



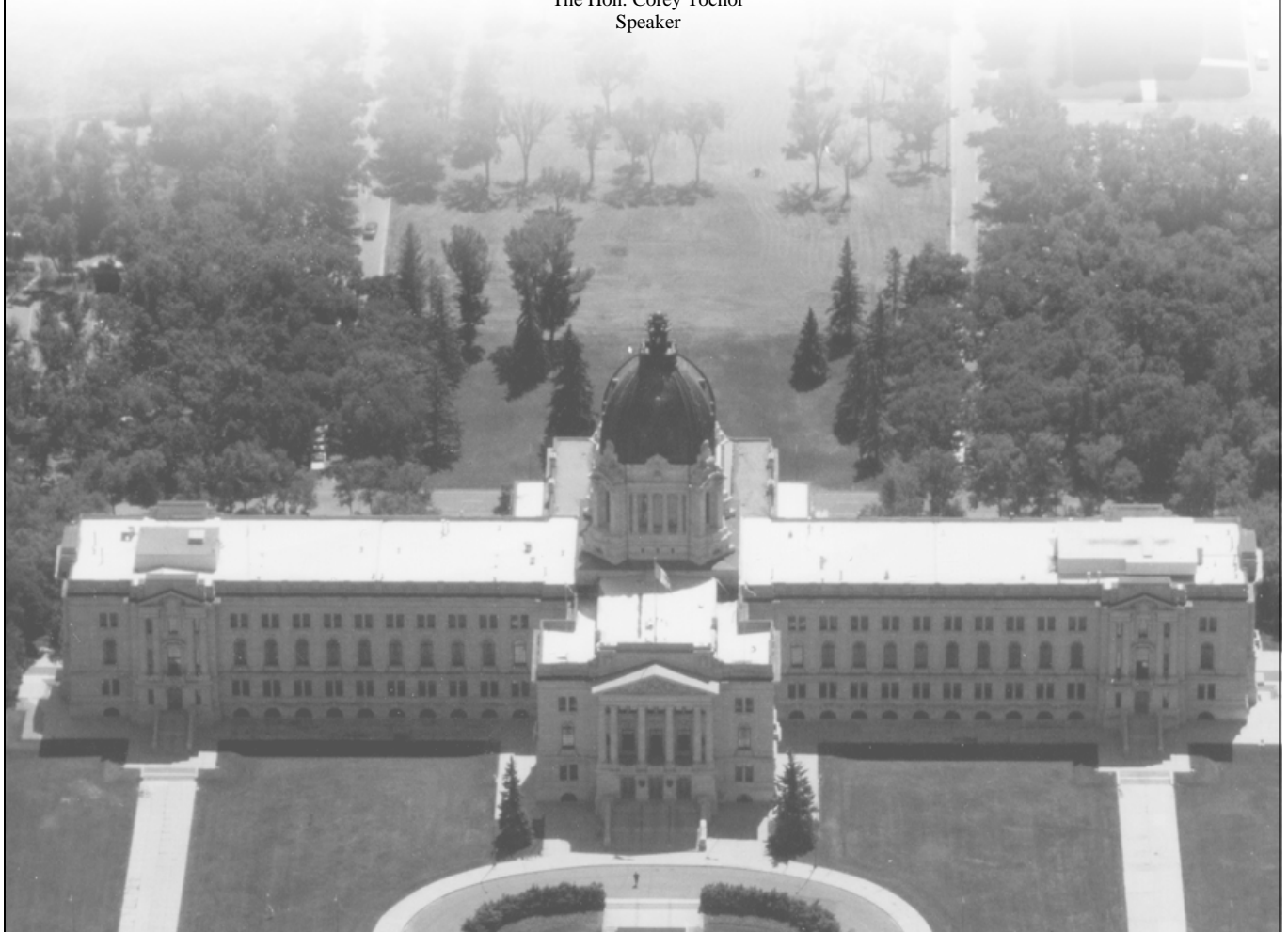
FIRST SESSION - TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

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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Beck, Carla — Regina Lakeview (NDP)

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Docherty, Mark — Regina Coronation Park (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)

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Nerlien, Hugh — Kelvington-Wadena (SP)

Olauson, Eric — Saskatoon University (SP)

Ottenbreit, Hon. Greg — Yorkton (SP)

Parent, Roger — Saskatoon Meewasin (SP)

Phillips, Kevin — Melfort (SP)

Rancourt, Nicole — Prince Albert Northcote (NDP)

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Ross, Laura — Regina Rochdale (SP)

Sarauer, Nicole — Regina Douglas Park (NDP)

Sproule, Cathy — Saskatoon Nutana (NDP)

Steele, Doug — Cypress Hills (SP)

Steinley, Warren — Regina Walsh Acres (SP)

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

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

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Vermette, Doyle — Cumberland (NDP)

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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

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[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Attorney General.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Well thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in your gallery there's three gentlemen who I'd care to introduce: Dennis Mahony, John Laskin, and John Terry. They're here from the Torys Law Firm in Toronto. And for those of us that practise law, we'll know that that's a pre-eminent law firm in the country.

They're here doing some business in the province, Mr. Speaker, and so I thought I'd bring them to the House, introduce them to the legislature, and welcome them to the Saskatchewan legislature. So I'd ask everyone in the House to welcome them.

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, I'd to join with the Attorney General in welcoming Dennis, John, and John to this Legislative Assembly. I know the great work that the Torys Law Firm does in the country. I do think I have some fellow U of Saskatchewan [University of Saskatchewan] College of Law grads who work at your offices. So I'm very happy to see you today, and I'm glad that you're in town doing some business. So please join me in welcoming them to our Legislative Assembly.

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

Mr. Olason: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, I'd like to introduce to you my intern I'll be working with today, this term. David Sparling is up in your gallery. There he is — David. You can't really see him very well from here. He attended St. George School and Bishop Mahoney High School in Saskatoon and was on the honour roll for all three of his years at Bishop Mahoney. He also won the Saskatchewan Greystone Scholarship and finished with the second highest average among his graduating class.

He graduated from the University of Saskatchewan last year — in May actually of this year — with great distinction. After three years of study, he was in the top 10 per cent of his class. And he was invited to join the Golden Key International Honour Society in 2015. He'll be working with our group in Saskatoon University for the first term this year, Mr. Speaker, and I'm sure he's going to learn a lot, as I will from him as well. I invite all members of the Assembly to welcome him to his Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cypress Hills.

Mr. Steele: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, I'd like to recognize my intern for this session is Rachelle

Bistrizan. She was raised on a farm near Zehner in Saskatchewan, went to school in Balgonie. Graduated golden honour roll, and she's in her third year in the University of Regina. She has a long group of accomplishments, worked with community leadership and with the government. Canadian politics is her passion and moving forward. So join me in welcoming her to her Assembly.

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

Mr. Cox: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, it's my pleasure today to introduce a very good friend of mine seated in your west gallery. Bart Wood is here today. If you could give us a little wave, Bart. Thank you. Bart's been a good friend of mine for many, many years. He was very important in my campaign this last time and I think the two elections before as well. And, Bart, we really appreciate it. And just to show the respect that I had for Bart, I decided that I'd go to the same barber as he has. I would ask everybody to please welcome Bart to the Assembly.

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

Mr. Makowsky: — Well thanks, Mr. Speaker. Once again I'm pleased to be on my feet this afternoon to introduce a school group. Some members, unfortunately they can go a long time before three school groups come and visit them because of distance. Maybe for some other reasons; I'm not sure about that.

But it's the third day in a row, and we thank Mr. McKillop once again for bringing a school group from F.W. Johnson Collegiate here to the Legislative Assembly. They're a group of grade 10 students, 25 of them. I look forward to having a chat with them after, as always. And Ms. Sarah Hewson is also accompanying them today. Members, once again please help me welcome them.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present a petition to reverse the cuts to the Lighthouse program. In April 2014 the Minister of Social Services said that the Lighthouse in Saskatoon would "... take pressure off of existing detox facilities, hospitals and police cells, while keeping people safe, especially in our brutally cold winters." On the same day, the Minister of Health said, "We want to ensure that individuals with mental health and addictions issues have a safe place to stay."

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 respectfully request the Government of Saskatchewan to 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 take immediate steps to ensure that homeless people in Saskatchewan have emergency shelter, clothing, and food available to them before more lives are lost, Mr. Speaker.

And the individuals who are presenting this live in the city of Saskatoon. I so present.

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

Mr. Dennis: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise today to present the petition from the citizens who are opposed to the federal government's decision to impose a carbon tax to the province of Saskatchewan. I'd like to read the prayer:

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

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by the citizens of Canora, Stenen, Invermay, Preeceville, Sturgis, Norquay, and Kamsack. I do so present.

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

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

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

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

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

Mr. Speaker, the people signing this petition come from the city of Moose Jaw. I do so present. Thank you.

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

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

The Sask Party's latest cold-hearted cut will take money away from people who are unable to work due to a disability. The many people who are being hurt by the Sask Party cut live with serious illnesses such as multiple sclerosis, cancer, autism, and 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'll read the prayer:

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

Mr. Speaker, the individuals signing this petition are from the cities of Regina and Saskatoon. I do so submit.

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

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

Child care is essential to the economy, yet most centres struggle to balance their budget. This threatens both the number of child care spaces as well as the quality of care. Quality child care has an enormous positive impact on a child's future outcomes and yields high rates of economic return. Child care centres are institutions of early learning and childhood development. 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 the changes to appropriate legislation.

Mr. Speaker, those signing the petition today reside 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 to stop the Sask Party sell-off of SaskTel. The petitioners point out that in the last five years alone, SaskTel's returned \$497 million to support government programs and services like education and health care. They point out that SaskTel's an important part of building a stronger and fairer Saskatchewan together. And they point out that once SaskTel is gone, there is no getting it back and no telling what else the Sask Party will sell.

Mr. Speaker, in the prayer that reads as follows:

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

Mr. Speaker, this particular petition is signed by individuals from the good city of Prince Albert. I so submit.

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition calling on the government to reverse the cuts to the Aboriginal court worker program. The Government of Saskatchewan cut the budget for the Aboriginal court worker program in the 2016-2017 provincial budget, resulting in layoffs and termination of Aboriginal court workers throughout the province.

Aboriginal court workers play an important role in helping Aboriginal people in criminal and child apprehension cases. Aboriginal peoples are disproportionately represented in Saskatchewan's correctional centres, and Aboriginal court workers successfully help to make our communities safer through reduced recidivism rates. I'd like to read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Government of Saskatchewan reverse its short-sighted and counterproductive cuts to the Aboriginal court worker programs.

The individuals signing this petition are from Saskatoon and Regina. I do so submit.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

First Nations University Celebrates 40th Anniversary

Ms. Rancourt: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On September 26th I had the pleasure of attending the celebration of the 40th anniversary of the First Nations University of Canada at the Prince Albert Campus. My colleagues, the members from Regina Rosemont and Regina Elphinstone-Centre, attended similar celebrations here in Regina.

This university was created through an agreement between the FSIN [Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations] and the University of Regina. Originally named the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College, it changed its name to First Nations University of Canada in 2003. Its mission is to serve the academic, cultural, and spiritual needs of First Nations students.

When it first opened its doors 40 years ago, it had nine students and offered six programs. Today there are over 3,000 students annually, and more than 30,000 students have attended the university since 2003. First Nations University offers a holistic education and provides the opportunity to students to receive quality academic education along with traditional indigenous knowledge.

As one of three campuses, the Prince Albert Campus is a vital part of our city and of our downtown. Many students from around Prince Albert as well as across northern Saskatchewan attend the Prince Albert Campus.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members join with me in congratulating the First Nations University of Canada on its 40th anniversary and to acknowledge the contributions of the Prince Albert Campus.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Walsh Acres.

Key Ceremony in Regina for Habitat for Humanity

Mr. Steinley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to inform members about a key ceremony for 10 Habitat for Humanity families that took place yesterday here in Regina at Haultain Crossing. Upon completion of this multi-unit housing development, a total of 62 Regina families will call Haultain Crossing home.

[13:45]

Mr. Speaker, we all realize that some families face challenges in finding a safe, quality place to call home. That is where Habitat for Humanity comes in, to bring hope and help to families who want to put those challenges behind them. Our government supports that goal and that is why we have contributed \$650,000 towards these homes at Haultain Crossing. In fact we have dedicated nearly 9 million in funding since 2009 to support 13 Habitat chapters across our province.

Mr. Speaker, myself, the member from Gardiner Park and Regina Coronation Park were able to help at an MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] build day at Haultain Crossing project this spring, and we all came home uninjured, thankfully. And it's amazing to see these deserving families now have a place to call home.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Habitat for working tirelessly with Saskatchewan families to make their home ownership dreams come true. Our government is proud of the leadership, teamwork, and community spirit exemplified by the community partnerships that built these 10 homes.

I'd ask all members of this Assembly to join me in thanking Habitat for Humanity, the community sponsors, and all the

volunteers for their work on the Haultain project, and congratulate the 10 families on getting the keys to their new home. Welcome home.

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

Outstanding Achievements in Energy Management

Ms. Sproule: — In June of 2015 the Saskatchewan Energy Management Task Force, Saskatoon chapter, decided it was time to recognize and honour outstanding achievements of individuals and organizations in energy management. The awards are titled the Rob Dumont Energy Management Awards in honour of the well-known and respected engineer who passed away in 2015.

At their dinner in Saskatoon on October 5th, this year's Lifetime Achievement Award went to Professor Robert Besant, while the Youth Award went to the grade 8 class from St. Anne School.

Robert Besant, a mechanical engineering professor emeritus, has had a long and illustrious career at the University of Saskatchewan where he started as an instructor in 1960. Professor Besant's research has focused on heat and mass transfer and energy conservation in buildings, heat exchangers, HVAC [heating, ventilating, and air conditioning] systems, and porous materials. His research spans the entire spectrum from theoretical to applied research, and he has always demonstrated a high degree of innovation.

The 26 students in the grade 8 class from St. Anne elementary school also took home an award. The 26 students investigated the current usage of energy and water in their household, looked at ways to measure energy and water consumption, and planned and undertook audits. They then prepared and implemented action plans to reduce energy and water consumption in their own homes. As a result, over the period of a year it is projected there will be a 12 per cent reduction in energy use and a 10 per cent reduction in water use.

I ask all members to join me in congratulating Robert Besant and the grade 8 class at St. Anne School on these well-deserved awards.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Provincial Secretary.

2016 Lakeland Citizens of the Year

Hon. Ms. Wilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Saskatchewan is known all across this country for its strong volunteer base. Today I'm delighted to recognize and honour two worthy individuals from my constituency of Saskatchewan Rivers. They are Gladys and Al Christensen, both of whom were recently crowned the Lakeland Citizens of the Year. They share an impressive list of accomplishments and are very active in the community.

Gladys is on the board of the Christopher Lake Library, was the secretary-treasurer for the Anglin Lake Cottage Association. She was also one of the founders of the Boreal Browsers, a book club which helps collect donations for the local library.

Al was the reeve for the RM [rural municipality] of Lakeland from 2006 to his retirement this year. He's volunteered with the local fire department, served as an auditor for a number of years, helped organize a capital campaign to move the Christopher Lake Library into a new building, and buy furnishings and equipment. Currently Al is co-chairing a group to raise funds to renovate the community hall in the village of Christopher Lake.

Mr. Speaker, I had the honour of working with Al in his capacity as reeve, and I wish him all the best in his retirement.

Would all the members please join me in recognizing Mr. and Mrs. Christensen as the 2016 Lakeland Citizens of the Year. Thank you.

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

Lives Transformed Through Youth for Christ Programs

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure to stand in the Assembly today and acknowledge another successful fundraiser going to support Regina Youth for Christ. I attended the Hope Dinner Monday evening. The room was packed with 800 guests.

This year's theme was Overcomers, emphasizing how through the programs Youth for Christ offers is leading to lives being transformed. Some of the programs they offer include: school programs impacting an average of 150 youth per week, housing for vulnerable youth, serving healthy meals, and their Gymblast program, to name a few.

Mr. Speaker, I have attended this dinner several times over the past few years, and one aspect that each year stands out is when the young people share some of their personal testimonies. A young woman was featured this year where she shared that, prior to getting involved with some of Youth for Christ's programs, all she cared about was how her friends thought about her. She shared how as a result of the program she has grown in confidence and in her faith. Mr. Speaker, she has overcome the insecurity in her life that previously led to some poor choices.

It's amazing to think that when I met Youth for Christ executive director James Clifford in 2008 or so, he had a dream. He had a prayer that this organization succeed in this city, and it has.

Mr. Speaker, I would invite all members of this House to join me in congratulating Youth for Christ on another successful banquet fundraiser and thank them for the hard work they do in our communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Question period. Oh, one more there. Sorry. I recognize the member from Moose Jaw North.

Post-Secondary Institutions Welcome Indigenous Students

Mr. Michelson: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to recognize the great strides that are being made to ensure equal opportunities for First Nations and Métis people

here in Saskatchewan. Last week, at the Saskatchewan Polytechnic campus in Moose Jaw, a new mural was revealed that celebrates the institution's indigenization efforts.

The mural, painted by Calgary artist Anna Krop, marks a commitment to the student population that inclusivity will always be valued and that all students are welcome. This is especially important, Mr. Speaker, since enrolment of indigenous students has increased over 30 per cent since 2011-2012 at Saskatchewan Polytechnic.

Speaking of enrolment increases, the University of Regina announced yesterday that it has recorded a record enrolment of 14,849 students for the 2016 fall semester. The U of R [University of Regina] is also proud to report that the number of students who self-declare as indigenous is up 16 per cent from last year. That equates to nearly 13 per cent of the university's total student body self-identifies as Aboriginal, Mr. Speaker.

Our learning institutions are doing their part to ensure that post-secondary education is accessible to all students, no matter who they are.

I ask all members to join me in congratulating Saskatchewan Polytechnic on their indigenization mural, and congratulating both Saskatchewan Polytechnic and the University of Regina for their increases in indigenous students. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Kelvington-Wadena.

Wadena Joins Main Street Saskatchewan

Mr. Nerlien: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier this fall, the town of Wadena was accepted into the affiliate level of the Main Street Saskatchewan program. This program, offered by the Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport, provides communities with training and financial support to help with downtown revitalization initiatives.

Mr. Speaker, community leaders in Wadena are excited to join the Main Street Saskatchewan program in their efforts to improve the downtown and to spur increasing economic development. This program provides training and learning opportunities in areas such as economic restructuring, heritage conservation, and community promotion. Main Street Saskatchewan also distributes more than \$300,000 in matching grants to participating communities each year.

Since its launch in 2011, Mr. Speaker, 21 communities have participated in this program. All together these communities have benefited from 56 business openings, the creation of 158 new jobs, \$6 million worth of investments in building rehabilitation and streetscape improvements, and \$7.6 million in private property investment.

With the help of our government, communities across the province are working to ensure that their historic main streets once again become the heart and soul of Saskatchewan's town and cities. I ask all members to join me in congratulating the community of Wadena on becoming an affiliate member of the Main Street Saskatchewan program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Auditor's Report and Details of Land Transaction

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, let's hope we finally get some answers today with the GTH [Global Transportation Hub] land scandal of the Sask Party. To recap, when the final sale was on the table, the land speculator, who was poised to make millions of dollars and who just happens to support the Sask Party, looked at the deal and rejected a condition in it because he knew that cabinet had already agreed. The auditor notes that right here on page 16 of her report. I quote:

The GTH Minister asked condition be removed after 3rd Party C [that's the seller] questioned condition given 3rd Party C's understanding that Cabinet had previously approved the purchase.

There was a condition on the purchase, and the seller demanded it be removed because he knew that it had already been approved by cabinet. So how did the speculator know about the cabinet decision? To the Premier: who leaked this?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, if the scenario that the Leader of the Opposition has just reported to the House was the fact . . . And he did actually quote, well he did actually quote this time from the auditor's report, the same auditor's report, by the way, that found no wrongdoing or fraud by members of the board, which include the minister. He leaves that out conveniently. But if there were concerns as a result of what he just read, why would the same Provincial Auditor be on province-wide media on the 4th of July of this year saying there were no red flags?

Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition's back on this alleged leaked document line of questioning. There was no leaked document. The document he's referring to would've been minutes from cabinet that highlighted that the government had approved up to \$105,000 an acre for the agent to negotiate. The seller, at a cost of thousands and thousands of dollars when you aggregate the number of acres, the seller made the deal for \$103,000, leaving hundreds of thousands of dollars on the table. Mr. Speaker, the logic is not there with respect to the member's questioning.

And if he wants to quote the auditor's report, will he also acknowledge in the House today, finally, that the auditor said in the press release accompanying the auditor's report, her report, that she found no wrongdoing, no fraud committed on the part of the board of directors of the GTH, which includes the minister?

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — The audit was scathing and it exonerated no one. And certainly it found that that government spent way too much money on this deal, wasting millions of hard-earned taxpayers' dollars on this deal. So sorry, Mr. Premier. We're going to expect some answers to these basic questions.

We're talking about a condition of this sale, like any land purchase. There is no reason, no reason for the seller to have this, but he did. There was a condition on the purchase and the seller demanded that it be removed, and the Sask Party acquiesced. To the Premier: how did the speculator know about this cabinet decision? Who leaked this information?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — He didn't know about the cabinet minute. The document was not leaked. That is not what is in the auditor's report. The auditor touches on the . . . I mean it's funny because the Leader of the Opposition is out of questions. He's asked this same question now though two different question periods. It's exactly the same question. The answer has been provided directly to that member of the House that there was no leak. The auditor indicates that there was no leak.

And as to his preamble about who or if anyone was exonerated, again will he acknowledge what the auditor included in the press release that accompanied her report when she said this, and I quote, 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." And that included the Minister Responsible for the GTH. He's shaking his head. So he doesn't agree with the auditor. He doesn't believe the auditor.

Will the member stand in his place and inform members of the House whether he . . . I mean we accept the fact that there was criticisms the auditor made of government process and have acted on them. Will he rise in his place and acknowledge what the auditor has said with respect to a lack of evidence on conflict of interest or fraud or wrongdoing? Because that's the basis for his line of questioning. Will he stand in his place and say, we support the Provincial Auditor?

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — It's really unbelievable that we see a Premier day in, day out not be able to answer very basic but serious questions for the people of Saskatchewan, actually brushing off how serious this deal is and the questions that exist and the tens of millions of dollars that have been wasted of Saskatchewan people's money. So we'll . . . Mind us, Mr. Premier, we're going to keep pressing for some answers.

[14:00]

Back to that information that the seller never should have had. And it's been clear both through investigation and the auditor's report that the seller was aware that cabinet had approved the purchase of this land. That seller clearly should have never had that information. It's clearly confidential cabinet information. To the Premier: who leaked this?

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

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This question has been answered over and over again. There was no leak. The Provincial Auditor concluded that there was no leak. Logic would dictate that there was no leak. The buyer paid less than

cabinet had approved. Logic would dictate that he would not have done that had he known what cabinet had approved. The auditor concluded that there was no wrongdoing, that there was no fraud, and there was no conflict of interest. We've acknowledged what's in the auditor's report, that we could do things better. We're working on implementing those recommendations. What I would challenge the Leader of the Opposition to do is state clearly whether he accepts the conclusions that the auditor made in her report. Yes or no?

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — The question was to the Premier. No answer. The minister is talking about logic. Logic would dictate that the Sask Party shouldn't have wasted millions of taxpayers' dollars, paying three times as much for land. And logic and actually basic decency would dictate that there'd be some answers provided here in this Assembly.

The speculator dictated and demanded that condition be removed, and the minister in charge accepted this and the condition was removed. Question to the Premier: why was that condition removed?

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

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Well we've canvassed, we've canvassed and addressed the question. There was no leak. And I think that reasonable folks who are listening on television conclude, come to that same conclusion, that there was no leak just based on simple logic on what was paid for the property.

In terms of the question I just asked the Leader of the Opposition though, the Provincial Auditor made some very clear conclusions based on having done some very, very extensive work, extensive research, interviews, having canvassed all of the documents that cabinet . . . having canvassed all of the documents that she wished to canvass, provided by the cabinet.

The Leader of the Opposition is getting dangerously close to expressing a lack of confidence in the conclusion that the auditor came to. I'll give him an opportunity right now. Does the Leader of the Opposition have confidence in the Provincial Auditor? Yes or no?

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — This is utterly ridiculous. You bet we have trust in the auditor of Saskatchewan, who put forward a scathing report that exonerated no one, and with many, many aspects that demand questions being asked and answers that aren't being provided here today. So clearly this information compromised taxpayers. The question is simple: who provided this information to the seller?

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

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — As we've talked about before in the Chamber here, Mr. Speaker, the auditor had full authority to examine all aspects of the transaction, which she did. Her

conclusion was that there was no wrongdoing, that there was no fraud, and there was no conflict of interest.

The Leader of the Opposition seems to be getting dangerously close to the position of questioning whether he has confidence in the Provincial Auditor or not. There are serious parliamentary repercussions. There are significant . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . The members opposite can talk away all they want, Mr. Speaker, but there are serious parliamentary repercussions if the Leader of the Opposition is questioning the . . . is expressing a lack of confidence in an officer of the Assembly.

I'm going to give him the opportunity to state, yes or no, whether he has confidence in the Provincial Auditor. Yes or no?

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Our lack of confidence is in that Premier and that Sask Party cabinet who wasted millions of dollars and who won't answer a single question. And the fact that the Premier again won't get to the floor and answer questions, and actually dismisses this entire deal that wasted millions of dollars and this confidential leak, says an awful lot about his government. Actually in fact, I ask him, what does this say, that you've got to this point about your government, that you'll brush off a deal like this that wasted millions and a confidential cabinet leak?

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

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Well there was no leak and we've gone over that, and I would say, Mr. Speaker, this government isn't dismissing anything. This government takes the auditor's recommendations in her report very, very seriously. She made 10 recommendations in that report. We've accepted those recommendations. We're working very hard on implementing those recommendations.

The only question in the Assembly right now is whether the Leader of the Opposition and the official opposition have confidence in the Provincial Auditor. All I've heard from the Leader of the Opposition is questioning the conclusions of the report that the Provincial Auditor made, which said that there was no wrongdoing, that there was no fraud, and that there was no conflict of interest. Once again, does the Leader of the Opposition have confidence in the Provincial Auditor? Yes or no?

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

Husky Oil Report

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, everyone in this Assembly would agree that the pipelines are the safest way to move oil. But when spills do happen, Saskatchewan people should be able to expect their government to enforce the rules and hold polluters to account. Unfortunately, that's just too much to ask of the Sask Party. They let pipeline companies inspect and police themselves.

After the devastating spill in the North Saskatchewan River, the government stood back and did and said nothing. To their credit, Husky stepped up. Of course, the oil has already spilled, so it was more than a little late, but still better than this government can muster. And the Sask Party is still taking its cues from industry. Husky did not get its incident report done in time, so the Sask Party just let the company have an extension. Mr. Speaker, don't they understand that the people of Saskatchewan deserve better than this?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Energy and Resources.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure where to start in my response to all the false information that was provided by the member from Nutana.

First of all, the assertion that pipelines are somehow self-regulated in this province and that the government doesn't provide any regulatory oversight is patently false. The Ministry of the Economy licenses and regulates transmission lines. We ensure the design, construction, testing, operations, maintenance, and repairs comply with CSA [Canadian Standards Association] specifications. This is the same standard that is followed all across the country. And we require and enforce regulatory standards on all pipelines.

Mr. Speaker, with respect to the information that is still yet forthcoming from Husky as a part of the investigation, the member is correct. The government has provided for a 30-day extension as per the regulations that were passed by the NDP [New Democratic Party] cabinet in 2000. Under *The Pipelines Regulations* of 2000, they did provide for the ability to provide for an extension in the event that, for instance, metallurgical testing has not yet been completed by third parties. That is in fact the case in this case, and that was provided . . . This information will all be made public once the investigation is complete.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, the choices that this government makes about priorities and cracking down on the rules says a lot about their values. If you're a school board looking for your autonomy to be respected, sorry, on your own. Indigenous community with your water under threat? Sorry, on your own. You don't meet the government's narrow definition of homeless and want to stay at the Lighthouse? Sorry, on your own. But you're a big pipeline company that doesn't get its homework done after polluting one of our province's most important waterways? Sure, we've got your back.

The Pipelines Act allows for the government to issue a fine of up to \$50,000 for failing to follow the rules, but this government just doesn't care. Mr. Speaker, they have an obligation to uphold the law and protect Saskatchewan's interests. So why have the Sask Party not enforced the law? And when will they stop treating Husky with kid gloves and say, report in and pay up?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Energy and Resources.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, because the investigation is not complete. That is why, Mr. Speaker, that is why. Mr. Speaker, as per the regulation 21(2) according to *The Pipelines Regulations* of 2000 — which would mean was passed in the year 2000 by the NDP cabinet at the time:

If a metallurgical report or other laboratory studies are required to determine the cause of a break, leak or malfunction of equipment, an additional period not exceeding six months may be granted . . . for the submission of a final written report . . .

Mr. Speaker, nobody is denying that this was not a significant leak in Saskatchewan. It is a significant leak. That is why we're taking it very seriously, Mr. Speaker. That is why we want to ensure that the report, the investigation is fulsome, that it is thorough, and that we get to the bottom of all the answers that we all have — the public and the government have — with respect to how this happened. And that's why we are doing our due diligence. Mr. Speaker, that information needs to be complete before the investigation can wrap up, and that work will be done.

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

Role of Government in Education

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Sask Party has been blaming school boards for the cuts that this government is forcing onto teachers and students. Instead of taking responsibility for their mismanagement and underfunding, they're looking to shift the blame.

The member from Lloydminster stood in this place and irresponsibly and inaccurately blamed school boards. This minister walked away from his signature, and here he attacks the facts and points fingers at school boards. Mr. Speaker, like me, they both served as school board trustees. They were both even board Chairs. And now they're making local autonomy a punchline.

Mr. Speaker, when the minister announced his plans for transformational change, he wouldn't rule out scrapping elected trustees and replacing them with Sask Party government appointees. Will he today, Mr. Speaker, rule out eliminating this important part of our democracy?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, yesterday in the House I gave the member the opportunity to stand in her place and correct the misinformation that she gave to the *Leader-Post* the day before regarding operating funding. To this point in time, that hasn't happened yet. She has had overnight, so I'd like to give her that opportunity as well.

Mr. Speaker, the member now moves on, wanting to talk about transformational change. Mr. Speaker, we want to do everything we can to keep education affordable and give them the best education we can for our students. Mr. Speaker, we are entering into consultations with the divisions with no preconceived ideas. We will consult with the sector.

Mr. Speaker, the NDP took a different position. The member opposite said . . . [inaudible] . . . the NDP continue to support amalgamation without waiting for consultations. In 2004 the NDP forced amalgamations by dictating that a panel recommend new divisions with no more than 40.

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

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, still no responsibility but has raised some more questions. My questions are in defence of the autonomy and democratic nature of our school boards. His comments undermined and insult both.

Today across this province people will be voting for their municipal representatives, including hundreds of school board candidates. Mr. Speaker, these leaders in our community have put their names on the ballot and have done so because they care about our communities. They care about education, and they want to strengthen our schools and classrooms.

Will the minister guarantee that everyone taking part in this crucial part of our democracy, that his government will not replace the democratically elected school trustees with government-appointed ones? Will the minister provide that assurance today?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I indicated earlier that we would enter into the consultations with no preconceived ideas. We will consult with the sector. We'll consult with the divisions. We'll consult with STF [Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation]. We'll consult with SSBA [Saskatchewan School Boards Association].

Now, Mr. Speaker, with regard to amalgamation, the member opposite has already taken a position. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to quote from the *Saskatoon StarPhoenix*, August 25, 2016 where she stated, "she's not surprised the government is looking at amalgamation and she's fine with the idea where it makes sense." Well, Mr. Speaker, I'm not as far down the road as she is. I want to hear what the different sector parties have to say first. I'm not going to go the road that she does where she definitely goes ahead and says, I'm going to do this; I'm going to do that.

We're going to sit down and do a thorough comprehensive job of consultation. We're going to listen to the SSBA. We're going to listen to the sectors and, Mr. Speaker, we're not going to take advice from the members opposite.

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

Funding for Medical Specialists

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, like in education, in health care, the Sask Party is cutting the cash and shifting the blame. Some health regions have been forced to cut front-line workers and reduce patient services. And, Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party's cuts mean that specialists are being cut too. In fact, the only publicly funded audiologist in Prince Albert was recently cut.

Mr. Speaker, specialists like these were already in high demand across this entire province and Prince Albert was no exception. There was a time that this government promised Saskatchewan people that they would not have to wait to see a specialist. Well, Mr. Speaker, cutting these positions will only make the wait times worse, not better. So how can the minister justify laying off specialists when wait times in the province are already so high?

[14:15]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the premise of that question is just simply all wrong. Mr. Speaker, we have made health care a priority in this province since we were given the privilege of forming government in 2007. We've increased health spending by over 50 per cent, Mr. Speaker. We've reduced wait times. We've increased spending in long-term care.

Mr. Speaker, we trust that our health regions will make the best use of very precious funds, Mr. Speaker. That's important. We trust that they'll make appropriate decisions. There have been some decisions made by health regions trying to come in under budget, Mr. Speaker. We've been assured that those won't affect patient care. Patient care is sort of, is front and foremost for this government.

Mr. Speaker, again, the whole premise of that question is just simply wrong. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Specialists and staff are losing their jobs, Mr. Speaker, and no surprise we've seen a drastic jump in the wait times for surgeries. Yes, Mr. Speaker, the other side will be the first to tell us that they did make progress on surgical wait times. But after all of their scandal and all of their mismanagement, we see that progress has stopped and they are losing their once-lauded gains. The ex-Health minister said, and I quote, "All of this would be for naught if we weren't able to sustain our commitment of three months." Well it's looking like it will all have been for naught now.

In less than a year and a half, the number of patients waiting longer than three months grew by close to 5,000 people. Mr. Speaker, that's an increase of nearly 300 per cent. When will this government stop bragging about what they had done and acknowledge the damage they are causing and the consequence it's having on real families?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Mr. Speaker, the member opposite talks about the wait-list for surgeries, and yet under the former government, under the NDP, we had the longest wait-lists in the country. Mr. Speaker, we went from there to among the shortest wait times in the country. Are those wait times still too long? They are, Mr. Speaker. We're continuing to work towards that. We've been innovative. We've done surgeries in private clinics, surgeries that those members are opposed to.

Mr. Speaker, again I mention what I said in the first question, that we've made health care funding a priority, over 50 per cent increase. Included in that increase in health care funding is over 3,000 more nurses and over 650 more doctors. Many of those doctors, Mr. Speaker, are specialists, the very specialists that the member opposite is referring to.

Mr. Speaker, do we have more work to do? Absolutely we do. Is health care going to continue to be a priority for this government? Absolutely it will. We consider the tax dollars to be very precious. We're going to allocate them judiciously, Mr. Speaker, and health care will again continue to be a priority. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, the past is in the past, but the consequences of this government's cuts are in the present. Cuts to specialists and the growing wait time for surgeries impact real people, people like little Emily Summers. Emily is three years old. She's from Spiritwood. And her mother, Jennifer, has been fighting to have her properly cared for, for over two years.

Mr. Speaker, since April, Emily has been regularly bleeding from her ear at night. Often she wakes up in agony. The family's been trying to get help through several government agencies and the Saskatoon Health Region. And her MLA has been no help. This morning after their story appeared on CTV [Canadian Television Network Ltd.] news, the minister pointed her toward a website — a website, Mr. Speaker. You can't make this stuff up.

Will the minister finally acknowledge the consequences of their cuts in health care? And can Jennifer and Emily expect to get more help from this government and their MLA?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Mr. Speaker, I'm aware of this issue and, Mr. Speaker, I'm very concerned. I can't imagine how difficult this is for Jennifer and her little girl Emily. Mr. Speaker, the member from Rosthern-Shellbrook has been contacted by Jennifer, he's spoken to her. As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, both he and I spoke to Jennifer this morning. Mr. Speaker, I understand from Jennifer that she signed the consent form for the members opposite so that we're free to discuss this.

Mr. Speaker, what my office tried to do is to, first of all, to help Jennifer be in contact with the appropriate people in the Saskatoon Health Region, the surgical care coordinator who deals with these sorts of issues. Mr. Speaker, the website that the member referred to opposite, what my staff member was doing was showing that we've introduced as part of the Saskatchewan surgical initiative, we've introduced pool referrals so that people are aware of where the wait-lists are for which specialists and potentially can get to the specialist that has the shortest wait-list, Mr. Speaker.

Just matters, trying to be innovative to help people get through the surgical wait lines as quickly as possible. Mr. Speaker, we're providing information to Jennifer on that. We'll be following up with her.

Mr. Speaker, to that, I've already indicated on how many more resources we've put into health care, and I certainly hope the member opposite isn't suggesting in any way that politicians should be deciding on who's in the wait-list, Mr. Speaker. Those decisions need to be made by medical experts, by the specialists. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. McCall: — Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Earlier in question period the Minister of Energy and Resources talked about how the member from Nutana had used . . . how he needed to correct “false information provided by the member from Nutana.” Mr. Speaker, that's against rule 51(f) of this House and the minister ought to know better. I call on the Speaker to ask that member to withdraw the comment and to apologize.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to read into the record what rule 51(f) actually says. It's: “make a personal charge or accusation against a Member except by way of a substantive motion [or] with notice.” I don't think that the minister was doing that, Mr. Speaker. But I would encourage you to review the context of it, review the tapes, and report back to the House, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I was listening closely to the debate, but I will refer judgment on this until a later date after I review *Hansard*.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 40 — *The Interpretation Amendment Act, 2016* *Loi modificative de 2016 sur l'interprétation*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Attorney General.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill 40, *The Interpretation Amendment Act, 2016* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Attorney General that Bill No. 40, *The Interpretation Amendment Act, 2016* be now introduced and read the 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 this bill be read a second time?

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Next sitting of the House, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

Bill No. 41 — *The Coroners Amendment Act, 2016*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Attorney General.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill 41, *The Coroners Amendment Act, 2016* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Attorney General that Bill No. 41, *The Coroners Amendment Act, 2016* be now introduced and read the 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 this bill be read a second time?

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Next sitting, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 2

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

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

Ms. Rancourt: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am honoured today to stand up and talk about this Bill No. 2, the miscellaneous statutes, the Crown corporations' fiscal year-end standardization. This was presented last when we were in session in the spring, and by the previous Government Whip at that time, who I believe is now the House Leader.

So it's an honour to be able to sit here and talk about some of the proposed amendments with regards to this bill. And when I look at it and read through this, it looks like they're wanting to make amendments to a lot of the different Acts with regards to the Crown corporations. All Crown corporations have their own separate legislation, and obviously because they deal with different issues or items. And so one of the things that they've noticed, that is something that's not very consistent, is the fact that the fiscal year-ends aren't consistent with regards to the different Crown corporation Acts.

So it looks like some of the Acts that they're going to propose amendment to would be *The Crown Corporations Act, 1993*, *The Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation Act*, *The Saskatchewan Government Insurance Act, 1980*, *The Saskatchewan Opportunities Corporation Act*, and *The Saskatchewan Telecommunications Holding Corporation Act*, and *The Saskatchewan Water Corporation Act*.

And, Mr. Speaker, when we start talking about our Crown corporations, my ears perk up because the Crown corporations is really important to our province. And they're Saskatchewan owned, and so it's really important that we ensure that things are running smoothly in the Crown corporations. I'm a former SaskTel and SaskPower employee, so I'm really proud to say that I was a previous Crown employee.

So I think it's also important that when we're going to make some of these serious changes to these Acts, and I think when we're changing fiscal year-end dates and such, that has a big impact on the way they're going to be managing their budgets. So I hope there's going to be a lot of consulting with stakeholders here and discussing with accounting officials who know a lot more about that than I might. I don't have an accounting background. So I would hope that they look into what kind of issues that might come into effect when they're planning their budgets.

I know when the previous government whip brought this to our attention, he said, like this would be particularly helpful for government when they're looking at the earnings that we might be expecting from our Crowns and how that might impact our provincial budget. And I think that's a very important point.

But when we're looking at this, we also want to see what impact does it have on our Crowns. And that's also very important because, even though it might be good for us, it might not be good for them. But again, like I'm not quite familiar with that, so I hope there's a lot of discussion with those stakeholders and discussion in committees with regards to how this is going to look like. Because I could see, you know, even communicating within agencies, when you're talking budget-wise, like that might be helpful to be on the same pattern and on the same system. And again, when we are planning our provincial budgets as well, we need to have all the information.

And I'm glad that even like when this was presented and they talked about our earnings from our Crowns, it was recognized how important our Crowns are and the earnings are to our provincial budget. And so I hope that continues to be a priority with this government.

Again, like I said, they're going to need to have some discussion with the different Crown corporations and other possible stakeholders and people who manage their budgets and their finances and see how this will, particular changes to the bills and amendments will have an impact on them, and take that into account when making a final decision.

So I'm sure my colleagues will have a lot more information that they'll want to add to this and provide a little bit more insight than what I might have said today, and have some more time to review this. So because we want to take more time to review

this very important bill which is going to have a major impact on our Crowns, I am going to move to adjourn this debate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[14:30]

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The 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 Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As ever, good to join debate, take my place and speak to in this case, Bill No. 4, *The Queen's Bench Amendment Act, 2016*.

Certainly, Mr. Speaker, there's . . . Laws dealing with the justice system are always particularly interesting, and this one is no exception. This bill will make it easier to enforce decisions by the dispute resolution panels under free trade agreements. It will allow the minister to keep a list of lawyers who can be appointed as court-appointed lawyers, regulating their compensation, and it updates the process for people applying to get a court-appointed lawyer.

And, Mr. Speaker, I guess that we'd need these particular amendments is reflective of the changing domestic trade arrangements that we have here in Canada and, you know, trying to keep up to date with those. But in terms of what trade agreements would be applied, that will be set out in the regulations. So we await that information, Mr. Speaker.

And then in terms of the process and substantive requirements for the court's appointment of a lawyer, those are set out in the new part III.1 of *The Constitutional Questions Act, 2012*. Again, Mr. Speaker, fairly straightforward if a bit opaque, as a layperson I tend to find some of these matters, and why I rely on learned colleagues such as the member from Regina Douglas Park to keep me on the straight and narrow as regards to these kind of questions.

But certainly there is some consultation that we've undertaken to see how this applies in the case of things like the New West Partnership, the AIT [Agreement on Internal Trade], and various other agreements. But we'll see, Mr. Speaker. There is some of that consultation still to be concluded, and I'm certain that that consultation will benefit further interventions on the part of other of my colleagues on this particular piece of legislation. But as it stands right now, Mr. Speaker, that's about it in terms of my observations for *The Queen's Bench*

Amendment Act, 2016. And with that I would move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 4, *The Queen's Bench Amendment Act, 2016.*

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The 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 Nutana.

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and I am pleased to rise in the House today to enter into the debate on Bill No. 5, *An Act to amend The Electronic Information and Documents Act, 2000.*

As indicated, the original bill was passed in 2000. And this was right around the time that the land title system in Saskatchewan was undergoing a massive transformation from a paper-based system to an electronic title-based system. And at that time I was heavily involved in real estate transactions for the Government of Canada and the department of, at the time, Indian Affairs and Northern Development, and we were working very closely with the provincial government and First Nations to implement the treaty land entitlement framework agreement.

At that time there were . . . This transition from a paper-based title system to an electronic-based system was considerable. It was a gargantuan effort on the part of the officials that were working on it at the time. And certainly considerable monies were expended to make this system work, and I think it was an excellent system. And as I was working with the officials on the transformation from the paper title to the electronic-based system, we worked through a number of issues through that affected, in my case in particular, Crown land transactions — a lot of mineral titles were affected, a lot of surface titles, a lot of Crown land — where the previous registry didn't deal with those lands because they were abstract, and then they became titled through the new system as abstracts. So it was the way the new system was set up, and quite frankly we were behind three years in some of our registrations because of some of the bumps that we encountered along the way.

One of the big issues that really affected people using the new electronic system was the problem they had filing mortgages that were paper mortgages. And in those days, many of the mortgages were hundreds of pages long. There was a standard-form mortgage that many banks used that were many, many, many pages long, and the actual tombstone information that was relevant to that particular mortgage for that piece of land was very short.

So I was part of a client team that Information Services Corporation engaged to make recommendations on improving the system. This was about in 2003, so the system was now up and running, but there was a continuous effort to improve the system and make it work better. And one of the things that our team heard loud and clear from some of the clients who were working with banks and mortgage institutions is that there had to be a way to file these documents in a timely fashion, and without using the paper system. It was proving to be difficult. So one of the things ISC [Information Services Corporation of Saskatchewan] did at the time was they arranged for an ability to convert those many-page mortgages into a PDF [portable document format] file which then could be submitted electronically into the system. And that was something I thought ISC was very responsive to.

I guess I could move forward now to 2016, and what has happened since then is that real estate and credit union communities, banking communities, have asked that the Act be amended, this particular Act be amended, which predated the improvements made in the Information Services Corporation system back 10 or 12 years ago. So they're just asking that this Act be amended because the exemption for these types of documents was created prior to the ability of the electronic registry to process them in a proper way.

So I think in many ways this is just a bit of catch-up so that these types of mortgage agreements in the electronic registry process, they've been dealt with through the ISC process. So the protections that were afforded in the 2000 bill regarding electronic information and documents, these were exemptions for certain documents not to be exempted. And one of the very important ones, of course, is wills, trusts created by wills, powers of attorney and health care directives. So those are still exempted and they must be, they are exempted from the Act itself.

So the only thing it's doing here is removing that requirement for documents that create or transfer interests in land and that require registration to be effective against third parties. And in most cases this would be a mortgage or a third party interest filed against a property. So basically I think it's just catching up with what the ISC is already providing in terms of protection for those interests.

I do miss some of the things that were available in the previous land titles system, on the paper system, because you could actually search those documents. They were required to be filed. And now it's a little bit tougher to actually go back and see how these third party interests were registered or actually have a look at them. It's much more difficult now because all you have to do is inform the title holder that you have an interest. You don't actually have to file it. But that's a completely different issue than the one that's being looked at in this bill.

There's some other minor changes here in relation to the definition of, using the word "ministry" instead of "department." So those are housekeeping changes. But I think, as far as it goes, Mr. Speaker, the change here is fairly insignificant inasmuch as it's been already dealt with through the Information Services Corporation provisions. And so this is just I think a bit of catching up as requested by the realtors and

the credit unions and the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce.

So in that sense I don't think there's much more to be said, and I would move that we now adjourn debate on Bill No. 5, *The Electronic Information and Documents Amendment Act, 2016*.

The Speaker: — The member from Saskatoon Nutana has adjourned debate on Bill No. 5, *The Electronic Information and Documents Amendment Act, 2016*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 6

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

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. Good tone there. Good to be recognized. Bill No. 6, *An Act to amend the Statute Law*, it's got certain vitality to it. I like it. I like it. I'm not just joking around here. Well maybe a little. But *An Act to amend the Statute Law*, well, Mr. Speaker, it, in a word, tends to get a little miscellaneous. And again the updating of nomenclature is, you know, a never-ending pursuit on the part of those hard-working legal drafting folks out there in the Ministry of Justice and then scattered through the various of the departments, to use the current nomenclature. I caught myself from using the word "ministry," that being an earlier public policy initiative on the part of this government.

But Bill No. 6 and its cousin Bill No. 7, which I'll certainly get to, Mr. Speaker, are largely about housekeeping and updating the nomenclature. So for an example, various of the clauses consist of striking out "department" and substituting "ministry." Rolling through other subsections of the legislation and touching upon the ... *The Agricultural Leaseholds Act* is amended by striking out "provincial magistrate" and substituting "judge."

You know, you get the picture, Mr. Speaker. We've had a look at this and it seems to be housekeeping top to bottom. Some of it's kind of interesting, you know, substitutional being gone over for substituted, or "*ex parte* application, make an order for substitutional" struck out and provided a substitution, "application without notice, make an order for substituted." You get the picture, Mr. Speaker.

So we'll be pondering this one for some time to come, Mr. Speaker, I'm sure. It could be an early candidate for heading off to committee to provide the kind of, you know, in-depth scrutiny that the committee affords. But for the time being, Mr. Speaker, I'd move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 6, *An Act to amend the Statute Law*.

The Speaker: — The Opposition House Leader has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 6, *The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2016*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 7

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

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Thanks as ever, Mr. Speaker. Again, good to join debate on Bill No. 7, *An Act to amend the Statute Law (No. 2)*. You know, sometimes there's just not enough room in a given law, and you've got to come along with the sequel or the cousin or however you want to state it. But again, this one, you know, has a lot of the same sort of characteristics of the previous one, though in a much shorter format and also bilingual, Mr. Speaker.

But you know, the sections dealing with *The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Act* and, you know, realigning what should be struck out and what should be substituted, trading "substitutional" with "substituted," and then doing it all again in French, Mr. Speaker, that is the business of Bill No. 7. And as such, Mr. Speaker, this one would require a bit more consideration. We don't want to disappoint the member from Cannington. We want to keep him coming back.

[14:45]

I can't say precisely when, but I know it's going to be soon, this bill is going to head off to committee and get the thoroughgoing treatment that it deserves there, Mr. Speaker. So for the meantime, we're going to keep our powder a little while longer and move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 7, *An Act to amend the Statute Law (No. 2)*. Thank you.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 8

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

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

Ms. Rancourt: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm honoured today to be able to stand here and talk about Bill No. 8, *The Summary Offences Procedure Amendment Act*. And this was presented by the Minister of Justice. There's been a lot of bills

that have been reviewed in that department, which . . . I would think that they probably have a lot of Acts to review there as well.

So, Mr. Speaker, when I was reviewing this bill, it looks like . . . And I'll quote what the Minister of Justice said here: "This Act deals with the procedures for charging people with provincial offences and offences against municipal bylaws."

So that's really important that we look at different ways to deal with the procedures. And I found it really interesting when they talked about the municipal bylaws and the provincial offences and how they may be correlated. And I'm not quite sure exactly in what ways that might be and which exact municipal bylaws that they might be talking about. I know in different municipalities there's a variety of different bylaws.

So I'm not quite sure exactly what this particular Act would be talking about with regards to amendment, but I'm sure there's people that can be talked to with regards to stakeholders. And our critic here for Justice is very well educated in all of these different Acts and so I'm sure that she will be able to provide more insight with regards to that when it comes up to committee. And she'll definitely make her connections with stakeholders to discuss what might need to be done and dealt with.

And also when the Minister of Justice presented this, he talked about enforcement of fines, you know. And so apparently, since there's been those automated speed enforcement photo lasers that are placed in different areas like in Regina, Saskatoon, and Moose Jaw, that increased the number of speeding violation fines that the courts now have to deal with. And so of course they had to look at ways that they can manage that.

And I know the court system in general is really busy and there's incredible wait times to deal with very serious cases. So in different areas, if you can manage some traffic violations that might not be on the spectrum of, as serious as some other violations, I think that's really important that they look into being able to manage those so they're not eating up the court time, and the precious time of the judges and the lawyers can be used to deal with the very serious issues that are happening and need to be addressed.

So it's again like one of the questions I had was it said that the automated speed enforcement photo laser project was a two-year pilot. And I'm kind of thinking if they're wanting to make some changes to the Act, is this going to look like something that might be more in a permanent form?

So I haven't heard much information on if this is the direction that we're planning on going. I haven't heard also . . . Like I know there was some little glitches that were happening with regards to that, and I don't know if they've been worked through yet or not. But when we rely on technology, sometimes there might be those glitches.

And I know our police officers can't be everywhere, and they can't address all the issues, you know. And so having some of these types of projects are a good idea, especially if they're working well.

Also you want to make sure that this isn't reducing people's positions, this isn't going to cause job losses. And I can't imagine that because I know our police forces are busy dealing with, like I said before, with our court system with very serious issues in our communities.

And not to say speeding isn't a serious . . . Speeding can definitely become a serious situation and serious issue. So if people know that there's big brother looking after you, like there might be a camera that'll catch you, that might prevent them from driving those extreme speeds, you know.

And so this definitely is something that's being placed because they want to reduce the court volumes and improve court efficiency, so that's very important. And I'm glad that we're looking at different ways to change the system because, you know, sometimes if we could just change one aspect, it'll improve the system for all areas.

And it sounds like if you were wanting to go on a payment plan to deal with your fines with your speeding ticket because, you know, sometimes you just don't have that cash on hand to be able to pay that, so I guess you needed to contact the courts and make an appointment to go in front of a judge and ask them if you could make these payment plans. Well I know like, for a lot of people (1) that's very intimidating to go to court, stand in front of a judge, and ask for a payment plan; (2) a lot of people, they need to take time off work in order to go and do this and so they can't afford to do that, take that time off, or get child care or whatever they need to do to attend.

And it sounds like if you were wanting to go on a payment plan to deal with your fines with your speeding ticket because, you know, sometimes you just don't have that cash on hand to be able to pay that, so I guess you needed to contact the courts and make an appointment to go in front of a judge and ask them if you could make these payment plans. Well I know, like, for a lot of people (1) that's very intimidating to go to court, stand in front of a judge, and ask for a payment plan; (2) a lot of people, they need to take time off work in order to go and do this and so they can't afford to do that, take that time off, or get child care or whatever they need to do to attend. And so it's really important that we provide different options.

And if it's just a matter of phoning the courthouse and saying, look I've got this ticket. I know I'm guilty but I can't afford the full amount right now; can we work out a payment plan? And having administration work through that with you, I think that's a great idea. I think the more that we can simplify issues for people who are willing to admit, yes, I did something wrong, I'm willing to pay for this, then that's really important that we allow them to have that process.

One of the other things I hope is addressed in committees and maybe discussed with stakeholders is, do we have that immense support to be able to provide that? If in fact we are getting these increases of tickets and fines and we're going to go this direction, do we have administration that's able to pick up that workload? Because when the courts are busy, we know administration's also busy because they're the ones that are filing everything and working through all these processes and making sure that the judges and everybody has the proper information that they need. So we also have to look at, is this

going to be something that the courts are going to be able to handle, manage? And is it going to need to have more staffing involved? And I'm sure these are all going to be questions that'll be discussed in committee and in the way that can be done.

There was also some . . . like about having a possibility that they're wanting to make some changes so that you can easily change some of the format. So possibly if a person wants to make an early payment, maybe they could have a reduced fine, you know, and that could encourage people to pay right up front, you know. And I know like sometimes when I get a bill, and I see oh, it's not due for two weeks, I throw it on the end table. And then sometimes I forget about it and all of a sudden it's late. But if I got a bill when it says: if you pay by this day, you're paying this much; if you pay by this day, you're paying that much; you can believe me I'm going to pay the first date because I don't want to pay more. And so that might be a good option as well is having people who admit that they've done something wrong, and they're able to own up to it and provide the financial payments that they need to do.

There's also some changes to this Act that it'll be easier to transfer information for people that live a distance away. And so if you're living in a rural community and such and you need to have your court date there and the court papers didn't get to the people that needed them, like that they could be transferred easier. So it's good to have a lot of these different options. I'm glad that the Minister of Justice has obviously been doing a lot of work with his portfolio and providing a lot of these different amendments to Acts. It's really good that we're looking at different options so we can make some of these important changes, and like I said, I am sure my colleague, the critic of Justice, will be able to handle this with great ease when it comes to committee and that my other colleagues will have a lot more to add to discussion of this bill. So with that I'm going to move to adjourn this debate. Thank you.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 9

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

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

Ms. Sproule: — And I thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I am pleased to rise and enter into the debate on this bill, coming from the Ministry of Justice once again. They've been busy there cleaning up a few things. And what's happened here is the Uniform Law Conference of Canada has requested

that we get a little more clarity and certainty in our . . . This is a bill that ensures reciprocal enforcement of Canadian judgments so if you get a judgment in one province you are able to take it to another province.

According to the Uniform Law Conference, although the Supreme Court has ruled that tax judgments are part of a Canadian judgment, the Uniform Law Conference has recommended that provinces take the extra step and make it absolutely clear that tax judgments are in fact included in the definition of judgment. So that's what this bill does. It basically adds a definition of tax judgment into the definition of Canadian judgment, and that's by adding a new clause in section 2 under the definition of Canadian judgment and then a separate definition specifically addressing what a Canadian tax judgment would be.

The other important feature of this Act is that it makes it retroactive, Mr. Deputy Speaker, so that it's very clear that all tax judgments in effect in Canada today that are already issued or that are to come will be included under this bill which requires the enforcement.

The minister made a note in his comments that he was glad that Saskatchewan was taking a lead on this. And I'm just wondering, you know, if he's happy that Saskatchewan is taking a lead there, I would encourage him to think about Saskatchewan also following suit from other provinces when they talk about donations to political campaigns, Mr. Speaker. And as you may know, in our convention last weekend we actually passed a resolution saying that democracy requires that there be equal access for all parties in terms of campaign donations. And currently there's a lot of inequity in that realm so maybe the Minister of Justice might want to take that into account as well and see that other jurisdictions are indeed doing that already. And it would take courage for this government to do that, but I certainly encourage them to consider that as well.

So in terms of the other substantive portions of this bill, I think that pretty much sums it. It's just to make sure that, absolutely clear . . . And I guess another case where this government did do that was in the terms of the definition of gender in the Saskatchewan human rights Act. And again this minister took a proactive stance, upon the recommendation of our human rights critic, my colleague from Saskatoon Centre, and he actually made a proactive move to make sure that the definition is absolutely clear by adding transsexual individuals into that definition. And so this is another example of just making it absolutely clear. And I think that upon the recommendation of the Uniform Law Conference, there's an important thing to do.

[15:00]

So at this point I would say I have nothing further to add to the debate, and I would move that we adjourn the debate on Bill No. 9, *The Enforcement of Canadian Judgments Amendment Act, 2016/Loi modificative de 2016 sur l'exécution des jugements canadiens*. Merci. [Translation: Thank you.]

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 10

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

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It is a pleasure to rise today and enter into the debate on Bill No. 10, *An Act to amend The Forest Resources Management Act*. And I have to say, it's with great interest when I was preparing for this and I was looking at the minister's comments, and how thorough, how thorough he was. You know, it's been a long time since I've seen the minister's remarks longer than the bill itself. The bill is actually only a couple of pages long but maybe 2 or 300 words. And I think he took maybe a couple of thousand to explain it which is helpful in many ways. And I know this is a very technical bill, and he certainly set out the parameters for that discussion. And when we get into committee clearly he's expecting a lot of questions and he wanted to take some anticipatory action to be prepared for that. But it is good.

But I do . . . But the one thing that I did think was missing from the minister's comments was how the state of affairs are in the forest resource management world here in Saskatchewan. Usually the minister's set out a bit of the state of the . . . an environmental scan. So how are things going in the forestry world? And the minister was pretty mum on that topic, you know, because we know we've had some difficult times.

And in fact we had a member from Prince Albert promise that the jobs and Weyerhaeuser would all be back and that the P.A. [Prince Albert] pulp mill would be up and running. And of course it is yet to be the case. We don't know what's happening there. And it would've been of interest, I think, to the people of Saskatchewan for a bit of an update of this, and instead he is quiet on that. And we all, you know, no matter how well we do in the province, we all are concerned that all cylinders are firing, you know, not just oil, not just potash. We want to see farming firing on all cylinders. We want to see agriculture, farming firing on all cylinders. We also want to see forestry and all the related economic activity that is part of that management working together.

And I just want to say that two speeches that have been given by my two colleagues and from two different perspectives: my colleague from Saskatoon Nutana who has experienced a lot of forest resource management as a former tree planter . . . I never had that experience, but she's certainly brought a lot of experience and talked about the after-effects of what happens when a lot has been cleared and the timber's been taken out. And I also want to thank my member from Athabasca, talking about the impacts of forestry. And he particularly lives that first-hand, being from the North. I know sometimes he doesn't have a lot of opinions on certain bills, like the one that I'll be

speaking to later on horned cattle. He did give some history of horned cattle up in Cumberland, but this is an area that he speaks with a lot of knowledge in terms of the state of affairs of forestry, particularly when it comes to trappers. And he talked about the impact it has when trappers haven't been involved in consultations and they're not aware and they come back after summer and the area where their traplines would be or their cabins would be have all been cleared, and the impact of that because somebody else had the forest management agreement.

And so this is an important piece of legislation, and I think we need to take a look at it carefully. The minister has highlighted some of the areas where people have approached him and approached the ministry. He does talk about streamlining processes for industry, which enhances the government's ability to ensure that forests are sustainably managed and our environment remains protected.

And we saw the dangerous line that happens when you cross . . . As my colleagues say, we don't want to overregulate and stifle economic activity, but we do want to make sure that the environmental standards ensure sustainability of our forests are maintained and people and companies, corporations, are held accountable. That's part of the deal. That's part of the deal when they pay their fees.

And we saw it today where the Minister of Resources couldn't really answer, couldn't give a good answer about the 30-day extension around the pipeline spill that we had here on the North Saskatchewan and how that can't be business as usual. They need to have those reports. They need to have that done as quickly as possible.

The self-regulating approach only works if they come to the table fully willing to be on top of their game, and not saying, ah, you know, we need more time and don't push us; we'll be there. And of course it looks pretty mighty inviting from our side, from the government's side to say, you know, it's less cost for us. It's cost borne by the business sector. But I think it's important that we have our oar on the water when it comes to making sure that there's a way of maintaining some eyes on the management and that that happens as best as can be.

So we have to watch those code words like streamlining processes. What does that really, really mean? And is it cutting corners for both business and for government? That's our role. That's the government's role, to make sure environmental standards are there for our forests, you know. When we're down south like this we don't often think about the forests. And you know, we often assume we're talking about the North, but we could be talking about the forests in Cypress Hills, around Moose Mountain, that type of thing. Forests, they're throughout the province, largely in the North. But we have to be on top of our game.

He talked a little bit about the long-standing issue of abandoned forest roads and trails. And he mentions that they could both pose public safety and environmental risks. And so whether they've had consultations about that, that would be interesting. It is really interesting to know what the government plans are on this.

It is a dangerous thing to go too far down this road when

these . . . If it's snowmobiling or cross-country skiing or quadding, if the roads aren't built with the intention, with the purpose in mind, sometimes it seems to be an easy fix to say, let's use an old road. But you don't know. And as my colleague mentioned, the cut-outs there, if the signages have been removed or the rains from the summer have really washed away some of the cut-outs so they're even more dangerous, it's hard to maintain these. And so this is a very important question that the minister has put forward, and one that I think when we are in committee that we'll be interested in hearing because public safety is huge, huge, huge.

And of course some of the . . . The definition of a legacy road is interesting. Is a legacy road one that has been there from decades and has stood the test of time, or was it one that was just put in last year for only one year? Is that a legacy road?

And I can think of especially tree planters who have had roads put in for them that have been only there for one season, but everybody knew that they were actually going to be very dangerous roads. Come any heavy rain or anything, they could be washed out. And lives have been lost on these roads. And so when you have people quadding, snowmobiling, or cross-country skiing, any of those things could be huge, huge issues of safety. So this is a big, big, big deal.

Now it is interesting that the minister has taken a look at one of the auditor's reports and their findings was that the forest management fee needs to be sufficient to cover the actual cost of reforesting the harvested area, which can vary depending on the site. And he mentions that "the current fee rates as established in the regulations are not appropriate in all circumstances, making the proposed amendment necessary."

Now that's a curious statement because regulations aren't necessarily amended in here. I don't think they're made, they're not made here. So what is the relationship between the amendment and the regulation? And as I said, it's a small bill; it's a short bill. So I'm not sure what he's hoping to accomplish out of that, so that's very important.

He also talks about "The obligation to reforest harvested areas is established in two types of licences: the 20-year forest management agreement and the five-year area-based term supply licences." And how some of these forest management agreements, especially the five-year ones, haven't been dealt with in the appropriate way, where people have been renewing them and not coming up with the long-term plans and so that has to be dealt with in a head-on way. So that's very, very important.

Again I'll go back to the road agreements, talking about culverts and bridges associated with abandoned accesses. They're in various states of disrepair, and who can be expected to maintain them after a certain particular time? And you know, the ecological impact, and they pose a safety risk, it's really, really important to acknowledge.

And the other one, I think this is very important: "In addition, the unreclaimed access does not provide a productive environment for the re-establishment of forestries and are a major concern in the preparation of a woodland caribou recovery plan for Saskatchewan." And this is very, very

significant, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and we're glad to see that this is part of the consideration that they're bringing forward. Well the bill doesn't specifically address this. They're doing this in anticipation of some work that needs to be done very much, in a major way. So again we'll be hearing more about this.

But again, is this being left up to the holders of the agreements? And if nothing is done, is that recovery plan for the woodland caribou, is it put on hold? What's happening there? And so this is very important, that we have this work before us. It goes on and talks about, "Forest management plans are long-term strategic plans that establish management objectives for the large forestry . . . areas." So this has to be kept up, especially when he talks about the second renewal of an area-based term supply. We're wanting to make sure we don't allow situations where people can get around the obligation to make sure they have good solid plans. These solid plans are significant. They're significant in costs, significant in work, significant in consultations, and as I said earlier, whether it's with the trappers, whether it's with the local people, but particularly with the First Nations and the Métis people.

Again my colleague from Athabasca talked about the significant rulings that have been established in the Supreme Court about the ability to hunt and gather, and how this plays out. And this is very, very important that on one hand we are saying yes, we recognize that right, but on the other hand we're totally taking away that ability to do that because of the forest management agreement. So really it's very, very important.

And so it's interesting to say how this all will play out, and again as I said, it was very interesting that the minister really gave quite a thorough going-over in terms of the legislation, and again kind of unusual that we would have that. We've had the whole gamut of ministers being very short in their comments and we say, you've got to give much more.

[15:15]

This one, this time I thought that there was a good balance and a good leadoff to the committee meetings that we'll have in a while about *The Forest Resources Management Act*. It will give us lots of food for discussion, for questions on that. So with that though, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think that . . . And it does talk about establishing the authority of the minister to prohibit a person from obtaining a licence for a period up to three years for offences including failure to comply with the Act, and establishes authority for a judge to prohibit a person from obtaining a licence for a period up to five years. So it toughens up the penalties as well.

So with that, I know that we've got lots of work to cover today. As I said, I would be curious to know how forestry is doing in our province. As I said, it's important that all our economic engines, our cylinders are all firing, and that they're doing well. And sometimes it's tricky to have them all firing in the right rhythm, but when they do, this province really is doing very, very well and that's for everyone in the province. So this is an important piece of legislation to make sure that those who are connected with the forests can do well, can do their job and the economic activity that they would get out of the forest is there and not over-encumbered but that there is a balance in terms of environmental sustainability and regulations that anybody

should be able to expect.

So with that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would move that we adjourn Bill No. 10, *An Act to amend The Forest Resources Management Act*. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 11

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

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And again a pleasure to enter into Bill No. 11, *An Act to amend The Forestry Professions Act*. And it does follow in some way along with *The Forest Resources Management Act*, again a very short piece of legislation. This one is just five sections, and not much . . . In fact I remember, I think we've had this come before us a few times and I guess the question I would have is, what happened to it last time? Did it actually . . . We passed it, but did it come into force? Why are we here back again?

And again we have a minister who, you know, gave quite a lengthy speech about this bill, and so I don't know if he dusted off the old one — not that we ever do that in this House, dust off old speeches and bring them forward. I think every word is original and new, a new idea every half-hour here. But I digress, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

I do appreciate that they've done a lot of good work, the Canadian Institute of Forestry, about bringing forward their ideas about how to be recognized as a professional organization with the ability to act as a self-regulating organization. And so in terms of this, the amendment enhances accountability, enabling the application of financial penalties who unlawfully engage in the professional practice of forestry. The change is required to further enhance the accountability that's built into the legislation, and it goes on and on.

And it's interesting because I'm not . . . I mean this'll be a very interesting discussion in committee because I'm just not . . . The minister's reading an awful lot into this Act that only does two things in section 40 and 41:

Section 40 is amended in the portion preceding clause (a) by striking out “section 23” and substituting “section 23 or 23.01”.

And:

Section 41 is amended in the portion preceding clause (a)

by striking out “section 23” and substituting “section 23 or 23.01”.

So I think he's reading an awful lot into those two lines. I'm not sure if that's the case, but I just think that again it's . . . I appreciate the former minister of Environment's enthusiasm for his work, but this was a pretty minor amendment. So on our part we'll have more questions about it. Is it really . . . The length of speech here that he gave, it seems to be pretty significant. Now maybe I'm missing something and I'll just have to check my notes here. I'm just not seeing the impact of those amendments and substitutions. But it is good.

Now it will be interesting to know . . . We know that sometimes bills that make it through the House aren't put into force, so we'll be interested to see if that was the case with this, but I'm not sure.

So I know many people have a lot to say about some of the other bills that are coming up before. And with this one, as I said, that has such little meat to it, I don't know if you can call some of the forestry . . . put it that way. But anyway, with that, I think Bill No. 11, *An Act to amend The Forestry Professions Act*, I would move that we adjourn debate on that today. Thank you.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 12

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

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

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I do rise today to enter debate on Bill No. 12, *An Act to amend The Public Health Act*. I note when the minister rose, I guess this was back in May, that he noted some of the objectives with regard to the proposal of this bill, Mr. Speaker. One of the first areas that this bill addresses is some changes to definition. Specifically the term “clinic nurse” is introduced, and that nurse by definition, is one who's supervised by a physician or is approved by the minister and provides testing, screening, counselling, diagnosis or treatment for category II communicable diseases, and includes other persons designated by the minister or the nurse.

When the minister was speaking to this back in May, Mr. Speaker, he noted that this legislation is intended to improve public access to public health inspection information as well as to bring some of this legislation in line with what happens in other provinces, Mr. Speaker. One of the things that I note and

had noted last evening when we were speaking to bills was sometimes in their comments the ministers will stand up and note the amount of consultation that they have undertaken prior to drafting the bill. Of course changing the classification to clinic nurse or adding that classification has impacts for those working within those professions. So I don't see direct note of it to the consultation, but it is noted that this definition brings that definition in line with the bylaws of the SRNA [Saskatchewan Registered Nurses' Association], and certainly that type of consultation and input from those so impacted is certainly very important.

It adds new reporting duties for nurse practitioners when treating patients with category II communicable diseases. And of course, Mr. Speaker, it's very important that we have good numbers and early reporting so that people can have access to the appropriate treatment. It's also very important that we have strong numbers in terms of those who are living with communicable diseases so that we can track them.

Certainly in this province right now we have a very serious issue with the rates of HIV [human immunodeficiency virus]. And it's important that we have a clear picture of what those numbers are so that we might start to meaningfully address that very real public health concern and stem a problem that really has reached epidemic proportions in the province. I know it's not only garnered attention provincially and nationally, but internationally. And when we have good numbers in terms of the number of people who are dealing with that or other communicable diseases, I think that gives us part of the information that we need. But then from there we need to really set about the work of formulating procedures and strategies to start bringing those numbers down, Mr. Speaker.

So I think certainly the reporting as is anticipated in this bill is very important. The other piece, hopefully we will hear something from the members opposite in the near future about what meaningful steps they are taking to address this very real health crisis.

And of course there are other issues of communicable diseases that arise from time to time. I know the Planned Parenthood group in Regina had a campaign a number of years back drawing attention to the high rates of STIs [sexually transmitted infection].

So agreed, Mr. Speaker, that it is important to have numbers and have a clear idea of exactly the types of public health risks and numbers that we have out there. But also it's very important to have plans to deal with that when we realize by those numbers that we have a problem.

Mr. Speaker, I'm just going to go back to the minister's statements on the day that he spoke to this legislation, and that is the public reporting of public health inspections. I understand that currently there is a computerized system, and I think that perhaps many of us here have looked at that system when making a decision about a restaurant or a place that we would want to visit.

Currently that legislation extends only to restaurants. What I understand is anticipated by this bill is increasing the scope of those establishments that are inspected by public health

inspectors and making that information public. Some of the examples that have been brought forward, and I suppose we could think of others, would be public swimming pools for example, Mr. Speaker.

And certainly, you know, having that information does seem like a good idea to ensure that all of the regulations are being followed, that people can make good decisions about the establishments that they want to frequent. But also when problems do arise, it's important that those running those facilities have the ability to address them in a meaningful way and have the resources that they would need in order to properly be able to address those so that we have not only safe restaurants, Mr. Speaker, but safe recreational facilities and other facilities that are inspected by public health inspectors.

I suspect there are others on this side of the Assembly, Mr. Speaker, that do have some expertise, I know some of my colleagues have some expertise in health. Any time that we are dealing with matters that are meant to address and improve public health, I think it's important and is deserving of our time and attention and, as I noted before, that we ensure that we have the proper amount of consultation with those bodies that are impacted and also that we from there put forth solutions to some of the issues that are reported and uncovered through this type of legislation and this increased level of reporting.

[15:30]

So I'm thinking that while I may have exhausted my comments on Bill No. 12, *The Public Health (Miscellaneous) Amendment Act*, some of my colleagues may not have. So to allow them some time to enter into the debate later, I will with that move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 12.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 13

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Duncan that **Bill No. 13** — *The Cancer Agency Amendment Act, 2016* be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's my pleasure and honour to rise and bring my remarks in line with the rest of my colleagues who have been speaking to this bill, to talk about Bill No. 13, *An Act to amend The Cancer Agency Act*.

I noted that the former minister of Health, when tabling this legislation, mentioned that the number of new cancer cases diagnosed in Saskatchewan is projected to increase 54 per cent by 2036. That's quite an alarming number, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

I don't think anyone in the House hasn't been touched directly or personally by cancer, whether it's through their family or their loved ones. And you know what kind of devastation and pain — physically, emotionally, and mentally — that goes through. I know I can speak to that personally, as I'm sure I'm not alone in that as well to watching a loved one die from cancer and how difficult that is. So I'm happy to see that the government is saying that they're committed to funding the cancer agency, as the former Health minister said in his remarks. I hope that that's the case, especially if the percentage of cancer cases in Saskatchewan are going to rise in the way that he said they had. Nobody wants to see that happen; I'd like to see those cancer numbers go down, frankly.

In any event, moving towards the bill, it appears that the bill is largely making some changes to the wording of the Act; for example, it seems like the term "cancer control" has now been considered the worldwide appropriate term in this particular field. And I know my colleague, the Health critic, will probably have more to say about this and probably knows this a little bit better than me frankly. I just recently became the associate critic of Health, so I'm not going to lie, I'm still learning the ropes a little bit. And I'm going to defer more of the intelligent, I'd say, remarks on this bill to my colleague, the Health critic.

In any event, it looks like the Act is going to make some changes to the wording to make it more in line with what in terms of the world definition, I suppose, is. And it's sad to say that this is a worldwide epidemic essentially, Mr. Deputy Speaker. This isn't something that is unique to Saskatchewan or Canada frankly. Cancer rates, I believe, are on the rise throughout the world, and the fact that a worldwide definition is needed is quite sad frankly. It's pretty tragic. It looks like they're again making lots of changes in terms of sections to reflect that term to better coordinate our legislation with the worldwide standard definition which does make sense.

It also looks like there's a proposal to include palliation services to the Act to encompass the larger role that's happening and their work in ensuring and providing palliative care services for cancer patients. It's often, it's quite tragic, but that often is unfortunately the result of a cancer diagnosis. So a lot of times a rehabilitation course will end up leading to a palliative course. And again, it seems like all of these changes are the reflection of the sad reality that we have in terms of cancer in the province. And it's really a shame.

I think a lot of these bills we're seeing this session have to do with definition changes. Not all of them are frankly as sad, I'd say, as these. They're usually fairly non-consequential and minor, and maybe we're updating wording that hasn't been updated in terms of modernizing. But this one seems to be a little bit more reflective of a tragic, tragic situation and the tragic reality that we have around cancer in the province.

Another change that they're proposing to do is to remove section 10(4) of *The Cancer Agency Act* and the use of section 29(6) of *The Regional Health Services Act* to ensure consistency with the legislative authority given to the regional health authorities and clarity for the SCA [Saskatchewan Cancer Agency], which is short for something, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but I can't quite find what the acronym is for. So hopefully the good folks at Hansard will be able to get it and fill

in the blanks for me, as they're so well equipped and apt to do. So it looks like they're trying to ensure consistency with the legislative authority given to the regional health authorities and the applicable legislation regarding its administrative authority. And it's really good to see the recognition and respect for regional health authorities and the good work they do, similar to how school boards operate.

However it's difficult, and we say this time and time again, for these local authorities to do their job and do their job in a way that they want to do it when their funding comes directly from the government, Mr. Speaker. So oftentimes we're talking about issues that are happening in schools or in health regions, and it's not often a slag on the school boards or health regions. It's a criticism of what we're hearing from the school boards and the health regions directly of the chronic underfunding that's happening with the health regions. So we're happy to see that some autonomy is being done, but there's always the concern of making sure that these organizations that have no other way of obtaining funding other than through government are receiving the adequate funding that they need to be providing the best service that they can for the people of Saskatchewan.

Now I know that there are other colleagues of mine who are going to want to join in on this debate, so with that I would like to move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 13, *An Act to amend The Cancer Agency Act*.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 14

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

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

Mr. Forbes: — Okay, here we go. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and I appreciate the opportunity to enter into Bill No. 14, *The Horned Cattle Purchases Repeal Act, 2016*.

The other day we were talking about great speeches on this topic, and I remember the colleague from across the way. Of course a great speech the other day here. I don't want to say . . . You know, brevity is often the soul of wit, but she did a fantastic job. But I remember, I think back in 2002 when the member from across the way gave a much lengthier exposé of horned cattle and the dilemmas that are faced by that industry on that.

And it was very interesting to read the minister's remarks. It's funny; today I'm getting up and all the speeches given by the ministers are so lengthy, and these bills are actually so short,

you know. And so this one is just simply repealing *The Horned Cattle Purchases Amendment Act*, and that's basically how you are winding this up.

And it's interesting. I do appreciate the Minister of Agriculture's history, you know, and this is why these speeches are so important, especially the minister's speeches, because it does give a good history of what caused the . . . why it came about that we would have such legislation and why now are we looking at repealing it and winding it all up.

And I think that he gives a pretty thorough discussion, both historically in terms of how in 1940 this was a big deal . . . well it actually came into force in July 1939. There were more than 40,000 cattle that were penalized, representing 19 per cent of cattle marketed that year. It's almost 20 per cent. One in five cattle had horns, and they were penalized at a dollar a head. But now it's gone quite a ways the other way. Actually, ironically, it's 1.9 per cent of the cattle, two out of a hundred will have horns. But about the same amount of money that they get, about 30 to 35,000 revenue, which is not very much at all.

And this is where it's so important, you know, in terms of making sure that there's proper accounting and no chance of fraud. And it probably takes two or three people to manage that money. But if you're looking at a salary of 40, 50, \$60,000 per person, it could be costing a lot more than \$35,000 to manage that. It could be costing upwards to 200,000 to manage a program where you're only generating \$35,000. So clearly there's some issues there.

So he goes through the whole thing and he does talk about Alberta and Manitoba have repealed this similar legislation several years ago, and British Columbia will be the only other province with horned cattle legislation. And who knows how long that will last.

So it's a very interesting discussion that the minister brings forward. You know, my agriculture background really comes from our own family which, really we were, the business we were in was growing wheat. And now our family farm is 110 years old and it's found out by Mortlach. So we have a rich history, but we don't have a history of dealing with horned cattle. Ironically my brother who is the farmer is now dealing more with bison, because of a cousin who kind of just foisted that on the family enterprise. Yes we've learned how to build good fences, but that's another story for another time.

But I do want to give a shout-out to the stock growers. You know, back I think it was in June, the stock growers had a presentation at the Centre of the Arts here and they brought in Temple Grandin. And many of us were here, I think from both sides of the House heard the presentation. And Temple Grandin is well known; she's a professor at the University of Oklahoma I believe, and she specializes on treatment of cattle, particularly as they're being prepared for slaughter.

If you ever get to see the movie, I would really highly recommend people watching the film, because it really shows how this is a person with autism who has a special gift of understanding pain and anxiety and stress that others have. And it's done so much in the cattle industry, particularly in the slaughterhouses, to understand what cattle are going through

and how the process of killing animals, slaughtering animals, can be . . . The stress of that to the animals themselves can be reduced, and therefore a better quality of meat.

And while, you know, it's interesting that this woman could do such a fantastic job, and she wasn't taken seriously for many, many years because, first for her gender and because of her autism. But she stuck with it and she certainly had some innovative ideas that really changed the process of slaughterhouses. And it was tough at first because this industry . . . Stock growers often are a tough lot to get through if you're not part of them. But they did hear, and I have to give a shout-out to the stock growers for bringing her in.

She talked more, a bit about animals and cruelty to animals, but also about autism. But it was interesting to see how she made such a great contribution to the livestock industry, but also to just humanity, and we certainly have to look at people and say that we all bring gifts to the table. And she did a fantastic job that night. It was a very good, very good presentation.

[15:45]

So with that though, my contributions to the discussion about *The Horned Cattle Purchases Repeal Act, 2016*, Bill No. 14, won't be long. I don't have much to add but I look forward to the committee discussion on that. I do want to say that I appreciated the minister's comments and we have no reason at this point . . . But I do suspect others may want to get into the debate so I will adjourn debate on Bill No. 14, *The Horned Cattle Purchases Repeal Act, 2016*. Thank you.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 15

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 15** — *The Provincial Court Amendment Act, 2016* be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I rise today to enter into the debate on Bill No. 15, *The Provincial Court Amendment Act*. Of course *The Provincial Court Amendment Act* establishes powers, duties, and procedures for the operation of provincial courts in Saskatchewan. I think any time that we're dealing with matters related to our court system, we should pay particular attention and recognize that, as has been said previously, this is often people's first contact with the court system, is our Provincial Court system. And we should be looking at how it's being run and updating legislation from time to time, Mr. Speaker.

Part of the Act, as it stands now, sets out the process for review of Provincial Court judges who are the subject of complaints, and that their conduct be reviewed by Judicial Council. The Judicial Council at this time is comprised of representatives from all levels of the judiciary in Saskatchewan, as well as members of the bar, and government appointees under the chairmanship of the Chief Justice of the province. So, Mr. Speaker, this is dealing with some complaints at a fairly high level, and it's important that we give a thorough look at this type of legislation and the proposed amendments.

What's proposed, Mr. Speaker, as the minister noted in his comments at the end of May of this year, is that this bill contemplates amending the Act to provide Judicial Council with greater flexibility in the conduct of their reviews of allegations of judicial misconduct, and remedies that would be imposed, Mr. Speaker.

Of course it's important that we look at this very closely, as I've noted, when we're bringing, members of the public are bringing complaints forward against those, of misconduct. I think of judicial misconduct in this case, Mr. Speaker. It's very important that we ensure that that is a thorough process.

I understand that one of the amendments proposed is the ability — I'm just going to look back into the notes here, Mr. Speaker — allows Judicial Council to dismiss frivolous or vexatious complaints against the judge. And certainly there's a balance here to be struck between ensuring that those complaints that are brought forward are given due consideration and are taken very seriously. But also I can understand, and I'm sure members on this side, the want of a mechanism to ensure that those complaints are not made in a malicious, or as has been known as frivolous or vexatious complaints.

So I think that that bears some really serious attention, perhaps from members on this side or others within the legal community who could provide better counsel than perhaps I can on this matter but . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . My colleague states that it's hard to be a lawyer and have everyone coming to you for that type of oversight and advice. But we are very lucky . . . I'm lucky to be surrounded by all of my colleagues, but the lawyers included on this side of the House, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, there's also another fairly significant change, I would think, in allowing Judicial Council to have one member respond to a particular complaint rather than having the whole council respond to a complaint. And again, Mr. Speaker, I think that it's important, when anticipating this type of change, that we're sure that we get the balance right between ensuring that those complaints that come forward from citizens are taken seriously and given their due course. And so I'm sure that others will have more to say and to look into around that particular proposed amendment.

This bill also . . . I suppose one of the words that came up a number of times yesterday was around streamlining. I'm not sure if that's the intent here, but it proposes taking the power to create a list of temporary judges from cabinet and gives it to the Minister of Justice, again reduces the scope of people that have authority over creating that list. And I have to admit, Mr. Speaker, that I would have to again look to my colleagues for information about that temporary list of judges and what exactly

it is that, how you get on that list and what their duties are. But I'm sure they will have something to say about that, Mr. Speaker.

This bill also proposes adding a new 64.2 that would provide that the court is not to appoint a lawyer to represent an individual unless the proposed notice requirements to be contained in part III of *The Constitutional Questions Acts, 2012* have been met. Again, Mr. Speaker, I might have to admit that I'm not intimately familiar with *The Constitutional Questions Act* of 2012, but it does talk about the power to appoint a lawyer and that that wouldn't be allowed unless those requirements have been met, Mr. Speaker. And it also does note that that requirement in cases of children, appointed counsel for child protection matters, that would be aside. That would be governed, those requirements wouldn't be necessary when contemplating the child protection matters.

Of course, this changes the rules for court-appointed lawyers by introducing some new restrictions. And I would think that my colleagues might have some further questions and comments about that, that they could add to round out the debate and the comments on this bill.

I think that it's very likely . . . This, you know, looks, as has been mentioned by colleagues previously who have spoken to this bill, that it is of course a legal document about a legal process, so it's quite detailed and perhaps isn't something that some members, and I will include myself, are overly familiar with looking at. But again, just that oversight in making sure we have the right eyes on the legislation is why my colleagues and others will have an opportunity to enter into this debate at a later time. But I think at this point I've exhausted my questions and comments about Bill No. 15, so with that will move to adjourn debate on *The Provincial Court Amendment Act* of 2016.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 16

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

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to enter into debate on Bill No. 16, *An Act to amend The Adoption Act, 1998*. And it is a fairly lengthy and thorough piece of legislation, one that is always important that we do consider doing the right thing when we are thinking about making laws and rules around adoption.

And it is very important to see that some of the pieces that are brought forward include the parts from the United Nations talking about the immigration, the Convention on the Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption. And these international agreements are very, very important and also federally. When we see . . . And it's important that we do, you know, reach out internationally to support those in those countries who are facing dire situations. And I'm thinking just recently of the situation with Haiti with the hurricane there and just the dire situations. But we have to make sure that we do the appropriate things and of course that we look at what are the proper conventions that have been established internationally. And I'm glad to see that this is something that we're bringing forward.

Of course there's many parts to this and the minister does go into a lot of detail. Some of it is language, removing the old archaic term of "Crown ward" to "permanent ward," that type of thing. That's some of the changes there.

But I do want to say that we've seen over the years the growing challenges that individuals have and families have. And whether it's adoption within communities or within families going across the country or going internationally, this is a very important piece of legislation. And how we care for our infants and our young people is so critically important, and that we make sure we consider the knowledge and the experience culturally, but also of those in the professional fields who can speak to the ability of children to participate in adoption is very, very important.

So this will be one that I know will have a lot of discussion in committee. And of course we want to make sure there are no unintended consequences because once we lock some things in, that's the way we do things. And it's very important that we make sure we get it right the very first time. And of course this is an Act that is amending a piece of legislation that's about 18 years old, and so it's one that's been solid for many years but probably has run its course.

Now it's interesting, it would be very interesting to know who's been consulted on this and who's been . . . What are the signals, what are the cues that the Ministry of Social Services are using to bring these forward? Clearly, as I said, it looks like they've been using and following the international laws and the federal laws, and so that's very, very important. But what about local groups and the First Nations, FSIN [Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations]? Have they been consulted on this? And have the various grand councils, have they been consulted?

So we'll have those questions in committee. It's very, very important that we make sure we get this one, we get this right and so that we're not coming back again to amend certain things. So I just want to make sure that we take a look and review some of the things that the minister has said.

[16:00]

Now curiously, and I've talked about this, this is an opportunity, when we have pieces of legislation come forward, that it's often appreciated if the ministries can provide a bit of an environmental scan. So what is the state of affairs in terms of the topic at hand in Saskatchewan? So how are things going in

the world of adoption? I'd be curious to know. I'm not sure I'd know how many kids are being adopted every year.

She does mention that an average of 35 children aged seven and older are adopted each year, but that doesn't mention how many children younger than that are being adopted. How many are being adopted internationally? How many are being brought back to Saskatchewan? All of these would be things that I think would be of interest to the people at home who follow these issues. And again, who were some of the folks who were being consulted? That's very, very important.

She does talk about section 27.1, and that's what I was referring to earlier in terms of the requirements are now:

. . . now be the same for children being adopted by Saskatchewan residents no matter if the child's country of origin is a signatory of the Hague Convention or not. The Hague Convention on . . . children and co-operation in respect of intercountry adoption, known as the convention, safeguards the rights of children and birth parents, and is intended to reduce incidents of child trafficking or unlawful financial gain.

So it's very, very important because we want to make sure we prevent parents with all the best intentions from falling, participating in these schemes unknowingly and then becoming liable. That's a huge, huge concern and it's very, very important that we follow that up because, as the minister rightfully notes, Canada is a signatory to the convention and we take this very, very seriously. So that's an important part.

And it talks about transition plans and of course the one thing that we are looking for is what's going to happen with child and family services. There are pieces of legislation that still are outstanding, and one deals with *The Child and Family Services Act* that we anticipate will be coming forward pretty soon. It's been in review for many years actually, I think about eight years. It was one of the first pieces of legislation this government took on to review.

This will be the third minister that's been involved with the review, and so we look forward to seeing that piece of legislation. So this is part of that. And it's very important that, as I said, they all fit together because we're talking about young people, young children, infants, the most vulnerable in our society, and we want to make sure we get it right. So I think that in many ways one of the things it does, it allows the minister to enter into payment agreements directly with a youth between the ages of 18 and 21 if they're engaged in an educational or vocational plan. That's very important.

It restricts the court's ability to hear or take into consideration the child's voice in court to age seven and up. And that's why we're told it was 35 kids who were adopted in Saskatchewan last year. And that is different, and so we'll be watching. It'll be a good question in committee to have a discussion on the record about why that is the way it is now. But again I hope this is because of good, sound research on behalf of the ministry, that they're doing the right thing.

Again, this is one though that I think that it would be very important to make sure we've had good sound consultation

throughout the province on this part because this is not just a simple matter. And I think there could be, there needs to be some discussion about this for sure.

So, Mr. Speaker, I know that there'll be many others who will want to get up and speak on this piece of legislation. As I said, it's a very important piece of legislation. It's very thorough. Some of it's housekeeping as we renew and correct the language. As I said, they're removing the word "Crown" and making more appropriate that it's permanent. It's bilingual. It's straightforward.

You know, one of the issues that we've had, that I've had in my office is around assisted adoption, where we know that children with needs, unique needs, educational or learning needs, the commitment has been made by the government to help assist in that adoption and how important that commitment remains solid. We're going to be watching to make sure that continues to be. But with that, my comments are pretty limited on Bill No. 16, *An Act to amend The Adoption Act, 1998*. So I would move that we adjourn debate on Bill No. 16. Thank you.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 17

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

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise again to enter into the debate on Bill No. 17, *An Act to amend The Power Corporation Act*. And really this does two things. I mean it's interesting. It does a lot of housekeeping updates which is really pretty straightforward, to changing the pronouns to his, to his and her, or he and she, or she, and removing unnecessary plurals from persons to person only.

But the big, big, big change is the allowing SaskPower borrowing limit to be increased to 10 billion from 8 billion. And that requires a legislative change. You know, and it's interesting because we've talked about some of the things about why a piece of legislation like that should come forward, why I think that is significant. That's a significant amount of money, \$2 billion in borrowing. And I think the minister really needs to be able to make the case, what is happening to SaskPower that they need to increase their borrowing limit to \$10 billion. I mean that's a 20 per cent increase.

And you know, the reality at the end of the day is that it will be the people of Saskatchewan, through their power rates, that will be paying for that extra borrowing. So we want to make sure

that it is for the right reasons, and that in fact it's a sustainable, reasonable financial move and it's the right thing at this time. Now we, interestingly we've just gone through a big discussion about the carbon fee or carbon tax, how you put it. But you know, the point being that we have been, we should've been doing so much more further along. And here we are now, the eleventh hour, and we have this Bill No. 17 right after an election. It would've been interesting if this bill had been put forward before the election and people could've made a choice about what they saw for the future for SaskPower.

Now the minister does talk about, in his comments, about what the future of SaskPower will be and what they plan on doing. And they're planning on doing this because of . . . And it is a good thing that our population is growing, so there is an increased need for power. But how do you get to having enough power for the people of Saskatchewan and for the businesses in the corporate sector? They talk about 60,000 new customers, and so the production will have to increase by some nearly 800 megawatts, or has increased by some nearly 800 megawatts since 2007. And they're going to have to add some 2000 more megawatts.

And so we have seen them make a commitment to moving to 50 per cent renewable capacity by 2030 by including 1600 megawatts of new wind power capacity to reduce emissions by over 40 per cent below 2005 levels. But the challenge before us is we've heard this before. We've heard this before from this government on this side, particularly when it comes to commitments around the green technology fund, some of the commitments that were made by the minister at the time about how she was going to make these things happen.

And so forgive me if I think that people are a little cynical when they believe what this government is really going to do with this increased borrowing, particularly after we've just had Bill No. 2 that increased the fiscal year from 12 months to 15 months, recently increasing the ability of the Crowns to put even more money out as dividends.

So this seems to be a small bill. There is a lot behind it. And there will be a lot of people watching this, watching this at home because they're concerned about what's the impact of their power bills going up yet again in this province and why couldn't we have managed this a little bit better because, you know, we knew the population was going up. And it's a good thing and it's important to be prepared for that.

And we've known for quite a while about the issue around climate change and how can we be prepared for that. And it's only this bill that's come forward recently that I think has caused people to really sit back and say, we need to keep an eye on this. We need to keep a very close eye on this, and what does this mean for the everyday taxpayer of Saskatchewan?

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I'm going to move adjournment on Bill No. 17, *An Act to amend The Power Corporation Act*. I do so move adjournment. Thank you.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 19

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

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

Ms. Rancourt: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's an honour to be able to stand here today and talk about Bill No. 19, *The Film and Video Classification Act*.

This was presented by the Attorney General in the spring session. So when he presented this, he talked about some of the reasons why he was wanting to have this bill. This bill actually repeals the previous bill, *The Film and Video Classification Act*, and so this replaces that because they're changing quite a bit of the way, the structure of how we work with the film and video industry in Saskatchewan. So it's hard when you're comparing the two bills because you've got the older bill and then you've got this new one here.

And so basically the one big thing that is the difference between the two bills is that the previous bill, they had a Film Classification Board. And so you had a chairperson and some people on this board. Whereas now with this new Act, they're wanting to have a film classification director. And so, Mr. Speaker, like I don't understand why they're moving that direction because if you look at the new Act here, it says that they're going to have — let's see here — the director, but then they're also going to have assistant directors. So I'm just going to pull that up here. So the minister will appoint a director of the film classification, and they will appoint one or more deputy directors for the film classification.

And I don't see exactly how this is different from the board. The board consisted of a chairperson designated by the Lieutenant Governor — so I guess one's appointed by the minister; one's appointed by the Lieutenant Governor — and not less than two other board members. So this one, they'll be having one or two . . . one or more deputy directors. So they'll be changing from the concept of a board to directors.

And I don't know exactly . . . Like, I know a lot of this stuff will be discussed when it goes into committees. But is there some kind of pay structure with regards to this? Because when I look at the duties for the director, there's quite a few duties that the director is responsible for, has quite a bit of responsibilities. And so I'm wondering if we're changing the terminology from board to director, is that going to increase the budget with regards to this for this organization? I'm not sure. Again, I'm sure these are going to be questions that will be talked about in committee and discussed, and what kind of impacts this will have.

[16:15]

But when I look at some of the responsibilities of the director,

the director will approve or disapprove films in Saskatchewan. They'll remove any portion of films that receive disapproval. So the director themselves, seems like they have a lot of authority with regards to the film and video industry within Saskatchewan. And so I hope that someone is holding that person accountable. Because when you have a board, that presents some accountability there, and not one person can make all the decisions.

And so I hope this is discussed within committee. on who is the director going to report to? Are they going to be reporting directly to the minister? To the minister's office? And who is going to be monitoring exactly what this director is going to be doing because one person might have one perspective and the other, like there might be different ideas. And that's the concept of a board, is to gather the different perspectives and ideas so that we can have a variety. Like we don't want to limit our aspects with regards to what kind of videos or film is allowed in the province.

And so also the director has full responsibility on classifying a video. So I'm sure there must be a prescribed classification with regards to how you determine what videos are at what level, but the director themselves will have that responsibility. And so who do they consult with when they have some issues? I guess if you have the deputy ministers, maybe them. But does that give them the full authority to make whatever decision that they want to make? So I have some concerns with regards to that, and I'm sure the critic with regards to this issue will talk about this in committee and to have that opportunity to talk to the ministry about how they plan on handling that.

Also with regards to the power to regulate advertising and display, in this new legislation it says that the director will be able to approve, restrict, or prohibit any types of advertising. So this person will have a lot of control with regards to the film and video industry. So whereas it looks like in the previous Act that a lot of the decisions were made by the board; it looks like, the way it's written up, that there has to be consensus with the board. Whereas in the new Act, it seems like all the decisions are being made by the director.

So again, there'll be some questions with regards to accountability, and who will be reporting to that because I'm sure the minister's office has their hands full with a lot of ministerial duties. I'm sure I'll be aware of that in 2020 when we win the next election. But right now I don't know exactly what workload they have, but I'm sure this will put some strain on that. So it would be good to ask those questions.

Also it looks like the film and video industry within Saskatchewan has also been attacked by this government because they eliminated the tax credit that they were providing for that. And they provide tax credits for a lot of other agencies and corporations, so it's not that that's not on the table, but this one they really destroyed the film industry in Saskatchewan, and it's not as thriving as it used to be.

And so I hope they reconsider this and the director that they consider in this new Act will look at maybe proposing that as an option so that we can have this because we can't put all of our eggs in one basket when we're talking about industries in our province. We've got to make sure that we look at even the arts

industry, you know, and how we make sure that thrives.

We had some really great successful TV shows within our province that utilized this tax credit. We have some very talented individuals in our province that have now had to look for work in other provinces unfortunately, but hopefully we can work on that together and get that thriving again in this province. So also . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Looks like I caused a little bit of a ruffle and there's a little bit of dispute going on.

But I'm going to quote from *Hansard* here what exactly the Attorney General said when he brought forward this legislation. So he talked about the updates with regards from the 2006 legislation to this new one that he's presenting here: "That legislation was passed to enable a classification of video games and consequent restriction on access to video games by underage children and teens."

And I have to agree that it's really important that we have classifications for film and video. It helps as a parent to determine whether the video or the movie might be appropriate for their viewing. Like if you haven't watched something, or I know I never played video games so I don't know what the different video games are all about, but when my son played I could look at a game and say, oh you're not playing this one because you're not old enough. It's not classified for your age.

So that's a really important aspect that we continue to do, but I often wondered, like how is this being monitored and enforced when people are renting games or videos or buying them from the stores? Oftentimes the people who are working in those agencies are underage as well and young people. They might not restrict younger people from purchasing or renting those videos or games. And so it would be nice to see how that could be monitored a little bit more.

But again, like I said, it does really help when people are deciding what's going to be an appropriate video or movie for me to go and watch with my children or for us to participate in. So that helps provide that level. So that's a really important factor and, like I said, with this new Act, that director's going to be responsible for classifying all of those, whereas previous it was a decision from the board. So they had more of a consensus. So something that I would think might be, you know, 14-PG [parental guidance], someone else might think is 16-PG. So it's nice to have more dialogue with regards to how that's going to work.

Also I really hope that they take some time in committee to go through this because, like I said, our film and our video industry in Saskatchewan is very important. And we need to make sure that this Act, you know, represents that and everybody looks through this with a fine-tooth comb, like how is this going to impact possible . . . Is this going to be an increase in the budget with regards to this? How is the accountability going to be with regards to this? And how are we going to ensure that this is going to help thrive our film industry in our province?

So I know our critic will do well with discussing this in committee, and I think our colleagues might have a little bit more to add to this with their experience. And so with that, I'm going to move to adjourn this debate.

The Speaker: — The member from Prince Albert Northcote has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 19, *The Film and Video Classification Act, 2016*. Is it the pleasure of the members to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 26

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

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure and honour to rise today to add my thoughts to the debate surrounding Bill No. 26, *The Patient Choice Medical Imaging Act*.

Now before I get into some concerns that we have with respect to this bill and what the bill is trying to do, I did want to mention that the Act that this bill will be repealing, which is the government's MRI facilities licensing Act . . . And I noticed that it was assented to fairly recently. It was November 19th, 2015. So I wanted to give a shout-out, because I feel like they don't get enough respect and recognition, for the hard-working legislative drafters, the hard-working Ministry of Justice lawyers who toil — dare I say, slave — over these legislations only to have them be repealed less than a year later.

So I see that it's a fairly lengthy piece of legislation, and I just wanted to give a shout-out to whoever had to draft this legislation. You put in some good work, but this government wants to repeal it with a new Act. So I just wanted to take some time because I don't think that they often get mentioned, and I know that they are toiling pretty hard in the backrooms over there.

So this bill is going to allow patients to pay for an MRI [magnetic resonance imaging] or CT [computerized tomography] scan out of pocket and the clinic will need to provide a second scan to the public waiting list at no cost to the taxpayer. Now the Act that this bill is repealing provided a similar measure for MRIs. This bill adds CT scans to that. But not only does it add CT scans, but it also states that it will also include other services. It says that medical imaging services is defined within the bill as MRIs, CT scans, and any other prescribed services.

So do you know what that means, Mr. Speaker? That means that without getting any licence from the public to further privatize areas of our health care system, like they did perhaps maybe with MRIs, they can go into the regulations — without providing for any notice to the public, without allowing for us to have any type of dialogue in the House — to further privatize our health care services. And that's quite alarming, Mr. Speaker. But it's pretty common for this government to do this sort of piecemeal privatization and say one thing but then do another when it comes to privatization.

We saw that with Information Services Corporation several years back. Mr. Speaker, I hear from lawyers often that have concerns and complaints with respect to how that whole thing played out. We saw that with SaskTel. They said that they weren't going to privatize it. Now they say that, you know, no deal is off the table, so to speak. And they're doing that with our health care system. It's a typical conservative tactic, Mr. Speaker, where you will starve an important public system and then argue that the only solution is to privatize. And that's what's happening here.

And I'm particularly concerned about how this bill allows for any type of other prescribed service being included in this without us being able to know what the other prescribed service is, without us able to have a discussion as to what that's going to look like in the regulations. And knowing that regulations can be changed — frankly, far more easily than an actual Act can — I'm quite concerned about what that means for scrutiny and the ability for us to not only advocate on behalf of the people of Saskatchewan, but for the people of Saskatchewan to be able to have a say as to what's going on in their health care system.

Now this government tabled some legislation today in terms of making some changes to *The Interpretation Act*, and I'm talking about this because I think the theme around this Act is very similar to what they have done in *The Interpretation Act*. They've changed or they've added the definition of privatize. They've changed it in a way so that essentially it will allow for the piecemeal privatization of our Crown corporations, and that's quite alarming to say the least. Not only was that not in their platform in terms of piecemeal privatization of Crown corporations, but neither was this, neither was this blanket allowance that they're trying to give themselves in terms of further privatizing what are very important public services and trying to find ways around trying to get a social licence to do so essentially.

[16:30]

So that's one of the main concerns I have with respect to this bill. And I think the people of Saskatchewan should be concerned and alarmed about it as well. It's very problematic, and it leads to an inability for us to be able to have a real dialogue as to what's going on. So I worry about what's going to happen in the future with respect to this. I worry about what the regulations are going to look like, mister deputy deputy speaker. And I worry about what this means for the future of our province, and that's really what's concerning.

And I'm disappointed in this government for not being more concerned about this frankly. They should be more alerted to the fact that these things are going on, and they should be more careful when they're talking about important services in our health care system. And I don't think that they're quite as cognizant of that issue as they should be, frankly, mister deputy deputy speaker.

So that's why it's important for us to be having these second reading debates, to highlight some of these issues. And that's why it'll be really important for us to highlight this in committee. And I hope we have the opportunity to find out who, in fact, in the health care system has actually been

consulted with respect to these changes and whether or not these changes are actually going to improve whatever . . . Well I don't even know what they're going to prove because I don't even know yet what any other prescribed services means. It's far too vague and it's far too concerning.

So at committee, I know we'll have a lot more opportunity to speak to these issues, and I'm looking forward to it. And what we're going to do is we're going to fight this piecemeal backdoor privatization as much as we can. And we're going to try and shine a light on it because it seems to be what this government's modus operandi is. And we need to make sure that we're shining a light on it and showing the people of Saskatchewan what they're really doing.

With that I think . . . I know that there's going to be a lot of other colleagues who are going to want to speak to this bill, in particular the Health critic. So with that I will move adjournment of debate on Bill No. 26, *The Patient Choice Medical Imaging Act*.

The Deputy Chair of Committees: — The member from Regina Douglas Park has moved to adjourn debate on *The Patient Choice Medical Imaging Act*, no. 26. Carried? Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Chair of Committees: — Carried.

Bill No. 28

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

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

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And I, of course, rise to speak to Bill No. 28, *The Extension of Compassionate Care Act, 2016*. This follows the previous bill and a bit of a pattern here with some sort of cleverly named bills, Mr. Speaker, that maybe don't show the true nature of the bills and the provisions that are contemplated and proposed within them.

This extension of compassionate care Act on its surface and certainly the first order is to allow employees to take 20 weeks, up to 28 weeks off in order to care for a family member who is at significant risk of death. The reason for these changes, Mr. Speaker, as noted by the minister on June the 14th, is to provide alignment with federal legislation. If there were some changes to the unemployment insurance, and this allows legislation to be in alignment with those . . . Saskatchewan employees will have job-protected leave up to 28 weeks, and at that point would've been one of the first jurisdictions to increase this leave. So certainly, Mr. Speaker, that's something that is important. We all know that people are living longer and often we have people in our families that we need to be able to take leave from our jobs to be able to provide care for.

It was something when I was speaking with families at the hospital when I worked as a medical social worker. It was often a real strain on families when they had someone with a significant illness to be able to, not only have the strain of the illness, but also have the financial strain by being unable to work, Mr. Speaker. So certainly there may be some questions about that particular piece of this legislation or that point in this legislation that my colleagues have further questions about. But I think on its surface that seems to be quite reasonable.

What is a little curious about this legislation is that it does from there take a bit of a turn. And on its surface it might not be apparent that what this bill contemplates is changes to *The Saskatchewan Employment Act*, Mr. Speaker. For those following at home and those who remember the history, this is an Act that was brought about that rolled about 12 pieces of legislation into one omnibus Act, and certainly comes on the heels of some other interesting labour legislation in the province, Mr. Speaker.

In 2012 this Act was . . . The minister entered into some consultation around this . . . very, really largely changed the face of labour legislation in the province, going from about 900 pages of legislation down to about 200. At that point the minister undertook a consultation, but that consultation interestingly didn't include a single public forum or hearing, Mr. Speaker. I hope that that is not a pattern given other proposed consultations, Mr. Speaker. But certainly there was a lack, and many, many within the labour community feel like there was a lack of consultation on this Act. This Act, in addition to being effective in 2014, was also amended in 2014 and 2015, so this is the third time at least that we've been back to look at this Act.

And I note some of the comments that the minister made when introducing this bill back in June. He noted that the government was committed to keeping Saskatchewan strong, and these provisions would ensure that employers and employees continue to benefit from the modern labour legislation, Mr. Speaker. Certainly it's a bit of a different take than I hear from some people that I talk to in my constituency with regard to the state of labour relations in the province. And in fact it's often remarked that the public sector and other labour groups feel a bit under attack by this government, Mr. Speaker.

And certainly after this piece, this contemplated change to the 28 weeks, we note some other changes which . . . It's interesting that they fall under a bill entitled *The Extension of Compassionate Care Act* because what they actually contemplate are changes to the Labour Relations Board, including changes to the ability to select the adjudicator for a wage assessment and who has the responsibility to set time and date of hearings before the Labour Relations Board and serve papers on interested parties, Mr. Speaker.

One of the interesting things — and this has again been a bit of a theme — is that this bill requires the adjudicator to follow regulations regarding the procedures by which the hearing will proceed; however, those regulations have not been addressed. And I know that's been the case with some of the other bills that we've talked about, so it's difficult without looking at those regulations. As I would say, there's a lot to be found in the details. And I know that not only my colleague from Saskatoon,

the Labour critic, will have some very important questions about those regulations when they're actually approved, but also you know, those within the labour community.

I know the SFL [Saskatchewan Federation of Labour] is meeting as we speak right now and I'm sure that they would appreciate consultation, and consultation other than the type of consultation that was undertaken in May of 2012, Mr. Speaker. Again in comments that I've made before, but I think it's important that whenever we are talking about legislation that has the potential impact on groups, it's really important that we undertake robust consultation, that we understand. Sometimes we get unintended consequences when we fail to do that with legislation.

Certainly I can think back to Bill 6 whereby I think there was one intent, but what we ended up was the constitutional right to strike, which may not have been the intent of this government, but here it is. We do now have that right as a result of that legislation being appealed to the Supreme Court of Canada. And I say that because it is important that we do listen to those voices, we do ensure that we have a balanced approach to legislation and that we're careful about all of the consequences — that it's constitutional, that it strikes the right balance between, in this case, Mr. Speaker, the rights of those both the employers and the employees who would be taking their concerns to the Labour Relations Board.

The final section of this bill allows cabinet to make wide-reaching regulations regarding the duties of adjudicators, the rules for appealing decisions of the board, and any other rules related to hearings and appeals. And, Mr. Speaker, the term wide-reaching certainly caught my attention. And again the regulations which have yet to be announced certainly require and warrant a lot of careful discussion and scrutiny with regard to what exactly is being proposed.

When you're looking at appeals to the Labour Relations Board, Mr. Speaker, often people have exhausted many other processes, and it's really important that they get a fair shake, a fair hearing at that board. And I would be, you know, very interested in assurances that that would happen with these proposed amendments to this legislation.

Again as I said, there's a lot more to be said about this bill, including hopefully when we have a chance to have a look at the regulations that are noted in this proposed bill. And I do know that, as I've said previously, that at least . . . I know that at least one of my colleagues, but I anticipate a number of colleagues, as well as people that they consult from their constituencies and within their critic portfolios, will have a lot to say about what is proposed in here that's been sort of slipped under the guise of the extension of compassionate care, which is important, but also all of these other anticipated changes to *The Saskatchewan Employment Act*.

So again I think I've exhausted my comments for now on the topic but will watch the further debate of this bill very closely, and I know others will be watching very closely as well. So with that, Mr. Speaker, I do move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 28, *The Extension of Compassionate Care Act*, 2016.

The Deputy Chair of Committees: — The member from

Regina Lakeview has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 28, *The Extension of Compassionate Care Act, 2016*. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Chair of Committees: — Carried.

Bill No. 29

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

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

Ms. Rancourt: — Thank you, Deputy Speaker. I'm really honoured today to sit and talk about Bill No. 29, *The Justices of the Peace Amendment Act*. This was presented by the Minister of Justice in the spring sitting and so here we are discussing some of the amendments that are needed to be done with that. And like I said before, the Ministry of Justice, they've been very busy looking through the bills and working on making some amendments to some of them, and this one also.

It's really important to have the justices of the peace in our communities. They really help our court systems, and so it's good that we look at this. And part of this, the amendments to this Act, they're wanting to look at traffic safety issues and how that could be resolved outside of the courts.

[16:45]

And earlier this afternoon I talked about another bill that is going to also work at expediting some of the court process when it deals with traffic violations. And it's like . . . I really do believe that it's really important that we allow our judges and our lawyers to focus on the very serious issues that are happening in our court system. They have big caseloads. They have endless amounts of work there. And if we could do our part in helping them to be able to focus on those very serious issues, and we could look at dealing with traffic violations or fines in an easier, better way and . . . Even for residents in our community, I think a lot of people have possibly gotten a traffic violation ticket of some sort in their days, whether it be speeding or a parking ticket or something. And I think with being able to find ways to resolve these outside the court, it's really important. But in saying that, it also needs to be looked at appropriately. And our critic for Justice, she will be on this. And I know she'll work hard at, you know, looking at the different elements of this amendment and ensure that this is going to be not affecting people in a . . . [inaudible] . . . manner.

Also I think one of the bigger things with regards to this amendment is that they're looking at creating an assistant supervising Justice of the Peace officer. And so right now we've got the supervising Justice of the Peace, and this would be the assistant supervising Justice of the Peace officer. And that person will help and take over when the supervising Justice of the Peace officer is absent or needs some extra support in helping do their duties, you know. And so they had to make

some amendments to this Act to add that in there.

And there's going to be some financial obligations with regards to this as well. And there's no talk in here with regards to that, but I'm sure there'll be plenty of discussion in committee of what that pay structure would look like because that'll definitely have an impact on the budget. And I know we're in tight circumstances at this time and we're making, you know, cuts in some really serious areas. And so to add more constraint to the budget, I think that's going to be needed to be discussed. And is this the appropriate time to be making these decisions when we are facing such difficult financial problems and some of our most vulnerable are paying that price? So I know there'll be a lot of discussion with regards to that and so the pay structure with regards to that.

Also in this amendment of this legislation they have some new category of justices of the peace. And the senior Justice of the Peace will be able to impose fines or order a driver to take a driver's training for traffic offences. So my understanding is that usually judges would do that. They would be the ones who impose the fines or order the clients to take these training courses. And so now they'll allow the senior justices of the peace in order to do that and make those decisions. And like I said again, my colleague who's the critic of Justice, she's more knowledgeable in this aspect, and I'm sure she will look into this and ensure that proper due diligence is done and discussed in committee. And so they'll have some discussion with regards to that and yes, and the pay of the justice.

So my fellow colleague, he's a very, very intelligent colleague of mine, the member from Athabasca. I'm going to quote him a little bit, from when he . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . He wasn't even listening when I said these very nice, kind things about my fellow colleague. And so I'm going to share some of the things that he talked about when he had the opportunity to speak with this bill.

And so like what is the pay range going to be? And how are the people who are going to be in these positions, how are they going to be selected? What's that decision-making process going to look like? And how about regional matters in terms of ensuring that we have senior justices of the peace all throughout the province? How's this going to look like through the province? Is this going to be in the North? Is this going to be more southern? Is this going to be all throughout the province? I think we need to look at that because our courts are busy right through the province. And so we need to look at how this is going to be implemented.

So I know that there's going to be lots of discussion about this in council because this is a really important bill, and this is going to need to be evaluated and the amendments with regards to this bill. And I know my other fellow colleagues will have lots of things to add to this discussion and comments. And 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. 29, *The Justices of the Peace Amendment Act, 2016*. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Chair of Committees: — Carried.

Bill No. 30

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 30 — *The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Amendment Act, 2016*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I rise to enter debate on Bill No. 30, *The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Amendment Act, 2016*.

Mr. Speaker, I turn first to the notes from June from *Hansard*, rather from June the 14th of this year. When the minister spoke to Bill No. 30, he noted that many of the changes that are proposed come from recommendations by the Privacy Commissioner.

Mr. Speaker, I think that it's very important when we have these arm's-length officials that are tasked with very important areas of expertise such as protecting the privacy of citizens that we pay careful attention to what they have to say, Mr. Speaker. So I understand that it's owing to some of those recommendations that these proposed changes to legislation were introduced.

Some of the changes that are included . . . recommended changes include creation of a new offence for snooping on a person's personal information, Mr. Speaker. And certainly as we have increased access to personal information increasingly that information is online, and ensuring that people that shouldn't have access to that information don't go seeking it out just to satisfy curiosity or for other malicious means, Mr. Speaker.

Again I'll reach back to my experience of working in a health care setting and being governed by the rules with the HIPA, *The Health Information Protection Act*. And certainly I'm a very firm believer in that those who don't and shouldn't have access to the information don't unnecessarily have access to that information, Mr. Speaker, because to do so does breach the privacy that people should be able to expect and count on. So that is one of the proposed recommendations.

Extending the rules for personal information protection to MLA offices and cabinet ministers' offices, Mr. Speaker, this recommendation flows out of a very unfortunate incident that happened in our province where a man by the name — I guess his name is more than public now — Peter Bowden brought to light some concerns within the health care system, some, you know, very serious concerns. And his information was leaked publicly, and it was a really, really horrible breach of his personal privacy. And so I certainly applaud that recommendation and would caution all of us to be very careful with that information.

We sometimes in the course of our duties as MLAs and members, we do come across very personal health information, and we should protect that and certainly never use that personal

health information to harm those perceived to be our political opponents or those who are pointing out, certainly bringing forth legitimate concerns about what they see in their workplaces or otherwise. So I think that that is very, very important, Mr. Speaker.

There are some other sort of housekeeping notes within this legislation: changing the maximum time for response from 30 days to 20 days, reducing that time, which I think is reasonable to look at that, when people are requesting information that they would be able to get that in a timely manner.

Another anticipated change is that FOIP [*The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*] include a requirement that it be updated every five years to respond to modern technology. And certainly, Mr. Speaker, it does seem that year after year the speed of the change of technology does change, so that does seem reasonable. I think, you know, looking back 5 or 10 years, the leaps and bounds that we've seen with regard to technology and how information is collected and disseminated, it does make sense that we would have regular checks into this legislation.

One of the other things that this bill anticipates is mandatory breach notification. So not only is it an offence when your information is breached, but when your personal information has been breached, that you receive notification of that breach. And I think that's really important, Mr. Speaker, that people are made aware that when their personal information . . .

But there is a bit of a caveat, and that is when that information places an individual at serious personal risk. And I'd be very interested in looking at what that definition is, how we determine and deem what constitutes a very serious risk that you would need to notify the person about and what doesn't. So that maybe is something that one of my colleagues will take up in committee or otherwise when this legislation passes through other hands for scrutiny and for debate.

One of the other things that is noted in here is broadening the grounds for review by the commissioner to include reviewing complaints regarding fees. And, Mr. Speaker, this is something that's really important. And I've heard tale of, you know, too often people, when requesting information, being given really high bills. And that sort of circumvents the intent, I think, of freedom of information, so I'm glad that that will be looked at.

And with that, Mr. Speaker, as I reach the end of my voice and my water and time, I would move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 30, *The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Amendment Act*.

The Deputy Chair of Committees: — The member from Regina Lakeview has moved adjournment on Bill No. 30, *The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Amendment Act*. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Chair of Committees: — It is now being 5 o'clock, the Assembly stands adjourned until tomorrow morning at 10 a.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 17:00.]

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