair of Committees: — The member from Prince Albert Northcote has adjourned debate on Bill No. 7. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Bill No. 8

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

The Deputy Chair of Committees: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Nutana.

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and am pleased to be able to enter into the debate once again as we proceed through the legislative agenda for this session.

This particular bill is *An Act to amend The Summary Offences Procedure Act* from 1990. And once again I would like to begin with a reference to the comments made by the minister in the preface to the introduction of the bill. In this case, the minister indicated very thoroughly the types of changes that this bill is attempting to achieve. As he points out, since the introduction of traffic tickets through . . . It's the pilot project, I guess, for automated speed enforcement photo laser project.

Having been the recipient of one of those tickets, Mr. Speaker, I can attest to you that it is working. And it certainly has changed my behaviour when I drive through Martensville. I'm very aware of the location now of that and I . . . Of course I always try to follow the speed limit, but in that particular case I was reminded and received one of those tickets in the mail.

And what's happening here is, because it's a summary offences procedure, currently under the existing law you can plead guilty. But if you can't immediately pay the fine, then you have to apply through a judge to get an extension on the fine. And that is clogging up the court systems, quite frankly. And I believe that the intention here is that because this is an administrative matter, it makes more sense for there being a process by which these fines can be extended, or the payment of the fine can be extended, through someone else other than a justice of the court because as you know, their dockets are incredibly full already. So I think obviously the number of these tickets that are coming in and the number of people asking for extensions to payment has caused a significant issue for the courts. So this is a response to that.

Another thing that this is doing is incorporating . . . There is a provision in the Criminal Code. This is really on a different subject. But under the Criminal Code, at this point in time there's a provision that allows people to swear an information by means of telecommunication. Now when you swear an information, normally that's done by an informant like a police officer. And what it does, when a police officer will swear an information, it means they're swearing that it is their belief that a crime has been committed.

And so at this point in time, this must be done before an official of the court. Normally it's done before a peace officer. And I

certainly remember in my articling days showing up in court and waiting for all these informations to be sworn in front of a peace officer before they could actually go out and charge the person with that crime. So what's happened under Criminal Code, modernization provisions have been made so that it can be done through telecommunication rather than attendance personally.

And this, under *The Summary Offences Procedure Act*, will actually facilitate the work of the peace officers much more practically. So what they're doing in the amendments in that regard are just incorporating that particular section in the Criminal Code to allow for the swearing of an information through telecommunication.

So very simple kind of changes and ones that reflect some developments in the Criminal Code, and certainly reaction to some of the problems that have come up because of the enforced photo radar traffic tickets.

So what we see is the first change is in section 4(4) of the existing Act, and this is where we're adding section 508.1 of the Criminal Code. So that's the one that relates to the swearing of an information through telecommunication. And then the rest . . . A lot of these changes to strike out where the judge can include an extension of time for payment, that's no longer required. So I think section 21(1) is changed to strike that out. Section 32.62(1) is changed by striking that out, and I think that is basically the extent of that, to make . . .

But the big, big change in this bill is under section 26. So what happens there is that was the section of the Act that currently talks about how the justice is allowed to make extensions for payment. So section 26 — I'll just pull that up quickly — currently the fine is due and payable 15 days after its imposition, and the justice may ask the offender if they want an extension. If they do want an extension, the judge can inquire about that, why, and then they don't have to answer if they don't want to. There's a whole bunch of things here that the judge may do.

The entire section's being struck down, and in this case now we're going to put in a director. So it's a new administrative position that will have to be made. I'm not sure if every court will have to do that, and I'm not sure who will be appointed as these directors, but it's being converted from the responsibility of the judge to the director. So that's basically what's happening in section 26. And that is the meat and the heart of this particular bill.

A couple of other amendments that are being made, section 32.1(1) is being amended. I guess that's in reference to striking out the justice, the reference to the judge. 32.83 is being amended and basically this is just a typo, and kudos to the folks in the Ministry of Justice who are picking up on these ones. It's just a typo referring to section (8) and that doesn't exist. It's actually section (6).

Again on section 52(2) and 52(3), a couple of mistakes there where they referred to section 139, and that was an error. It was actually supposed to refer to section 149.

So from time to time we see these types of corrections coming

forward. They're housekeeping amendments and obviously as people read through . . . I remember doing drafting and sometimes when you change the numbers on one clause, you forget to change all the numbers on the other clauses. So that's probably what happened here and it's easy to miss and hard to find. So again, kudos to the court officials and the justice officials for making those changes.

The last change, and this is probably the extent of my comments on this particular bill, is changes to section 55. And in that case we need to have the ability for the rules around extension being placed into the regulations. So what's happening here is rather than have them all as they are prescribed in section 26 right now, they are actually going to allow the Lieutenant Governor to make changes to regulations regarding the applications for extension or further extension of time for payments of a fine. So that's section 55.

And that's the typical regulations clause that you find in pretty much every bill. So there's a good long list in section 55, almost two, well over two pages of things that can be done by regulations. So this is just adding to that and it's giving a little more flexibility for the ministry to be able to set the rules on applications for extension of time or further extension of time. So this would allow people to ask for not one extension but more than one extension.

Again this is nothing earth shattering here, Mr. Speaker. This is just clerical stuff, but it's also a response to the changing in the way we are issuing tickets. For example, these photo radar tickets are now becoming more commonplace and obviously the reaction to them is putting more work on the courts. There's an attempt to lessen that work although we will need to have another person doing these extensions. It's not like they go away.

And then secondly, of course, the ability for peace officers to swear an information through telecommunications with the peace officer. And as the minister indicated when he gave his comments, many of our peace officers are in northern parts of the province where it's very difficult to appear before a judge or other court officials to swear these informations. So this is making their lives a lot easier and a lot more practical as well. So I don't think there's much further comment that is required but, as always, I'm pleased to be able to provide these comments.

At this point then I would like to adjourn the debate on Bill No. 8, *An Act to amend The Summary Offences Procedure Act, 1990*.

The Deputy Chair of Committees: — The member has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 8. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Bill No. 9

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

The Deputy Chair of Committees: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Chair of Committees. Always good to take my place in this Chamber and join debate on, in this case, Bill No. 9, *An Act to amend The Enforcement of Canadian Judgments Act, 2002*. Always good to see when a bill is also brought forward en français in accord with the two official languages of Canada. And certainly with reference to the Canadian judgments, it would make all kinds of sense to have the French version of the bill here alongside.

This particular piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker, comes to us courtesy the good work of the good folks at the Uniform Law Conference of Canada, recommending these changes to provide greater certainty with respect to the enforcement of Canadian tax judgments.

Now, Mr. Speaker, there are a number of things that this piece of legislation sets out to accomplish, but I'd refer you to the Minister of Justice's second reading speech of May 30th, 2016 wherein he'd gone through the highlights and lowlights of this particular piece of legislation. Again as my colleague from Saskatoon Nutana had said in regards to her piece of legislation, not exactly earth shattering, but these things are important and certainly, you know, given the certainty of death and taxes, that's got to have tax judgments in there someplace, Mr. Speaker. So it's good to have these things clarified.

So what this piece of legislation does:

This Act currently provides a registration procedure for the enforcement of civil judgments between Canadian provinces and territories, and between Canadian and foreign jurisdictions that does not require reciprocity or court supervision as a prerequisite to enforcement.

And that's coming from the minister's second reading speech, Mr. Speaker.

[16:15]

In terms of, you know, this particular bill will add a definition of Canadian tax judgment to the Act, again from the minister's second reading speech where he states:

The new definition will include both a judgment for the recovery of money under a tax law and a certificate of an amount payable under a tax law that has been registered as a judgment in a court of a province or a territory.

Carrying on, Mr. Speaker, the minister talks about how the Act will:

. . . currently requires that an application for directions respecting enforcement be made to the court for enforcing any judgment that was obtained without notice against a judgment debtor. An exception to this requirement will be added to the Act so that an application to the court for directions respecting the enforcement of a Canadian tax judgment will only be required if one of the parties specifically requests it.

Again, Mr. Speaker, always good to be clear on these things, and that the Uniform Law Conference has seen fit to have these matters clarified and that the government has seen fit to follow along all the good work of jurisdictions such as Manitoba which has recently implemented these amendments. I guess we'll await further intelligence on how this particular piece of legislation works out.

It'll be good to check in committee, Mr. Speaker, in terms of, you know, what's the applicability of this, what sort of frequency of use of this legislation will be provoked, if there's a particular case that is prompting this amendment above and beyond the urging of the Uniform Law Conference of Canada. And certainly those are questions that we'll seek greater clarity upon in committee.

But I know that there are other of my colleagues that will be looking to share a few thoughts on this particular piece of legislation, though I'm suspecting not too many of them. I think this is one that will possibly be moving to committee sooner rather than later. But for the meantime, Mr. Chair of Committees, I'd move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 9, *The Enforcement of Canadian Judgments Amendment Act, 2016*.

The Deputy Chair of Committees: — The member has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 9. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Chair of Committees: — Carried.

Bill No. 10

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

The Deputy Chair of Committees: — I recognize the member from Regina Lakeview.

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Today I will be speaking to continuing debate on Bill 10, *The Forest Resources Management Amendment Act, 2016*.

When moving the second reading in May, the minister noted that amendments in this Act would streamline processes for industry while enhancing government's ability to ensure that forests are sustainably managed and that our environment remains protected. Certainly the goal of protecting the very important ecosystem and resource that is our northern forest is a worthwhile endeavour and something that should be regularly updated and modernized.

I do note that when speaking to this bill, my colleague from Nutana noted some concerns about . . . you know, some cautions, I guess, about the processes of streamlining and ensuring that when we are endeavouring to streamline processes, that we're not looking at cutting corners. Certainly there is a balance. And I think we're constantly aware of that balance between ensuring that we have economic development and a balance with ensuring that we put measures in place to have long-term sustainable natural resources and that we are

strong stewards over those resources. So I do share some of the issues, share concern about some of the issues that my colleague from Nutana and my colleague from Athabasca noted when they were speaking to this bill initially.

This streamlining is part of a larger results-based legislation move by this government, and one of the goals, I understand, of that sort of shift in legislation is to move towards some increased industry regulation for those who are deemed to be low risk. And I think it's very important that when we're striving to create that balance that we don't let it tip too far into the realm of self-regulation. Certainly you don't want to inhibit sustainable and thoughtful and meaningful development of those resources, but you want to ensure that they are not overharvested and that we have this resource for many years to come.

The goal of ensuring a strong and vibrant management of our forests is important to everyone, Mr. Speaker. Of course to those north of the treeline, they would understand more intimately the value and the importance of these northern forests, but it is a resource that benefits all of us in Saskatchewan. Our northern forests have a role to play certainly in tourism. We know lots of folks from within the province and within the country and certainly from out of the country marvel at the beauty and pristine nature of our northern ecosystem. And it's very important that we treasure that and recognize that and ensure that those who come after us will also have that beautiful resource to enjoy as well.

The role in tourism of course that goes along is also the fact that we have the northern forest as a very important habitat for countless species of plants and animals. And like all ecosystems, it's incumbent upon us to ensure that we don't overdevelop and tip that balance to a point that it can't be recovered. Sometimes the impacts of overusing a resource are immediately evident and sometimes not so evident.

I've sort of digressed I suppose a bit, but I'm thinking of a story that I heard about why, you know, the impacts of an island like Haiti — of course very removed from Saskatchewan — but underwent a huge deforestation at the turn of the last century, and it's impacted all sorts of things today like the impact of floods. You look at the other half of the island, it still has its forests. They don't have near the same impacts when we have floods and hurricanes and now cholera. So once you tip the balance and you go too far in those ecosystems, it's very difficult to go back and can have catastrophic impacts for a long time to come. But anyway I digress.

We do know, and I think that we've been talking about this a fair amount in this House, is the importance of the role that our northern forests play in carbon sequestration. And I think kids very early in school learn the role that trees play in removing carbon from the atmosphere and releasing oxygen.

And that certainly is something that we're going to increasingly need in this province and in this world, frankly, to ensure that we can meet the challenges that lie ahead with regard to the . . . with climate change, and ever so much important that we ensure that we are replanting trees at a rate that is sustainable and ensures that we are not overharvesting that resource.

So I understand that a number of the stipulations within this bill are aimed at that goal. I'll just flip to some of the minister's comments on this bill. He noted back in May when he introduced this bill that in addition to streamlining processes, the goal of this bill was to enhance the government's ability to ensure that forests are sustainably managed and that our environment is protected. And I certainly know that you'll get no opposition on the latter goals there for sure from this side of the legislature.

One of the goals is to deal with forest roads and trails that are left when forestry activity goes into certain areas and roads are created to go in and harvest the lumber. Often those roads, once that project has been completed, there are a number of roads that are left abandoned and those of course can cause a hazard for those in the area. They also, when left open, can disrupt the ecosystem.

I was looking for it in the comments from both my colleagues and I couldn't find it, but I can't say that . . . I don't want to attribute it to the wrong source, but hearing a story about how wolves will find those roads and follow them down, and it makes it a little too easy for them to hunt caribou, and it has an impact on the caribou population. So I do believe that the minister did mention the role that this bill could have in helping to sustain those caribou populations.

Another big part — maybe one of the more substantial parts of this bill — is around the forest management fees and speaking specifically to a . . . The Provincial Auditor noted in a report in 2009 that reforestation and the forest management fees needed to be sufficient to cover the actual cost of reforestation in the harvested areas. And I think that's a good point, Mr. Speaker. If that company were to become insolvent and those fees were not sufficient to complete the reforestation, it would be the people of Saskatchewan who would be left on the hook for that reforestation, that very important part of the cycle. So I do think that on the surface at least — and I'm sure my colleagues would like to look further into that — that seems to be a reasonable proposal.

As noted in the minister's comments:

In the event that a licence holder becomes insolvent, the government is the beneficiary of the fees held in the forest management fund established for that licence area and becomes responsible to ensure that they are spent responsibly.

So I think it's important that we do ensure that there's enough money in that fund in order to be able to complete the job of reforestation if for some reason the company that holds that licence is not able.

One of the things that I learned in preparing for this bill is that there are two types of licences that are applied in the North to harvested areas. One is a 20-year forest management agreement which has a fairly large component requiring a plan for reforestation and often, I understand, is taken by larger players in the forestry industry; and then the five-year, area-based term licences.

And the terms and conditions of these forest management

agreements, the aim of them is to ensure that fees are set at a level, again, as has been mentioned, to cover reforestation. And this bill, I understand, would allow for some adjustment of those fees to address actual costs which, I suppose, if it's reasonable that at some times it may be more or less expensive to undertake the important role of reforestation as it's needed. And I think that that's important.

[16:30]

Mr. Speaker, in going a little further into the remediation of roads, the minister noted that the legacy of roads and unreclaimed access remaining on provincial forest lands were the result of, in many cases, past industrial activities, sometimes very long ago activities. Culverts and bridges associated with access are in various states of disrepair, and certainly that is something that I have heard from my colleagues in the North, and of course that does pose a safety risk. I know my colleague from Nutana noted that if you have people using the forest recreationally and they come across one of these rusted-out culverts or bridges, it certainly does pose a significant risk to safety.

Another thing that has been noted, and I understand the intent of this bill is to take over . . . include management in the role of forest management, that from time to time there are commercial and recreational users who would seek to use those roads, for example, for a system of trails or a system for ATVs [all-terrain vehicle], I suppose, or ski trails and other types of trails. So that is something that is contemplated with this bill. I'm just going to take a minute to look at my notes.

This bill acknowledges, puts in place some regulations, I understand, in the event that those holding the licence are in non-compliance or found to be in contravention of the regulations. So it does look at increasing penalties. I understand that the minister would be able to impose a penalty or a period by which the licensee wouldn't be able to apply for another . . . apply again for three years or in the case that a judge . . .

The Speaker: — Why is the Premier on his feet?

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, with leave to introduce guests.

The Speaker: — Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. I recognize the Premier.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I also want to thank the member for Regina Lakeview for facilitating the introduction here today. Joining us in your gallery, Mr. Speaker, are some very distinguished guests who have travelled a long way to be in Saskatchewan. They are with Yankuang Group and have come from Beijing to visit in Saskatchewan.

And, Mr. Speaker, I'm going to introduce them by name and maybe they could give a wave when I've introduced them, when I've said their name. The CEO of Yankuang Group is with us, Mr. Li; the director of International Business Centre for

Yankuang Group, Mr. Tian; the director of operation and management department of Yankuang Group, Mr. Tong; Mr. Ma, chairman of Yancoal Canada Resources Limited; and Mr. Han, president of Yancoal Canada Resources Limited. And joining them from the Ministry of the Economy, William Wang, as well.

Mr. Speaker, these officials, these representatives of Yancoal and of Yankuang Group are in the province today really for two reasons. They have visited earlier this day Boundary dam 3 to have a look at what we're doing with respect to carbon capture sequestration at the coal plant at Estevan. They've also had meetings with respect to their proposed investment in a new potash mine in Saskatchewan. I think they've been here now for a few days. I think they've also hosted a fowl supper in Earl Grey recently and had a great community participation at the fowl supper and raised some money for local charity.

Mr. Speaker, they're looking at a major investment in the province of Saskatchewan that would create a number of jobs, construction and in operation, and they're also interested in CCS [carbon capture and storage] partnership with our province. And so we always are welcoming of that interest, and I would ask all members to please join with me in welcoming this delegation to the Legislative Assembly today.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd also like to ask for leave to introduce guests.

The Speaker: — Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Ms. Sproule: — On behalf of the Official Opposition, I too would like to welcome all the guests from Yancoal here today: Mr. Li, Mr. Tian, Mr. Tong, Mr. Ma and Mr. Han. And of course, thank you very much for coming to Saskatchewan and with such interest in our resources here in Saskatchewan. It's very important to have that kind of interest and we look to seeing these kinds of partnerships grow.

Also thank you to the official from the ministry, Mr. Wang. I know your assistance is very important in facilitating these types of arrangements. So again, on behalf of the official opposition, we'd like to welcome you to Saskatchewan, to our Legislative Assembly, and wish you the very best in your enterprises.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Prince Albert Northcote . . . oh, who is not here today. I'm going to have Prince Albert . . . Sorry. I will recognize Regina Lakeview.

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 10 — *The Forest Resources Management Amendment Act, 2016* (continued)

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So to continue where I was — and I'm sure we were all paying attention; Cathy's paying attention — we were talking about the bill proposed, Bill No. 10, *The Forest Resources Management Amendment Act, 2016* and noting that one of the reasons for amendment, as stated by the minister, involved a process that had developed over time that sort of went against the initial licensing . . . what was initially intended with the licensing scheme.

So originally the Act contemplated a term supply of forestry licences being issued, mostly to small- and medium-scale operators, and volume-based timber allocations. There was a practice that sometimes happens with legislation, I suppose, that you have some unintended consequences. Over time, a subset of those licences were adopted as transitional five-year, term-based licences. And I understand that the practice . . . Rather than going ahead and preparing forestry management plans, some producers would continually reapply for those five-year licences and thus circumvent the more intense forest management plan. So that is certainly important, that we have those forest management plans in place for the larger operations, and I understand that that is the goal of that piece of the legislation.

Another piece that is proposed in these amendments is clarifying licence holders are accountable for the actions of not only their company but of their contractors while they're undertaking forestry operations on behalf of the licence holder. And I think that's really important, not just within forestry but within all industries, that it's very clear that those who are undertaking contracts with contractors, that they are ensuring that not only are they following the rules and the regulations, you know, certainly with regard to the forestry Act but also labour standards and all of those legislation, ensuring that those . . . Those regulations are there for a reason, Mr. Speaker, and it's important that they're followed. So I certainly understand the intent of that amendment.

And as I had mentioned further, there's some changes to the remedies proposed in this legislation including suspension, cancellation, or refusal to issue a licence. And certainly it's important to have legislation and also important to have some mechanisms by which you can actually enforce that legislation, Mr. Speaker.

The note that this is . . . Prohibiting people with a serious history of non-compliance and from applying for or obtaining a licence has been proven effective in other areas, for example *The Wildlife Act*. And certainly, as I noted, it's important that you have those measures in place in order to ensure, as I said, not only do you have the legislation right but there are those deterrents and those mechanisms by which you can impose judgments and penalties such as excluding licences.

You know, I guess our role here as opposition, or one of our roles certainly is to ensure that the voices, when legislation is contemplated, that we bring voices to bear in this legislature and voices from our constituencies ensuring that, you know, we're another set of eyes on this legislation and making sure that we, you know, have a look, as I said, not just for the intended consequences but perhaps some of the unintended consequences of the legislation.

And I know two of my colleagues have already spoken to this legislation and did a very good job so I'm going to go over some of the concerns that were brought up. I'm going to start with the member from Athabasca who initially spoke to this legislation and this bill, the proposed amendments, and brought forward some concerns of the trapping community which I don't think I have as much knowledge, for sure, as he has. But he mentioned a few things that I thought were worth repeating.

He's talking about having photographs of trappers that have trapped in an area for years and taking pictures of the traplines and their cabin, and a few months later coming back and finding that most of the land has been harvested, and without having provisions to deal with the fact that that has impacted their livelihood. And I think it's important, any time that we're undertaking development or contemplating legislation, that we ensure that voices are heard and their concerns are taken seriously and taken into account. So I appreciate him bringing those concerns forward.

Another item that isn't necessarily directly contemplated with this legislation, or this bill, but I think both of my colleagues from Athabasca and as well as from Cumberland have noted on repeated times in this legislature and outside, is just the impact on roads in the North and how that creates a hazard for people driving who make their home in the North and are travelling on those roads. And that's something that should be taken into consideration as well, Mr. Speaker.

Of course you can imagine that these trucks are very, very, very heavy that are carrying the trees out of the forests, and put a great stress on the highways. And I know that they've repeatedly asked for some consideration to the impact on the state of those roads. My colleague from Athabasca noted that the minister has received letters about these concerns and there was a group that even attended this legislature, this Assembly, to speak about their issues.

And I would echo some of the comments that my colleague made on his initial response once this bill was tabled, and that is ensuring that people understood that it wasn't the intent of the people of the North to not support development, but encouraging development that took robust consideration of all of the impacts.

I think it's often easy for anyone in a jurisdiction removed from the jurisdiction that is impacted by the legislation to, you know, even with careful consideration, to miss some things that perhaps people who live and work in those areas might have more intimate knowledge about. And I think we'd do well to listen to their voices any time we're contemplating legislation, Mr. Speaker, and ensure it can only be richer when we have those voices at the table applying the local context and maybe looking at, you know, things that we don't understand.

[16:45]

I know that our province . . . Often when we see our province on the national or international stage, we see, you know, great rolling wheat fields. And it often . . . I remember as a young person, coming as a bit of a shock to someone who grew up on the southern plains that more than half of our province is covered in forest. And I think that it is important that . . . You

know, we can be a long way down here sometimes in this Assembly, and it's important that we listen to those voices from those who are actually there and living in those communities, Mr. Speaker.

I'm just going to go back to some of the comments again as I noted that my colleague from Nutana had provided on the proposed amendments. Just noting the expansion of the definition in the explanatory notes that were provided by the ministry, the clause regarding to scope, that now does more than just the seven words basically describing the roads. ". . . [It] expands on the minister's authority to enter into agreements with clients for the purpose of developing, improving, maintaining, closing, reclaiming and managing new and existing roads, road[way] allowances and rights of way."

And as I noted, that might have implications. And I'm sure my colleagues would like to look further into that, how that works with, not only when it's deemed necessary that these roads be taken out of existence and reclaimed or replanted but also in the instance when it's contemplated that they be used as trails or other sorts of development that fits in with the local ecosystem there.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I would propose that I'm sure that my colleagues will have more . . . and ultimately the critic and in committee about looking at these bills. I'm sure they'll want to consult with their stakeholders and their constituents in their areas about their thoughts and concerns here as well as the things that they agree with. So with that, I would like to adjourn debate.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 11

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

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

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again as noted, this Bill 11 is *The Forestry Professions Amendment Act*, and I'm just going to go through some of the explanatory notes. In summary, this bill establishes the authority to apply financial penalties to people who unlawfully engage in the professional practice of forestry without registering as forestry professionals. The bill establishes that the limitation of prosecution provision applies to contraventions respecting the unlawful practice of forestry.

I think, as is often the case when we're looking at professional governing bodies, it's important that we recognize those and the professional qualifications that are required for both training and carrying out of the duties within those professions, Mr.

Speaker. Some of the considerations of this bill outlines the importance of forestry professionals in ensuring that Saskatchewan's forest ecosystem remains healthy, long term.

Certainly, Mr. Speaker, there are a lot of voices that we need at the table when we're looking at skilful management and protection and stewardship over our northern forests. And local knowledge is very important, as well as the professional forestry or forestry professionals, rather. It's important to have those voices on the table.

Further in the goals of this legislation, Mr. Speaker, is looking at the accountability of forest professionals in making decisions about public forests. As has been noted, Mr. Speaker, it's certainly, you know, getting that wrong, getting the management of our forests . . . or getting it right, you know, on the other side. These are important decisions that are being made. It's important that we have people that have the proper knowledge and experience and educational background to ensure that we're getting good decisions with regard to forest management in the North, you know, for the reasons that I've outlined previously.

Our forests are a huge resource and of huge importance to this province for a number of reasons, again not only the forestry industry, the mills, and those industries but also tourism in the North, the livelihood of local communities, fishing, trapping. I've already noted tourism. And it's very important that we are strong stewards over that resource, this resource that covers, you know, half of our province. And we would all do well to remember that importance.

I understand that these amendments are to bring us in line with legislation otherwise been enacted throughout Canada consistent with the provisions applicable to forestry professions in other provinces in Canada. I mean, I do think that that context is also important, Mr. Speaker, that we look at what other jurisdictions are doing and learn from that. Sometimes, you know, we are the ones who other provinces are learning from. And certainly when we look around and find that our own legislation and our own standards are lacking, it's important that we make sure that we are up to date and in keeping with best practice throughout the country. And this bill is also important to ensure that forestry associations are protected through the amendments in this bill, so I guess there's a bit of a balance there to be struck, Mr. Speaker.

And as with the previous bill, I am sure that there are further questions that my colleagues will have. Those with different knowledge and a different lens on this legislation will have perhaps constituents whose voices they want to bring here and ensure that we are aware of as we contemplate this bill. So with that, Mr. Speaker, I would move that we adjourn debate on Bill No. 11, *The Forestry Professions Amendment Act, 2016*.

The Speaker: — The member from Regina Lakeview has moved adjournment on Bill No. 11, *The Forestry Professions Amendment Act, 2016*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 12

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

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Always good to join debate and take my place, in this case on Bill No. 12, *The Public Health (Miscellaneous) Amendment Act, 2016*.

Two main purposes in this particular piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker. One is to better facilitate the posting of information related to public health inspections of restaurants, Mr. Speaker, certainly a timely bit of discussion here just before the supper hour.

And secondly, as regards a more clear delineation of the chain of command when it comes to communicable disease response coordination on the part of the ministry and certainly updating certain of the powers prescribed to nurse practitioners and clinic nurses as relates to the reporting of communicable diseases and their responsibilities, Mr. Speaker, and better aligning those positions with the scope of practice.

It, you know, seems like fair enough legislation, Mr. Speaker. We'll be looking for, you know, I'm sure greater clarity on various of the measures in the Act come committee. Also certainly it is with note . . . I'm looking at the remarks of my colleague from P.A. [Prince Albert] Northcote and the folks on the opposition benches that have a greater understanding of the public health side of the health care system.

But as regards this particular piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker, I note with interest that three of the measures contained in this piece of legislation relate to the housekeeping of changing department to ministry. And you'll remember that great public policy initiative of the sitting government whereby they changed the nomenclature from using departments to ministries, and of course, you know, the province hasn't been the same since, Mr. Speaker. But I'm sure someday they'll get through all the legislation and change all the usage from department to ministry, and what a glorious day that will be, I'm sure, Mr. Speaker. But in the meantime, that quest continues.

But as regards substantive measures in the actual legislation, again we've got some changes around nurse practitioners, around clinic nurses, around how those positions relate to the coordination of efforts and response to communicable diseases, and then of course, some of the changes around the posting of information as regards the public health conditions in restaurants and how those might be better reported out to the public and, you know, more clearly delineating what the responsibilities there are.

So, Mr. Speaker, this is a pretty straightforward piece of legislation, and you know, those hard-working legislative officers out there in ministry land, they've got to earn their keep the same as anyone else. So this particular piece of legislation, pretty straightforward, but we'll be looking to ensure that there aren't any unintended consequences. We'll be sure to, you

know, do our due diligence in terms of consulting with other interested parties. And certainly we'll have some more detailed questions as relates to the legislation come time in committee.

But with that, Mr. Speaker, I would move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 12, *An Act to amend The Public Health Act, 1994*.

The Speaker: — The Opposition House Leader has moved adjourned debate on Bill No. 12, *The Public Health (Miscellaneous) Amendment Act, 2016*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. It being 5 p.m., this Assembly stands recessed until 7 p.m. tonight.

[The Assembly recessed from 17:00 until 19:00.]

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