



FIRST SESSION - TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

of the

**Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

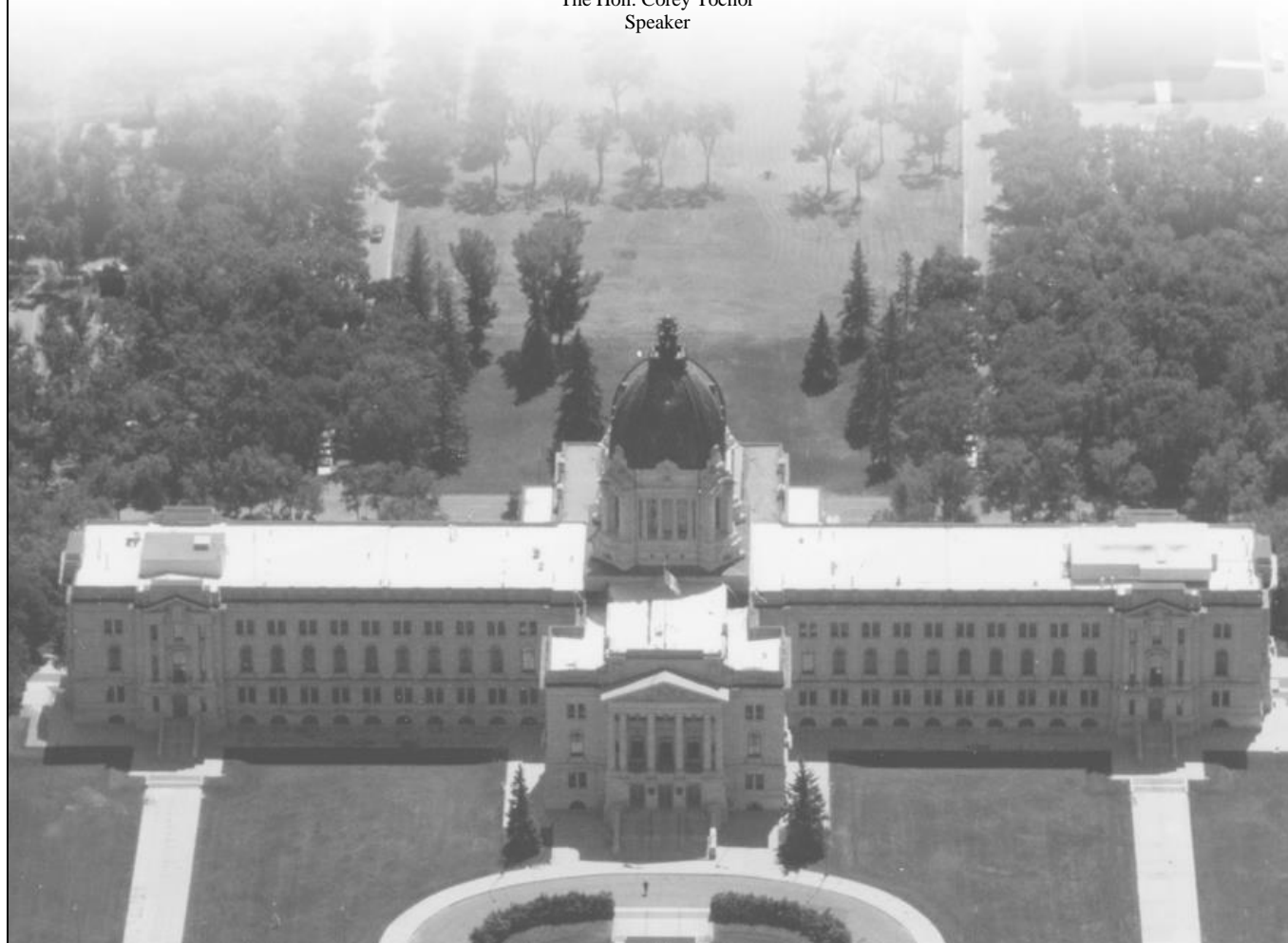
---

**DEBATES  
and  
PROCEEDINGS**

---

(HANSARD)

Published under the  
authority of  
The Hon. Corey Tochor  
Speaker



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

**Speaker** — Hon. Corey Tochor

**Premier** — Hon. Brad Wall

**Leader of the Opposition** — Trent Wotherspoon

**Beaudry-Mellor**, Hon. Tina — Regina University (SP)

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

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

**Bonk**, Steven — Moosomin (SP)

**Boyd**, Bill — Kindersley (SP)

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

**Brkich**, Greg — Arm River (SP)

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

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

**Carr**, Lori — Estevan (SP)

**Chartier**, Danielle — Saskatoon Riversdale (NDP)

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

**Cox**, Herb — The Battlefords (SP)

**D'Autremont**, Dan — Cannington (SP)

**Dennis**, Terry — Canora-Pelly (SP)

**Docherty**, Mark — Regina Coronation Park (SP)

**Doherty**, Hon. Kevin — Regina Northeast (SP)

**Doke**, Larry — Cut Knife-Turtleford (SP)

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

**Eyre**, Hon. Bronwyn — Saskatoon Stonebridge-Dakota (SP)

**Fiaz**, Muhammad — Regina Pasqua (SP)

**Forbes**, David — Saskatoon Centre (NDP)

**Hargrave**, Hon. Joe — Prince Albert Carlton (SP)

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

**Harrison**, Hon. Jeremy — Meadow Lake (SP)

**Hart**, Glen — Last Mountain-Touchwood (SP)

**Heppner**, Nancy — Martensville-Warman (SP)

**Kaeding**, Warren — Melville-Saltcoats (SP)

**Kirsch**, Delbert — Batoche (SP)

**Lambert**, Lisa — Saskatoon Churchill-Wildwood (SP)

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

**Makowsky**, Gene — Regina Gardiner Park (SP)

**Marit**, Hon. David — Wood River (SP)

**McCall**, Warren — Regina Elphinstone-Centre (NDP)

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

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

**Michelson**, Warren — Moose Jaw North (SP)

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

**Morgan**, Hon. Don — Saskatoon Southeast (SP)

**Nerlien**, Hugh — Kelvington-Wadena (SP)

**Olauson**, Eric — Saskatoon University (SP)

**Ottenbreit**, Hon. Greg — Yorkton (SP)

**Parent**, Roger — Saskatoon Meewasin (SP)

**Phillips**, Kevin — Melfort (SP)

**Rancourt**, Nicole — Prince Albert Northcote (NDP)

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

**Ross**, Laura — Regina Rochdale (SP)

**Sarauer**, Nicole — Regina Douglas Park (NDP)

**Sproule**, Cathy — Saskatoon Nutana (NDP)

**Steele**, Doug — Cypress Hills (SP)

**Steinley**, Warren — Regina Walsh Acres (SP)

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

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

**Tochor**, Hon. Corey — Saskatoon Eastview (SP)

**Vermette**, Doyle — Cumberland (NDP)

**Wall**, Hon. Brad — Swift Current (SP)

**Weekes**, Randy — Biggar-Sask Valley (SP)

**Wilson**, Hon. Nadine — Saskatchewan Rivers (SP)

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

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

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

---

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

**Clerks-at-the-Table**

**Clerk** — Gregory A. Putz

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

**Principal Clerk** — Iris Lang

**Clerk Assistant** — Kathy Burianyak

**Sergeant-at-Arms** — Terry Quinn

**Hansard on the Internet**

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

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

[The Assembly resumed at 19:00.]

### EVENING SITTING

**The Deputy Speaker:** — It now being 7 o'clock, I'll call the Assembly to order. We'll resume adjourned debates.

### GOVERNMENT ORDERS

### ADJOURNED DEBATES

### SECOND READINGS

#### Bill No. 8

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

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

**Mr. Vermette:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. To join in on Bill No. 8, *The Summary Offences Procedure Amendment Act, 2016*, I'm just going to give you, I guess, a small word on this bill actually.

What it actually is, it's a bill that allows a police officer to submit a statement by faxing it where the case by the Crown is proceeding but with a summary offence, versus it's not going to be as harsh that this offence is going. So there's some leeway by a police officer to fax in his statement to the prosecutor, which maybe cleans things up. And I know further on as we go down I'll explain why, and I guess some of the changes they're making.

The other change that they're making to that at the same time is, right now if you were given a fine you would have to actually pay that fine, and you have a time that the courts will give you. If you go before the courts, they give you a deadline on paying the fine, from my understanding. I guess the other side of that, if you get a fine, there's also a voluntary option to pay that fine before you go to court. So I assume if you are not going to pay the fine, and you go to court, you go before a judge. The judge may say you're guilty, or you may say you're innocent of the charges. But let's just say . . . My understanding — and it's, you know, my understanding; I'm no lawyer — you would be found guilty of it. They would give you a fine amount that you would have to pay. But there is also a date that then the court would order that you have to pay this fine by.

So having said that, that you would have to pay the fine by a certain date, now later on, let's just say for whatever reasons, an individual could not pay that fine. Maybe there is some hardship, I don't know, some circumstance that come why an individual couldn't pay the fine. They can go back to court and ask, from my understanding, and ask the judge if they can actually have an extension to pay that fine. And it goes through our courts, but that's tying up the courts. And that's one thing that's in here; it's, you know, the court time is very valuable,

and the work that they are doing.

So this would give an opportunity for an administrator, somebody who would administrator that provision now, where they could actually give you an extension so it wouldn't be going before a court, a judge and going to court.

You would apply. I'm not sure how that works. And it is an interesting question. I mean I don't know if it is going to be an administrator, if it is going to be somebody in the courthouse that will look at this, somebody within Justice, I'm not sure. I know, you know, for ourselves, we'll have some questions to clarify that.

But one area where I want to talk another bullet and point that it refers to in the legislation and making this, there's giving more powers to cabinet. And I'm not sure, you know, to make . . . And I don't know if it's a change, the amount of fines, so cabinet will have that ability, the minister I guess will have the ability to raise fines. So I know that just as soon as I seen that and I was thinking to myself, well what exactly does that mean? And I know we're going to get some opportunity to ask more questions in committee on this one.

But having said that, I just want to . . . We never know where these changes are coming in for amendments to legislation or changes, if somebody has been consulted or if somebody has brought it to the minister or the ministry, to their attention, that there's a bill change, or it could be one of the members that they're, you know, that they want those changes made. So I'm not sure in this case where that comes from, and I don't think, I didn't see anything that said they were consulted . . . [inaudible] . . . and maybe they were. But I know, you know, having said that, we can show a lot of examples of where you give powers to the minister and the ministry to take over certain things that used to be the powers of the . . . And my colleagues have said that, and I've listened to them many times talk about sometimes giving away too much or the authority to the minister. And it just, with the stroke of a pen, can do some changes.

And we're seeing some of that stuff in legislation, not only with the changes of this but with regulations that are so easily changed just by government of the day decides it wants to change it. Minister, stroke of a pen, changes the regulations and rules. And that is sometimes concerning because you wonder, well who will be consulted? Who will be impacted by those decisions?

And it's easy to just say, oh yes, we'll just do that. It makes sense. And sometimes on this side we think, well you know, that makes sense. And it might sound like, you know, a good plan. But sometimes, having said that, we're giving away powers from the . . . I don't know if it would be going through a committee, going through more discussion in this House or in committee, that you would get those type of . . . to make sure that things are followed though. And legislation and rulings and changes and regulations that impact Saskatchewan residents, we want to make sure that their best interests sometimes are being taken care of.

And sometimes we rush everything, and sometimes unfortunately the government doesn't have it right, and they'll

introduce legislation. And we've seen that, where they're just not ready for it and they've got to change things or they amend it real quick. And sometimes I think it's important that we make sure we get it right.

And I know I'm going to be able to talk on other bills in the next while. There's a few of them that really got my interest, and I've had people comment on those bills. And I'll get a chance to put that on the record for those individuals who've asked me to say something on a few of these bills that they're concerned with and want to make sure the representative, being it myself or other members of . . . And you know, I've said this: like there is a lot of work to be done. And it might sometimes be members opposite, and I don't know, we refer to all members in here, and some we'll refer to them as backbenchers. And that's fine; I understand that. They say that because they're not part of cabinet.

But I've always said this too, and I think I've said it in the House, from our side of it, saying it is important that even those members that are not part of cabinet, that they ask some tough questions because cabinet and decision making by a small group impact the whole caucus. It's not just . . . So those members I hope will remember as I say this to you: hold your cabinets and your colleagues to task on some of the impacts that are going to impact not only your riding, but your grandkids and impact students and community members and not only my grandchildren, but their grandchildren.

So I know I'm going to get a chance to talk a little bit more about that when some of these bills come up. And we know what the government is trying to do on some of the bills that they're proposing. And I think about, you know, trying to privatize our Crowns, that's another one where you give powers away. And I know I've heard from so many people that are very concerned whether . . . It doesn't matter where you go, people just cannot believe. But I'll make comments about that when we get there.

So on this bill, you know, it's pretty straightforward as you look at it, but I know my colleagues, and we'll flush it out. They're good at, you know, the critic will flush out the questions that she needs to ask. I know she's always reaching out to community members and finding out those individuals out there, and she gets around to talking to those individuals to see how this will impact them. So I know as critics, and that's our role, we'll do some of that where we'll make sure that we're checking on what's going on, what's happening, what's not happening. And you know, did somebody propose this? Is it good for the majority of people? Are there issues with it, and should we be concerned about it? And that's where in committee you can get some direct question and find out.

So actually thinking about that and giving you a little bit of information that I wanted to share, I don't really have any more comments on this bill. So at this point I'm prepared to adjourn debate, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member from Cumberland 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.

### 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 Regina Lakeview.

**Ms. Beck:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise this evening to speak to this bill, Bill No. 9, *The Enforcement of Canadian Judgments Amendment Act, 2016*. Mr. Speaker, in summary, this bill is intended to allow for easier enforcement of tax judgments by Canadian courts in jurisdictions outside of Saskatchewan which, Mr. Speaker, seems to be a reasonable aim for this legislation. And I know this came out of a couple of different bodies asking for similar legislation in Canada to make enforcement of those judgments, particularly tax judgments, smoother and easier to enforce, certainly within the province of Saskatchewan.

In the minister's comments going back to May of this year, the minister noted that these amendments were proposed by coming out of the Uniform Law Conference of Canada, Mr. Speaker, which certainly I will defer to their judgment on this matter.

It's also noted that the Supreme Court of Canada has confirmed that courts in each province need to recognize that tax judgments from other jurisdictions in Canada . . . And certainly, Mr. Speaker, I can see where it would be important that if these judgments are being made in other jurisdictions and the people who are subject to those judgments move provinces, that it would be reasonable that we have mechanisms to enforce those judgments regardless of residency or current location of people who have had those judgments made against them, Mr. Speaker.

Some of the other remarks that the minister made in introducing this bill back in May noted that whether they're issued this legislation will be retroactive, Mr. Speaker, so not just for tax judgments that are made once the bill comes into force, but once the bill comes into force, any outstanding judgments that have not been dealt with. So that seems reasonable and gives this bill some retroactivity, which seems to be in keeping with what came out of the Uniform Law Conference and also in keeping with the direction of the Supreme Court of Canada, Mr. Speaker.

One of the things that this bill does — I'm just going to go to the explanatory notes — is that it provides further definition to "Canadian judgment" as had previously been noted in the Act, Mr. Speaker. And "Canadian judgment" refers to those judgments, for example civil orders, that are made in other jurisdictions but would have some hope of being enforced in this province and similarly in other provinces' similar legislation.

This bill proposes a new definition and adding "Canadian tax judgment." Canadian tax judgment, the explanatory note goes

on to say “. . . includes a judgment for the recovery of money payable under a tax law in a Canadian jurisdiction other than Saskatchewan.” Again that’s in keeping with both the uniform conference and the Supreme Court of Canada. “It also includes a certificate of an amount payable under tax law, if the certificate is registered in a court of Canadian jurisdiction other than Saskatchewan and is deemed by the law of that jurisdiction to be a judgment of that court.”

It goes a little bit further than that, Mr. Speaker, in that it removes, for some other judgments there is a need for jurisdictions to make application, and this removes that requirement in the specific case of tax judgments.

Subsection 7(4) of the Act requires an application to the Court for directions respecting enforcement in certain circumstances. The amendment to Clause 7(4)(b) exempts Canadian tax judgments from this requirement.

So therefore, Mr. Speaker, it removes one of those additional steps in order to enforce those judgments from other jurisdictions, and I would see if that is in place that it might remove some barriers and perhaps expedite being able to enforce those judgements from other jurisdictions, Mr. Speaker.

I think that on surface this seems to be . . . proposed some reasonable amendments and certainly clarifies and makes the process easier to enforce those judgments from other jurisdictions. Some questions that I have, and I note previous colleagues on this side of the Assembly have asked, you know, just what the current scope of the problem is. I would expect that there has been some difficulty in enforcing those judgments in Saskatchewan, and I would expect that this legislation is meant to remedy that, as well as to conform to the recommendations of the Uniform Conference, Mr. Speaker.

[19:15]

Again I don’t know how much of an issue this is in terms of both the number of these judgments that are not being enforced or having some difficulty being enforced in Saskatchewan and how much an issue it is in monetary terms, Mr. Speaker, with collecting those judgments and those assessments. So I know that there are, in addition to Uniform, some bright legal minds on this side of the aisle who would welcome the opportunity to look a little more closely at this legislation. Certainly as I’ve noted, on the surface it does seem if it is effective in achieving its desired outcomes, does seem to be reasonable, but I know that some other members on this side will have an opportunity to speak to this proposed bill and perhaps to delve a little bit deeper into both the intended outcomes, and they’ll be able to pass better judgment perhaps on whether this will be effective in achieving its desired outcomes.

Certainly I am not going to stand here and argue with the direction of Uniform or the Supreme Court of Canada, but perhaps my colleagues will have something to round out that discussion. And certainly we’ll have the opportunity as well in committee, once this bill is moved to committee, to perhaps consult with stakeholders and to have a little more scrutiny and more of a discussion.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I think I’ve exhausted my comments

and my questions on the matter of Bill No. 9 that’s before us, and I will move to adjourn debate.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member for Regina Lakeview 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. 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 Douglas Park.

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It’s my pleasure and honour to get up this evening and rise and speak to Bill No. 12, *An Act to amend The Public Health Act, 1994*. I’m thankful for my colleagues who’ve already spoken to this bill, as they’ve given me some ample reading material in terms of this bill and the changes that are located therein.

From what I understand, this bill is updating the definition of clinic nurse to be in line with some bylaws of the Registered Nurses’ Association of Saskatchewan. And it also adds new reporting duties for nurse practitioners when treating patients with category II communicable diseases, as well as allowing the government to create new public health registry systems similar to the one that’s in place for restaurants. I also understand that it’s creating a system to improve access to public health information, like I said, similar to the one that’s already created for restaurants which is . . . It seems like a very important thing to do, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Time and time again people are becoming more aware of public health issues, and people want to be more independently informed of any type of public health concerns that they may have or any public health issues that could be in relation to these public spaces, Mr. Deputy Speaker. So it makes sense to make that information as accessible as physically possible.

Now I understand that they are changing the definition of nurse practitioner. They’re creating a new definition for the purposes of the Act and then, like I said, modifying the definition for clinic nurse to include nurses that have been granted certain rights and privileges to carry out testing, screening, counselling, and treatment for category II communicable diseases.

Now I’m interested, and I know that my colleague the critic for Health will have opportunity to speak to this and ask questions in committee, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And at that time, I know she’ll be asking very important questions; she’s very well versed in this area. And I’m guessing she’s going to be wanting to know who has been consulted on this and how it affects different stakeholders in the health care field, and whether or not they’re supportive, Mr. Deputy Speaker, of these definition

changes. Because sometimes it seems a little innocuous when you're making changes to definitions in legislation, but it can actually have pretty serious real-world impacts.

So I'm hoping that what was done here was thought through. I know that my colleague, the critic for Health, will have a lot to say about this, and we'll have the opportunity to speak with stakeholders and deal with questions appropriately in committee.

If anything, the critic for Health has been doing a very good job of lately, and basically her whole term as critic for Health is listening to the people who are in the health care field and actually finding out what's going on and finding out what can be done better to improve it.

If there's something that this government seriously lacks, it's in listening to stakeholders and listening to those in the health care field. So it would be good if the members opposite could take some lessons from my colleague, the critic for Health, in terms of stakeholders meetings and listening to the people who are experts in this area and people who are front-line practitioners in this field.

So I'm hoping that through the creation of this legislation, some strong consultations were done both with RN [registered nurse] groups, but LPN [licensed practical nurse] groups as well, and any other type of front-line health care workers, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And I know my colleague will have a lot to say about that. And I have quite a few friends in the health care field, a lot of LPN friends actually, and they have a lot of concerns about where this government is going in terms of health care supports and what's going on in health care in general.

So, for example, we had spoken a few weeks ago about, or it might've been last week even, about some issues with respect to soiled laundry and soiled linen. And I've heard from friends that it's actually been creating some serious backlogs and some serious issues in OR [operating room] surgeries, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that gowns and sheets had to be returned. That created delays, frankly, in the system, and that's just one example why I'm talking about it with respect to this bill of why we're concerned.

We're always concerned about exactly what the government is doing in terms of the health care field. So while this seems like potentially just some minor definition changes, I sure hope that the government has done its due diligence and has spoken to those who are experts in this area and the front-line workers because they are often feeling like they are being left out of the equation in terms of any type of health care decision changes in this province.

So I'll leave it with that at this point. I know the critic on our side, the critic for Health, will have a lot to say about this and a lot of great things to say about it, and I know she'll have a lot of very great questions in committee. But I do also have other colleagues who also want to speak to this piece of legislation before we move it to committee, so with that I will adjourn debate on Bill No. 12.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member from Regina Douglas Park has moved to adjourn debate on *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 Cumberland.

**Mr. Vermette:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to join in on Bill 13, *The Cancer Agency Amendment Act, 2016*.

There's, I guess, a number of points that the legislation here is making some changes and proposed changes that are coming in to play. And I just want to . . . One I think is important is a name change. And I'm not sure, I'll get into that why, but it's going from "cancer care" to "cancer control." It adds "palliation" to the mandate of the agency.

It also allows the minister to disclose a patient's cancer diagnosis, when someone is diagnosed with cancer, to the agency. And I have some questions on that, but I'm going to start out with I'm not sure why the change and if it was . . . Again I talk about government making sure that it's consulting, and this could be a simple thing as the Cancer Agency or those that are diagnosed with cancer and taking care of those patients.

And treatment, want it called cancer control. There might be a reason why; I'm not sure. But obviously, I mean I'm hoping the government's done its work and it's reached out to those individuals that this would impact and to make sure that, you know, they've got the information that they need to go ahead with making these changes.

Now again, I say I hope the government has done their due diligence and has consulted. We've been saying all along how terrible the government has been at not consulting many people. Whether I think about the indigenous people, when I think about some of our seniors, and some of the challenge of our front-line workers, many community members, leaders, you know, do not get consulted when this government brings in legislation. It makes changes and then tries to say, oh yes, it's consulted. And then later you find out that maybe they didn't consult as good as they're thinking they did or they're going to say that they have. So we have differences of opinion on that side and this side when it comes to the duty to consult and accommodate individuals.

Having said that, the mandate goes a little further and it makes some changes to the agency. And I'm not sure exactly what those changes will affect. And it's going to be interesting to see what will those affect. And I know we're going to have some questions in committee.

But the one area where I really am concerned . . . and I'm not sure. And this might be a simple thing, that in committee we

can get those answers. And looking through some of the comments that I could see, they're adding where the Ministry of Health can disclose a patient has cancer.

Now there's different ways, I guess, the ministry will find out an individual has cancer. And I guess maybe they go out of province for some type of a treatment. A diagnosis, it comes back. It's found out: an invoice, a bill, or something to Sask Health, and maybe that is why they now realize that there is a patient that's going through. And I'm curious to see how we're going to work through that because I had some questions about that, and we always had.

Certain individuals in our province have come to this legislation, and I think for all sides of government, with concerns about getting cancer treatment and type of a diagnosis, and treatment where they want to go. And they feel that they should go for that. And I guess sometimes it's a matter of life and death to those individuals, getting a response. So I'm not sure where this will sit. And I'm curious to see some of the questions that we'll have and to flush out exactly how and what examples. And I'm hoping that, you know, the ministry and the officials with the minister can give us some of the details and examples of what's happened and why, why we're bringing this forward now where they want to disclose to the Cancer Agency in Saskatchewan that someone has been diagnosed or a bill's come in. And that's what I'm saying. I'm unsure of that. And I asked a few questions and I'm not sure.

So I know that we have more work to do on this. I know my colleague will ask a lot of questions and we'll get an opportunity to clear the . . . But having said that, I guess, you know when I think about it, cancer touches so many people in our province, in our families, you know, members on this side, members on that side. It is a serious issue. And you know we wish those that are suffering, that they have, you know, a healing and a journey of that. And you know our hearts goes out to those that are suffering.

But it is a serious issue, and I'm not sure if those individuals will have to sign anything off when they say they're being diagnosed with cancer and the Ministry of Health finds out, and it automatically then sends to the Cancer Agency that that person has cancer. If it's in Saskatchewan, maybe there's something they sign. And I'm not sure about that. And I think it has to be, we have to make sure we're covering off the patients and making sure their privacy is not being breached.

[19:30]

And you know, we'll ask those questions. And if it isn't, then that's fine. If my colleagues ask those questions and it comes back it's something that we're comfortable with, I'm sure this will go ahead. If not, then maybe we'll hear from people saying they're not comfortable with it, and maybe, you know, we can relay that message through our critic or any of our members. Or members opposite can relay that to the minister and the Ministry of Health, that there are issues and concerns that people have with this information.

So having said that, you know, I really don't have any further comments on this bill, and I'm prepared to adjourn debate on this bill, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member from Cumberland 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. 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 Prince Albert Northcote.

**Ms. Rancourt:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's an honour to stand here today and talk about Bill No. 15, *The Provincial Court Amendment Act, 2016*. This was brought forward in the spring session by the Minister of Justice and the Attorney General. Like I said before, there's a lot of Ministry of Justice bills coming forward so obviously that department has been very busy going through all of their legislation. And when I was deciding whether I wanted to go into social work, I was considering going into law, and with doing all these bill reviews I am happy I chose social work. But this has been really interesting going through this legislation and I'm learning more and more every day so I'm very honoured to be able to do this.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, this bill has a lot of different information on there. And basically *The Provincial Court Act* establishes the powers, the duties, procedures for the operation of the Provincial Court in Saskatchewan. And so this is a very important piece of legislation. It really defines a lot of what our provincial courts can do and so it's really important to take this quite seriously and review it.

And so some of the recommendations here . . . I'm going to start by quoting a little bit about what the Minister of Justice said when he brought forward this bill:

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

So the changes to this legislation would change that. It will create the list of temporary judges and have that in the Minister of Justice's hands so that he has that information more readily. So I think that's important. I think that's something that you want to make sure you have that list and it's available and if it is put in the *Gazette* then the public is also well aware of that.

Also I'm going to have another quote of what the Minister of Justice said here. There's a lot of discussion in this bill with regards to the Judicial Council. So the Minister of Justice said:

The Judicial Council is comprised of representatives from all levels of the judiciary in Saskatchewan as well as

members of the bar and government appointees under the chairmanship of the Chief Justice of the province.

And so the Judicial Council is a really important group. And so some of the changes in this legislation will be in regards to that, and one of them says, right here it says to “dismiss the complaint without further consideration by the council if the complaint is found to be frivolous, vexatious or wholly without merit.” So that’s something new that they’re wanting to put in this bill.

And to be honest, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I’m concerned about the language of that. And that could be based on perception, so who decides whether that’s a frivolous complaint or not? Most people, we have the right to file complaints, and they have the right to be processed. So will this maybe allow for people to make a decision of what they deem as being frivolous? And for other people, they would think that that’s a really important concern, and they deserve to have that taken seriously too. So I hope there’s a lot of discussion within committee about that language and about how that’s going to be considered and what’s going to be the determination of that, what’s the definition of that, and how could someone make that decision.

Also this will allow the Judicial Council to have one member respond to a complaint rather than the whole council. So again, my understanding is the Judicial Council was created because then you have a group of people who are making these decisions from different angles. They look at the situation from different perspectives. And when you bring it down to one person making that decision, is that going to still have the same merit as when you have a group of people making that decision?

And why do they want to make it so that it’s only one person, Mr. Deputy Speaker? I’m not completely understanding that, what the rationale for that is, but I’m sure there will be a lot of discussion with regards to that at committee, and why they feel that that would be a better way to make decisions when people bring concerns to them. And I’m sure they get their fair share, you know, but again people deserve to have that outlet.

So another thing that . . . another piece of this legislation that’s going to be new is it looks like there’s going to be some changes to the rules of court-appointed lawyers by introducing new restrictions. So when I look at the amended Act, it says, “Court-appointed counsel — application required.” So:

. . . the court shall not appoint a lawyer to represent a person in any legal matter unless the court is satisfied that the application and notice requirements of Part III.1 of *The Constitutional Questions Act, 2012* have been met.

I realize that there is application processes and those are very important. But, Mr. Deputy Speaker, they also have to take into account that a lot of times people who are involved with the legal system might have some issues with literacy or they might have some language restrictive issues, so I think sometimes we can’t just make a blanket statement. We have to look into all these other options. And why isn’t the application filled out, and is that going to restrict some of our most vulnerable people from receiving legal representation that they so rightfully deserve and have a right to.

So I hope again that there is a lot of discussion with regards to this: what was the reasoning for having this placed into the amended Act, and is there a way to make sure that some of these people won’t fall through the cracks and possibly be left with no legal representation, which we definitely don’t want. It makes the court systems much more harder to manage. Sometimes people choose to represent themselves because of some of these barriers and it can provide issues with regards to some of the processes.

So I know there will be quite a bit of discussion in committee with regards to this and so . . . And I also know that I have colleagues here that will be interested in putting more information onto the record with regards to this bill and the proposed amendments. So with that, Deputy Speaker, I’m going to move to adjourn this debate. Thank you.

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

**Ms. Chartier:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It is my privilege, as always, to enter the debate on Bill No. 16, *The Adoption Amendment Act, 2016*. I think I want to start my remarks by just referencing the minister’s second reading speech and pointing to a line she says here: “It is felt by stakeholders providing feedback on the legislative proposals . . .” So the minister in her remarks references that clearly they have done some consultation, but she doesn’t say with whom they consulted in working on this bill, which actually has many, many changes to it, Mr. Speaker.

So I think that that’s always one thing that’s important to ask: who is consulted? How were they consulted? Are all voices who need to be consulted, who are impacted by the legislation, were they part of the process as well, Mr. Speaker? So I know when our critic gets to committee with respect to this bill, that’ll be one question I’m sure that she’ll be following up on.

So Bill No. 16, in terms of some of the changes that it makes, there are some very simple changes like changing the term “Crown ward” to “permanent ward.” And this is because “Crown” is an outdated term and not referenced in any other child welfare legislation here, Mr. Speaker.

It removes the term “simple adoption” from *The Adoption Act* in 1998. There’s another . . . so a simple adoption, from what I understand, is an adoption that allows some of the legal bonds



to be carried on between the birth family and the adoptive . . . and the child. But from my understanding and reading a little bit about this, Mr. Speaker, the simple adoption is not something that had really been used here. I'm just referring again to the minister's second reading speech where she says, "There is little to no documented history of simple adoption in Saskatchewan."

So with respect to this particular area, Mr. Speaker, this bill removes section 28, "Simple adoption orders," and all references to section 28. This is because requirements for simple adoptions are incompatible with legal requirements for intercountry adoption, as they do not require the severing of parental ties or informed consent by the birth parents and do not prevent birth parents from applying to revoke their consent to this type of order. So we'll talk a little bit about intercountry adoptions here in a moment, Mr. Speaker.

Another piece around this is this bill modernizes language to use the child's best interests. So just looking at the explanatory notes here, Mr. Speaker, this is around, this is around the piece around best interests used to be a time when religious . . . I'm just going to look at my notes here. This is when you take too many notes and shuffle your papers around, Mr. Speaker. But the piece around a child's best interest, it changes considerations for "the religious faith, if any, in which the child has been raised" to "the child's cultural and spiritual heritage and upbringing" when determining what is in the best interest of the child, which I think, Mr. Deputy Speaker, makes very good sense.

And I think it's also important when we think about that cultural and spiritual heritage. I think that that's more modern language, for one, but also we can only look back to the Sixties Scoop, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and the importance of a child's own history and sense of identity. Speaking to children who have been adopted, I think that that's one piece that's really important for them. As much as they love and they love their adoptive family, it's always good to know where you come from as well. And so that emphasis on the child's cultural and spiritual heritage and upbringing I think is a good move in that respect, Mr. Speaker.

This bill also increases the amount of time parents can revoke their consent to an independent adoption or voluntary committal from 14 days to 21 days, which is in line with many of the other jurisdictions. In reading . . . well the minister's second reading speech and in the explanatory notes, so in 1988-89, Saskatchewan actually reduced its revocation period from 30 days to 14 days. And at that point the rationale for this reduction was that a longer period of time would possibly unnecessarily put a child's future in doubt. And now in more recent times the focus has been since shifted to the needs of the child to remain connected to its birth family and for birth parents to have sufficient time to consider this very important decision.

It is a very important decision and often giving up a child is not a decision made lightly I think, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And I think 14 days is a short amount of time to make a decision that will impact you for the rest of your life and your child for the rest of your life or his or her life.

[19:45]

Looking at what other jurisdictions are doing:

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

So moving to this 21-day period is in line with, more in line with other jurisdictions and I think tries to strike a balance between the 10 days, the 14 days, and the 30 days, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

This bill allows assisted adoption benefits to continue to subsequent legal guardians if both adoptive parents pass away, Mr. Speaker. So obviously if a child is adopted and both adoptive parents pass away, of course those in assisted adoption cases, it makes sense to pass those benefits on to ensure the child or children still have what they need, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

This bill, Bill No. 16, also allows the minister to enter into payment agreements directly with the young person, a youth between the ages of 18 and 21 if that youth is engaged in an educational or vocational plan. This agreement-making with a youth recognizes a young person's independence from the family unit and allows the minister to support a transition plan if the adoptive parents pass away after the youth turns 18.

Some of the other things that this bill does, it "restricts the court's ability to hear/take into consideration a child's voice in court to age seven and up." So this is quite a departure, Mr. Deputy Speaker, just looking at the minister's second reading speech. Previously children under seven could've participated in this, in having input and the minister points out that:

. . . *The Adoption Act, 1998* gives the judge the discretion to order that a child of any age be interviewed before the court to hear their understanding and wishes regarding their adoption. The judge may also appoint a third party to interview the child and report their findings to the court. These provisions do not have any regard for the child's age, nor do they identify what information should be obtained from the child or who should be able to file a report with the court. The proposed legislative amendments [will now] define the age parameters for a child and enable the establishment in regulations of guidelines for completion of the interview with the child.

So the minister in her comments actually talks a little bit about child development theory.

The amendments are neither intended to change the practice nor to require the completion of a third party report in every adoption case. The court currently requests a report only in exceptional circumstances, for instance if a birth family member objects to the placement and the

judge requires a child's point of view to be provided by an impartial report. The proposed changes are not expected to increase the number of reports required.

[So these changes will mean that] the court will no longer be able to interview or order a report being completed for a child under . . . seven.

And this is where the minister had referenced feedback by stakeholders on the legislative proposals that the age of seven would be an appropriate one for optional reports to be ordered by the court.

So those will be some questions I'm sure that our critic will have just around this piece. Obviously it sounds like this decision has been made around a developmental theory and where kids are at when they're under the age of seven, but I know that our critic will have some questions around that.

This also, this bill introduces a new section, section 27.1 that lays the foundation to support cases involving the adoption of a child from a country that is not a signatory to the *Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption*.

This new legislation is consistent with the requirement for any type of adoption granted in the province. It also ensures that the penalties resulting from the release of identifying information on an adult adoptee's birth registration are consistent with the penalties found within the updates made to *The Adoption Regulations 2003*. And it introduces a new section 35.1 that allows the minister to apply for a court order against any person who is not complying with any provision of the Act, the regulations, or a decision or order issued because of the Act.

So this is quite a lengthy bill. I'll continue here, Mr. Speaker. The bill removes provisions regarding family service boards. This is because family services boards were never established according to *The Child and Family Services Act*, and thus repealing the provisions aligned to *The Adoption Act, 1998* with current practices. And obviously that makes sense, Mr. Speaker, if they've never been established. But I think that might be a question for the critic to inquire as to why the history around that, why the family services boards were never established.

This bill also provides regulation-making authority that describes who can complete a report for the court with respect to a child is proposed for adoption as well as what information the report shall contain. And it supports applications recognizing simple adoption orders made prior to the coming into force of *The Adoption Amendment Act, 2016*.

So that in a fairly large nutshell, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is Bill No. 16, *The Adoption Amendment Act, 2016*. So as I said, I know our critic for Social Services will have many questions when this bill gets to committee, but with that I would like to move to adjourn debate for now.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member from Saskatoon Riversdale has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 16. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy 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 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 this evening to speak to Bill No. 17, *An Act to amend The Power Corporation Act*.

Now this Act that the amendments in the bill are, they seem fairly innocuous. Most of them seem fairly innocuous, but they're sandwiching what are essentially two very concerning items in this amendment that I'm going . . . or this bill that I'm going to speak to mostly.

But first of all, the innocuous portions of the bill essentially just make a number of housekeeping updates: first of all to change, for example, "his" to "his and her"; include gender-neutral pronouns or some gender-neutral references; and then also to remove some unnecessary plurals that are in the bill.

But I want to speak to the portions of the bill that are far more alarming. And this is why it's really important that we have these second bill debates and that we have these second bill discussions, because oftentimes government will table what seems at first like a fairly innocuous legislation, but they also . . . but they often contain therein some very concerning pieces of amendments.

The first one that I want to speak about with respect to this bill is clause 5, section 8. And I'm just going to look at the explanation that has been provided by the government. They are recommending:

. . . that clause 8(1)(i) be amended to clarify that SaskPower's authorized powers and purposes include those that are connected with or incidental to the purposes and powers set out in any other statute that prescribes purposes and powers for Crown Corporations . . .

Now they say in the explanation that the intention is not necessarily to add powers. But as has been stated by my colleagues who've spoken to this bill already, it's always a little bit concerning, first of all, when government seems to feel the need to clarify certain things in legislation. And sometimes when things are clarified, they're actually expanded. And what is stated as explicit intention is not always the result.

And as has been seen, for example in bill 40, not always does government and do the members opposite think about the full consequences of the legislation they table until after they've tabled it, which is again why it's important to have these second reading debates and important to have these bills go to committee, so these issues can be brought to light and discussed and hopefully changed.

Now it's very worrisome to see that there is this need for clarification and also that they're granting the ability of cabinet to designate purposes and powers as it considers necessary or desirable. Now I'm always concerned, Mr. Deputy Speaker, when I see legislation being amended to provide authority to cabinet to make further decisions after the bill is passed. What happens in cabinet and what happens in terms of changing regulations don't necessarily have to go through the same rigorous process as legislative change has to. And that's the concerning thing, is that once this is passed, cabinet can essentially do what it feels it needs to in terms of designating purposes and powers as it's stated in the Act, and what that means, may not come through this House again and may not be, opposition may not be given the opportunity to speak about it or shed some light on some concerns or figure out or be able to highlight to the public and to the people exactly what's going on with respect to these changes or respect to any type of powers or purposes that cabinet may deem necessary in the future.

And that's always the concerning thing for me, Mr. Deputy Speaker, when essentially the democratic process is being taken away in terms of providing more, more authority to cabinet and less opportunity for us to have a democratic discussion and debate. So that's one of the main concerns that I have with respect to this bill. And I know colleagues have also, opposite spoken about their concerns with respect to those changes can be to this bill as well.

And the other alarming concern, also sandwiched in between what seems to be fairly innocuous amendments, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is the change in clause 17 and the change to section 43, which increases SaskPower's current borrowing limit of \$8 billion to \$10 billion, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Now my colleague the member from Lakeview has spoken to this bill already and laid out essentially what this means and what this has meant for SaskPower and for government since the borrowing limit was increased in the past few years. This is a worrying trend and a constant trend with this government. From what I understand, the legislation was last amended in 2013 to raise the borrowing limit from \$5 billion up to \$8 billion. And now they want to raise it again, Mr. Deputy Speaker, up to \$10 billion. So that's a jump of \$5 billion total since 2013.

Considering that we recently discussed in the House the request for government itself to increase its borrowing limit, and now SaskPower to continually increase its borrowing limit, I think this should create a lot of red flags for the people of Saskatchewan and for taxpayers in terms of how our finances are really doing, what's actually going on in terms of the state of our finances, and what hasn't yet been fully disclosed by this government in terms of first quarter report in terms of what the actual deficit is.

But there's sure a lot of hints in terms of what's actually going on. And that's, you know, you look at this, this change, the request for the increase to the borrowing limit. And you look for the one that we noticed in the order in council recently, the request to increase in that borrowing limit, and it's really, it's really creating some terrifying concerns, frankly, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And we worry about how we're ever going to be dig ourselves out of this mess, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I know that NDP [New Democratic Party] governments have had to do that

in the past, and you know what? I know the members on this side are more than ready and willing to do that again. We just hope that the mess isn't too big by the time in 2020 when we get to take over, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

SaskPower has been stating that one of the reasons for the increase in this deficit is, or the increase in this borrowing limit is because of the need to improve aging infrastructure, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

[20:00]

And another one, in terms of their goal to move to 50 per cent renewables by 2030. Now boy, that sounds exciting — 50 per cent renewables by 2030. However we haven't really seen a whole lot of action in terms of this government actually moving towards it. We see the need to feel absolutely married to nothing else but the carbon capture project, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but there sure isn't a whole lot of innovation or discussion about how we're going to expand it. And so I hope that the goal is actually to increase it by 50 per cent at 2030, but I sure haven't seen a whole lot in terms of action yet, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

And it's not just the concerns about the aging infrastructure that are creating this need to increase the borrowing limit, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I think another huge concern is the failed projects and the wasted money that's happened, both within the government generally but also some of the problems that have occurred in recent projects in SaskPower, the smart meters being one of them for example, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and the carbon capture project being another in terms of a project that was told to work at a certain time, by a certain time, and hasn't quite delivered as government once promised.

So we're very concerned about two particular main things with respect to this bill. First of all, like I said, the increase to the borrowing limit, always very concerning. Always worried about how we're going to deal with this in the future, always worried about government trying to evade questions about a growing deficit by moving or hiding it in our Crowns, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And also concerned about this extra power that they're giving cabinet, to essentially clarify, as they say, or clarify what would be purposes and powers of SaskPower as it deems necessary. Always, like I said, Mr. Deputy Speaker, very concerning when we're moving things to cabinet and to regulations and not putting it through legislation like it should be because it changes the way, the level of discourse that we are able to have in this House, which is always quite concerning.

Now I know my other colleagues are going to want to have a discussion about this bill. I know the critic for SaskPower is going to have a much more eloquent discussion about this bill than I could, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and I know there'll be questions at committee, but with that, at this time I think I'll move adjournment on debate for Bill No. 17, *The Power Corporation Amendment Act*.

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

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to introduce into the debate on Bill No. 19, *An Act respecting Film and Video classification, repealing The Film and Video Classification Act and making consequential amendments to other Acts*.

Or in this case, for the Sask Party, "How I shrunk the film industry" here in Saskatchewan. And they wrote the book on that, how they killed the film industry. And I know many people were so disappointed . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . And we hear them saying that that was one of the worst movies ever, "How I shrunk the film industry," starring the member from Martensville, who feels she wanted a speaking role. You know, at least we thought it might be silent film over there, but they all want to talk to it. They all want to talk to it. That was one of our proudest moments when they killed the movies in Saskatchewan. That's right, that's right, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

You know and so . . . They start with privatizing SCN [Saskatchewan Communications Network]. That's where it all started. And they were very, quite happy with that, quite happy with that. And here you know for many people it was a sad, sad end to the week, sad end to the week when we did see *Corner Gas* sets get knocked down. And I know the member from Moose Jaw North though is going to be very happy because I understand parts of that are going to be in the Western Development Museum in Moose Jaw. And he'll go there with his picture being taken and I was part of the destruction of the film industry here in Saskatchewan. I played a leading role.

And I don't know what those folks over there . . . But anyways, Mr. Speaker, I digress. Because this is a very serious bill before us, and it is. It is. A lot of people who really want to be creative and leave their mark in the world really look to the creative arts like film and video to do some wonderful things and tell some wonderful stories. It's unfortunate that many now have had to leave the province and it's unfortunate they get no sympathy from the folks over there because they just did a cold-hearted cut, cold-hearted cut, and it was on the cutting floor. And there you go. And so, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I do think this is an important piece of legislation before us.

I do have to say though, it is interesting. In their quest to be modern they still use the word "film and video." And I was thinking about the IMAX. Now maybe I'm wrong; maybe they still use film . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Well you know, the member from Moose Jaw North over there who beaks off, taking pride in the job cuts that happen, the layoffs that happen in Moose Jaw and he just washes his hands, washes his hands. And I can't wait to see him lining up to have a picture taken

with *Corner Gas*.

But, Mr. Deputy Speaker, when these folks seek to be modern and clarify language like they are apt to do, you know, taking them some 61 years to recognize that we do actually have a queen reigning over us here in the domain of Canada. But I'm not sure if we actually have film anymore and they probably should've changed this film and video to the digital, some digital language. Because you know my son's always giving me a hard time when I talk about tape recording and there's no tape being recorded on. It's all digital. The same with film and video. In fact we were just thinking the IMAX over at the Kramer theatre I think has been upgraded so it's no longer using that great big wide film anymore. It's all digital. It's all digital.

Now so we have . . . And this shows the dinosaurs across the way still with their film and video classification Act, so . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . I don't know this guy across the way. He's . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . He really is. He really is. He still living in the days from when Tommy Douglas, that great movie that was made in this building here, you know . . . And here, excuse me, because I use the word "movie" because people are moving in them, you know, as opposed to those still photos where they're over there doing the talkies.

But, Mr. Speaker, this is a very important piece of legislation and I do think as my colleague from Nutana pointed out, there isn't much that has been changed here and it is interesting that they have gone to redoing the whole Act while there's very little to be changed.

But I do want to be serious here because I think there are some parts here, you know, they go into the long, long definitions, the definitions that they're very proud of. And I do have to say one of the things that I've been approached about, and because I live in a . . . I represent an area of the city in Saskatoon that has several groups who are in the film and video arts.

And you know, we have this Nuit Blanche that happens every September. It's a wonderful thing, and under the bridge, the Alvin Buckwold bridge, there were some films being shown. And it was interesting because the people responsible pointed out that none of these films were actually classified. They were made by artists and they were all done under the auspices of SaskCulture. It was Culture Days or culture nights.

But the fact of the matter is, many of the artistic type of films are not classified actually, and this becomes a bit of a problem because people have said, don't worry about classification; that's really for the commercial theatre. But when we talk about theatres we don't actually think about whether they're commercial or not-for-profit. We think about galleries that show films and video projects but are not necessarily for profit.

But we think about the exemptions that are here, and under section 13 of course, and I'll read the exemptions, Mr. Deputy Speaker:

This Act does not apply to:

(a) a film owned or sponsored by:

(i) a church or religious society, if the film is designed

for purposes of worship or religious instruction; or

(ii) a university, school or other educational institution for which the minister responsible for the administration of *The Education Act, 1995* is responsible, if the film is designed for educational purposes;

(b) a film designed for the purpose of advertising, demonstrating or instructing in the use of commercial or industrial products; or

(c) any other film or class of films, person or class of persons or advertising associated . . . that may be exempted in the regulations or by the director pursuant to clause 14(6) . . .

So if you go over the 14(6)(c) it talks about regulations as you would, prescribed criteria and that type of thing.

So there are the exemptions and people think, well I just don't need to apply and maybe, because I'm not a commercial theatre, and I'm not going to make a lot of money at it. And what could go wrong? Well a lot could go really wrong. If all of a sudden you have somebody who decides to take it at heart, the new Act, and decides to prosecute.

And in the case of the prosecution, you know, I was actually quite amazed at the penalties here. For the first offence, in the case of an individual, to a fine not exceeding \$5,000, and if it's a corporation and not exceeding \$100,000. So if this is a small arts group, but a corporation that files its papers every year, the fines can be up to \$100,000. For a second offence, it could be up to \$500,000. I'm quite amazed at that: \$500,000. These are stronger than the OHS [occupational health and safety] penalties.

And when we get into committee, I would really like to hear from the minister what rationale is it for those kind of fines for, you know, the . . . and what are the criteria for doing that? I mean this is really something that is quite severe, is quite severe. And you know, we have . . . And we understand when we get into the realm of pornography and that type of thing, but, you know, in terms of the galleries and in terms of the independent filmmaker, these could be quite damaging in terms of just putting these groups completely under. They don't have any near the resources to pay a fine that approaches \$100,000. Well no, some of them may. They may have the resources to pay that, yes.

So I just think that what we need to do — and I would really urge the minister and people on the other side because I know some of the members on the other side have connections to film, independent filmmakers — to say, is there a way to have an exemption or something in the Act that recognizes the art of filmmaking as an exemption? They may not be tied to a university. They may not be tied to a school under *The Education Act*. They may not be tied to a church group but clearly they are a special category. They're not a commercial theatre. They do not make any money off the films that they make.

So I think this is something that really I would urge the minister . . . and I know they are writing the minister as we speak. And I

would urge other members on both sides of the House, if you do have people or groups, small groups, independent filmmakers, to seek them out and ask their opinion about *The Film and Video Classification Act* and whether or not they feel they will be impacted by it. They might say that we don't plan on applying ever to be classified, and I would say that's maybe a little naive because as I said, you may be caught up in that. And that's a problem.

[20:15]

And so, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think there's a lot here that we need to talk about and I know I've talked to our critic about this and we'll be following up and watching for this because I don't think . . . This is again a classic case of unintended consequences where you say, okay we just want to modernize this, but there is an opportunity to take a look at what's actually happening in the independent filmmakers' group, the arts filmmakers' groups, that are we not including them.

And this could be a problem later on because we do all love those events where we can get together and celebrate the arts and we can watch an independent short film. I think of the National Film Board that did such wonderful things and, you know . . . But if, as I say, somebody decides to really prosecute to the full extent of the law and somebody hasn't classified a film, and then all of a sudden we're in a bit of a problem, a bit of a pickle. And that pickle can be quite expensive.

And so with that, Mr. Speaker, I would move adjournment of Bill No. 19, *An Act respecting Film and Video Classification, repealing The Film and Video Classification Act and making consequential amendments to other Acts*. I do so move. Thank you.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

**Ms. Beck:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise tonight to speak to Bill No. 26, as was noted, the short name, *The Patient Choice Medical Imaging Act*. In more depth this is, this proposes to replace existing legislation, which is the previous *An Act respecting the Licensing and Operation of certain Facilities providing Magnetic Resonance Imaging Services and making consequential amendments to other Acts*.

Now I understand the want of a slightly shortened tag for that bill but when I read the new longer title of this new bill, *An Act*

*respecting the Licensing and Operation of certain Facilities providing Medical Imaging Services, repealing a certain Act and making consequential amendments to certain Acts*, Mr. Speaker.

There's a lot that is said in the longer titles, but certainly I think more interesting is the short title and the notion of this being about patient choice, Mr. Speaker. Choice, I guess, is important when you're looking at the context from which that choice is being made. This is a choice for some people to be able to pay for faster service. It is a choice that applies to some in this province but won't apply equally to others. And possibly once exercising that choice to pay for these private services is a choice also to jump the queue again and receive quicker medical services, Mr. Speaker. So that is, a lot is obscured by that, that very sunny-sounding title about this being about patient choice.

This is of course, the second go at this for this government. The previous legislation anticipated or contemplated MRIs [magnetic resonance imaging] and this one now adds CT [computerized tomography] scans and also, Mr. Speaker, leaves the door open for other imaging diagnostics as is seen fit.

I know that there have been a number of groups going back to previous submissions around the changes to the MRI and privatizing that portion, and I would expect that those concerns hold true again for the CT scans, Mr. Speaker.

I'm going to first start at some of the minister's comments, the previous minister, Mr. Speaker, his comments when moving second reading of this bill. The minister noted that this Act will provide the option for patients to pay directly for MRI and CT services at licensed private facilities in the province. And this Act will set out quality standards and requirements of the facilities. Regulations will define specific categories of that licence.

Of course, we don't know what is in those regulations, Mr. Speaker, but that is something that will be of great importance to ensure that we have a full look at those regulations and to ensure that there isn't more that we didn't contemplate in those.

Also, the minister went on to say, "In order to facilitate this legislative change, the existing MRI facilities licencing Act and regulations will be repealed at the same time . . ." as this bill is put forward. "It will also allow for other medical imaging modalities to be added in the future through changes to regulations."

Mr. Speaker, I find that quite concerning within this legislation. Of course this is not the first time that we've seen that. I know when the proposed changes to the SLGA [Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority], not only privatizing the 40 liquor stores that were talked about during the election, it leaves that door open, with a lot less oversight and certainly a lot less debate in this Assembly, to privatize additional liquor stores.

And certainly that's concerning when you see that sort of a door left open which wouldn't necessarily be able to provide the type of oversight and consultation that really is important in something as potentially game-changing as this legislation, and something that certainly does hack at the *Canada Health Act*

and certainly the notion of universality and one of the basic five tenets of that very important Act that we know that people in this province, in this country hold dear. This is sort of a backdoor way around it, Mr. Speaker.

Also in the minister's comments he noted that reducing wait times and giving patients more choice over their own health care decisions is a priority for the people of Saskatchewan. Again I'll note that this is one choice that has been proposed by this government, but there are other choices of course within health care. One would be providing a strong voice with the other premiers and demanding and requiring more input of resources from the federal government. That certainly is something that's made more and more difficult when you, when you lack that kind of relationship with other premiers, and certainly when you lack a relationship with the federal government, but that would be one choice that would be available to this government.

Concerns of course were raised previously with the MRI bill and again with this bill. One of those concerns revolves around the potential for these private clinics to poach staff from the public system, and I know that's a concern that I have heard many times. And the minister noted that these applications . . . regional health authorities would be required to report on the expected impact of the facility on the public system, the public operations. Well that would be good to see what that report would look like and what the scope of that report would be, and have some scrutiny of those type of reports.

Furthermore, facilities would be required to submit a human services plan that outlines how its staffing plan will not negatively impact the health region in which it plans to operate. Well certainly if I'm pitching something, I'm going to do my best to give a good report saying how this isn't going to negatively impact, but I think you need something a little more objective than that, Mr. Speaker, to ensure that it doesn't have some of those consequences. We certainly have heard stories from other jurisdictions that this has been the case with the introduction of private MRIs and private CT scans, Mr. Speaker. We also . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . You want me to read your whole speech?

Mr. Speaker, the government, the previous minister also noted that they would consult on the development of regulations with stakeholders. And I will read some of that into the record, some of the previous consultations and some of those concerns from previous stakeholders that I don't think have been put aside and certainly have increased with the increase in or with the introduction of MRIs, and certainly are at least twofold, if not more, with the introduction of this legislation, Mr. Speaker.

The minister also noted, the previous minister, that his government ". . . is committed to innovative patient-first solutions that enhance access to the services and result in improved patient satisfaction," Mr. Speaker. Well that's a good goal, but we also know that people have a lot of satisfaction and a lot of concern for their public health care system in this country. And we've seen a slow and not-so-slow erosion and this bill certainly will, I'm afraid, add to that further erosion of that system. And that's certainly something that I heard on the doorstep fairly frequently, both from people who work in the system but also people who traditionally maybe haven't had a

lot of concerns to raise with this government, but certainly did raise that with me, people who worked in the system, people who had some very clear ideas about how the public system could be improved without resorting to the introduction of private clinics and all that that opens us up to, Mr. Speaker.

One of those people speaking out against this, I note Dr. Ryan Meili noted back in 2014 that there are ways of improving access to MRIs that don't undermine the principles or confidence in the public system. Imaging is one of the most overused elements of our health care system, so making sure that those scans that are being requested are medically necessary, Mr. Speaker, is one important part of a solution that doesn't rely on private clinics. And working to promote the rational use of technology is one way to make sure it is available for those who need it most.

Other things that I've heard when I was working in the hospital certainly — and this is noted here — expanded hours of use, training programs for personnel, and the number of machines in the public system is another, Mr. Speaker. And I think that that bears some other scrutiny. When we're talking about choice, this is another choice that could've been made by this government to invest in the public system, rather than resorting to this system that really does put our public system at risk and allows some people to jump the queue.

I know that they've sort of paired the private MRIs with one being administered through the public system or one other person on the list being able to pay, Mr. Speaker, but I think that's certainly, I am sure, welcome to that person is a bit of a diversion. This really is something that does have a strong impact on our public system, and I'm not sure that all of the consequences have been shown with the first piece of legislation. And now we've got this other piece including CT scans, and we've left the door open, should this bill pass, to just include as needed other forms of privatization of imaging technology.

[20:30]

One of the other concerns noted with this type of privatization is that these private clinics, and I just digress a little bit. I know it was a bit jarring. I was up in Saskatoon waiting at the bus station and I noticed a taxi wrapped with one of the private clinics and it, you know, got me thinking. You know, these clinics have to advertise, and there's money that goes into that. It just got me thinking of how a well-funded and a well-supported public system, all of the funds go into providing the service. You don't have to put the funds into advertising and to providing dividends to your shareholders. But I digress, Mr. Speaker.

Anyway one of the concerns as noted in the Commission on the Future of Health Care noted that such facilities sort of take the easy, the cream off those services that can be easily and more inexpensively provided. So these private clinics take the easier procedures, those things that, well like MRIs, but leaves the public system to provide the more complicated and expensive services for which it is more difficult to control per case, Mr. Speaker. And that's one of the concerns when we're looking at privatization, which this is introducing — well doubling down on now, Mr. Speaker — in our system here in Saskatchewan.

The minister in his notes noted that there has been some increase in MRI scanners in Canada, but according to the submission that I have here, even with the increase to seven, we still are at or below what other jurisdictions are doing. So there would be another choice when we're talking about choice, Mr. Speaker, would be investing in those public MRIs and ensuring that they're running at the capacity that they could be and that we have proper training for people to be running them.

One of the submissions to the previous Bill 179, which was the previous MRI facilities licensing Act, came from CUPE [Canadian Union of Public Employees]. And they noted that allowing this type of queue jumping through private-pay MRIs and now CT scans violates the accessibility principle of the *Canada Health Act*, and I think that that certainly is the case. For those who don't know, Mr. Speaker, the accessibility portion of the *Canada Health Act*, the principle is that all insured persons have reasonable access to health care facilities. In addition, all physicians' hospitals must be provided reasonable compensation for the services they provide.

But the one that I'm as, if not more, concerned with, Mr. Speaker, is universality. And that is that all insured residents are entitled to the same level of health care. And I think when you are able to again jump that queue and, first of all, get your scan quicker, and then if you have something show up on that scan, get in line quicker for surgery or for treatment, I think that that really does call into question the universality of one of those main tenets of the *Canada Health Act*. So I think that that will bear some, warrant some more consideration and scrutiny in committee.

Well the members opposite are talking about wait times. You know, that's interesting. One of the things, one of the concerns that I have and has been mentioned by others is the efficacy of this type of legislation in reducing wait times. In fact there's evidence to the contrary that this type of legislation actually increases wait times, and that's one of the big concerns, Mr. Speaker, is that not only . . . Now we've enabled the previous legislation and now this legislation, and we don't have a lot of evidence that not only is it helping, but we don't really know the extent to which it's doing harm to our system and improving wait lists. So that's a big concern, Mr. Speaker.

And I know we did try to get some answers, and we had a freedom of information request that went through earlier this year. But, you know, it's hard to get answers when you have page after page that is redacted, citing section 17(1)(a) which is the trade secrets portion of the freedom of information and protections Act. So I mean if this is such a good deal, then let's put the information and the evidence out there, Mr. Speaker.

And I hope that we will have a fulsome conversation about both what the impacts have been of the previous legislation and now again what we can anticipate with this legislation. And again, leaving that door open to further privatization within our health care system which is, as my colleague from Riversdale noted, this is a slippery slope, and we are going faster and faster down that slippery slope in this province certainly with regard to health care but elsewhere.

And you know, we could make some short-term decisions to relieve some budgetary pressures due to mismanagement and

all other sorts of reasons, but they have long-term consequences. And not only do they have consequences for the people of Saskatchewan in terms of their health care but also long-term monetary consequences.

And I think that this bill certainly warrants a lot of scrutiny. And I know my colleagues will want to speak further to it, and my colleague from Riversdale will want to speak to it, I'm sure, here and also in committee at length because this is important, Mr. Speaker. And it's important that people of Saskatchewan have answers before we see this bill passed. And with that, I will conclude my remarks and move to adjourn.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

### Bill No. 28

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

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

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Mr. Deputy Speaker, it's my pleasure and honour to rise this evening to speak to *The Extension of Compassionate Care Act*. Well first I'll talk about the changes in this bill that actually relate to the name of the bill, and then I'll talk about all of the things that they included in the bill that have nothing to do with the name of the bill, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

So the first change is, you know, I think arguably, definitely a good change. It allows an employee to take up to 28 weeks off work in order to care for a family member who's at a significant risk of death, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Now I understand that this change is to allow for Saskatchewan to move in line with some changes that happened with respect to federal legislation. I believe we were originally at eight weeks, something around that, in terms of how much compassionate leave was allowed to be taken. So I'm happy to see that there has been an extension. We have an increasingly aging population, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and there will be more time where family is going to be called upon to assist their aging loved ones.

I know personally in our family that we've had to experience that as well, and I'm sure we'll have to experience it again in the future. Eight weeks simply isn't enough. It's good to see this change to 28 weeks to reflect the importance of family assistance. But it's also incumbent on the health care system to also be providing these supports as well, and it shouldn't all be placed on family members, Mr. Deputy Speaker. We need to make sure that we're providing adequate home care supports so

individuals who are aging can live in their homes for longer, and that that responsibility, although it's an important one, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it's not all on family members. In saying that though, it's important, this amendment to *The Saskatchewan Employment Act* to increase the allowance for leave, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

I'm interested to know, "a significant risk of death" in the bill and whether or not that's something that's been changed or something that has always been like that, or whether or not that's something that's just been decided within the courts, what that actually means, and what the definition of that is, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'm assuming that this is in line with other jurisdictions and that there's already some jurisprudence on this definition, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and that we're not straying from decisions that have already been made in the courts with respect to what this definition could mean, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

So I think those are some important things to be looking at. And those are things that I know that the deputy critic will be as well . . . or not the deputy critic, my apologies, the critic for Health, Mr. Deputy Speaker . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Oh no, wait, it's Labour. Right. And that's the whole confusing thing about this whole Act.

And that's what I was going to go into next actually, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Because when I originally and I think when members on our side originally saw this bill, we thought oh, compassionate care Act. This is a health care bill; this changes some sort of thing within the health care field. But it's actually a change to the employment insurance Act. It's actually a labour bill. And so I think our critic for Labour thought he was getting off scot-free, but now he actually has to take a really good hard look at this bill. And I know he's going to and he's going to have some very important remarks to make with respect to this.

Now from what I understand actually, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is that . . . and I thank my colleagues for providing this information to me. What it's doing it's lining up employment insurance benefits, job protection benefits now so that those who have to take leave will be protected from having their employment terminated as a result of their need to go care for aging family members, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Now the more interesting thing to this bill, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to me and one of the concerns about, I guess, when you try to look at the name of a bill and you think that the name of the bill is a good explanation for what's in the bill, it often . . . Sometimes their government likes to hide little gems of surprises for you if you're not careful in terms of reading the bill.

It's interesting to see that they've added some changes that also . . . some additional changes to *The Saskatchewan Employment Act*, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that actually have nothing to do with compassionate care, which is disappointing to see when government just actually tries to sneak these extra things in without any type of real disclosure or transparency to the public. So I will speak to some of those changes.

Now what the bill also does in addition to the compassionate care changes is that it introduces technical amendments that



give a number of powers to the registrar from the Labour Relations Board, including the ability to select the adjudicator for a wage assessment and the responsibility to set the date and time of hearings before the Labour Relations Board and to serve papers upon the interested parties.

So it's always a little bit concerning to see powers being moved and powers being given. I'm not sure whether or not these are powers that have been consulted with by all stakeholders and whether or not they're supportive of this, whether or not this is a necessary change for the Labour Relations Board, if all parties that participate with the Labour Relations Board felt that these were powers that the board needed to effectively carry out their mandate. So those will be questions I'm sure that will be asked at committee in terms of whether or not, what spurred this change, why is it being changed and who is being consulted — always the most important things.

Another interesting thing, and it makes it a bit difficult for us to even have this discussion, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is that the bill also requires the adjudicator to follow the regulations regarding the procedures by which the hearing will proceed. Unfortunately though, these regulations have not yet been released. And as I know regulations tend to have a different path that they follow in terms of being proclaimed and they have less of an oversight in terms of this House body, we have less of an opportunity to really speak to them, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

So I have no idea frankly what procedural hearing requirements are going to be instituted, what sort of things are going to be in there that the adjudicator must follow. So it's very difficult and it's frustrating as an opposition member to be able to discuss any piece of legislation when it references powers being set out in the regulations and we haven't even seen the regulations yet, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

[20:45]

So I guess all I can really say at this point is that I hope that the stakeholders have been consulted on this. I hope that the stakeholders are being consulted on this. I hope we'll have the opportunity to review them and provide comments, and I hope the regulations come out in a timely manner and are in such a fashion that are agreeable to all stakeholders, all people that deal with the Labour Relations Board — and that's a mix of people, Mr. Deputy Speaker. There's often unrepresented individuals who are at the Labour Relations Board. There's often . . . Then there's often lawyers as well. There's union-side lawyers or employer-side lawyers. There's unrepresented employers who are at the Labour Relations Board as well. So it's important that all of those individuals are consulted and that these regulations are such a way that are agreeable to all of the parties.

Now another concerning portion of this bill is the final section, which allows cabinet to make wide-reaching regulations regarding the duties of the adjudicators, the rules for appealing decisions of the board, and any other rules related to hearings and appeals. Now, Mr. Deputy Speaker, again it's . . . As an opposition member, how am I supposed to comment or critique or speak to regulations that I haven't even seen yet, regulations that don't exist? And it's very concerning when authority is

granted away from legislation and into regulations. Because as I had said — I have had to say several times actually tonight, Mr. Deputy Speaker — it's hard for us because the avenue is different, and it can often be done quicker, but without the level of scrutiny that bills require, Mr. Deputy Speaker. So that's the thing that I'm the most concerned about.

And any other rules related to hearings or appeals, for example, is a very broad thing to say and it encompasses a lot of different potential avenues. And it can, for example, it can make the process . . . for example it can make the process of appealing a Labour Relations Board decision for an unrepresented individual, be it an employer or an employee, very cumbersome. We don't frankly know what they're going to look like or what the process is going to be, but I sure hope that the regulations will set out a process that's accessible for all people — not just lawyers, for example, but also unrepresented people. I often speak to the plight of the poor lawyers, but we also have to think about unrepresented people as well. And that's the concern that I have.

We want to make sure that this Labour Relations Board stays as accessible as possible. It's supposed to be one of the board's . . . And that's the whole point of having administrative tribunals, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is that they're supposed to be accessible to the people and they're supposed to be . . . The rules of participating in administrative-type tribunals, which the Labour Relations Board is, is supposed to be a little bit more fair or a little bit more, you know, flexible, depending on the people that are using that tribunal, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It creates a more accessible justice system.

So I'm sure hoping that the members opposite are paying attention, and when they're drafting that regulation that they're planning on making sure that those regulations are following that. I got a couple nods, so I'm going to hold them to that in the future, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

I know that the critic is going to have some comments on this, which we now know is the critic for Labour, and other members are also going to have some comments on this. So with that, I'm going to adjourn debate on Bill No. 28.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

#### Bill No. 29

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

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

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

It's a pleasure to enter into this debate on Bill No. 29, *The Act to Amend The Justices of the Peace Act, 1988*. And speaking of critics doing a lot of work, I do have to say our Justice critic has really got her work cut out for her this session, because there sure seems to be a lot of work coming out around the justices of the different courts, all of that type of thing. And again being not as familiar with the work that they do, and of course this relates to traffic safety, we're counting on the good work of the folks in Justice to making sure they're doing the right thing, that they're known any consequences.

You know, when I take a look at the minister's second reading speeches, he talks about setting out for . . . providing for appointments with justices of the peace and setting out different categories and the respective powers and responsibilities. And this all . . . He talks about:

The Saskatchewan Justice of the Peace Association has requested some amendments to improve and clarify the commission's process. Making these changes will now allow the commission to make some additional recommendations . . . that it . . . [was not] able to make under the current Act.

And so this all seems to be relatively straightforward. The Bill would make changes related to *The Traffic Safety Court of Saskatchewan Act, 1988* and mentions that there hasn't been a traffic justice appointed under the Act since 2006. So they're going to repeal some of these amendments, and the powers formerly accorded to the traffic justices, which includes powers to require attendance at driver improvement programs, will now be made applicable to senior justices of the peace here in Saskatchewan and streamlining the whole process.

So this seems to be relatively straightforward, but as I said it would have been interesting for us to have a bit of a bigger picture of how these things are all fitting together. I think that many of us who, you know, we're familiar with the three branches of government and the judicial branch, and we respect and honour its role in terms of independence and what that all means. And so we don't make ourselves as familiar as we might with the inner workings and how that all flows together. So it would have been interesting to see that, those kind of pieces and how they all flow together.

Again, what was the real drive for this? Is there improvements? What are the consequences that we see this kind of work being done by the justices of the peace? Again, we are worried about how we see a slow movement within the Ministry of Justice and the Minister of Justice. Now we see the contracting out of the security in the courthouses, the beginning of that. And what does that all mean? And so what is the long-term vision here for that kind of work?

You know, I was reading a document earlier today, and it's the Justice ministry who runs sort of the peripheral parts of the courthouses in terms of the security, that type of thing. But it's the judges who decide who gets what courtrooms and what the schedules will be, what justices will hear which cases.

I would have liked to have heard more about the big, big picture and really what's driving this, particularly when it comes to traffic safety. Is it because there is so much more work

happening that they want to speed up the process? And why is that? Is this part of the whole issue around the photo radar and different infractions are being caught more and more by photo enforcement?

So those are some of the questions I think that need to be answered, because we want to make sure that we all have a sense of justice that is fair and timely here in the province of Saskatchewan. So with that, Mr. Speaker, I really don't have much more to add on this. I know that others will, and that the critic will have a thorough questioning of this when it's in committee. But right now I'd move adjournment of Bill No. 29, *The Justices of the Peace Amendment Act*. Thank you.

**The Deputy Chair of Committees:** — The member from Saskatoon Centre has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 29, *The Justices of the Peace Amendment Act*. 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:** — The Chair recognizes the Opposition Whip.

**Mr. Vermette:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. To join in on Bill No. 30, *The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Amendment Act, 2016*, I guess I'll start out with a few comments and recommendations coming from the Privacy Commissioner and his office and some recommendations. And it refers to some of the changes, and in his report refers to time for an update, and I think he's brought in some recommendations. And I'm not sure if this deals with all the recommendations that he brought forward in his report or identified, if government has moved on all those, and I can't tell you for sure if they have moved on that.

But I know some of the areas where . . . and why he brought this forward, to deal with some of the changes in information privacy protection of Saskatchewan people. We want to make sure that residents of our province have that protection when information they share . . . And it goes even further than that, even in our offices, you know, whether the ministry, the minister, the minister's officials, the ministry of any department, and as far as that goes, MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly] dealing with . . .

And we know that he presented information to both sides, I believe. I know he did for our side, and obviously he would have went to the government side to present some of the information. And it talked about the rules, that how we gather information, even in the MLAs' office and how we share that and who we can share that with that they're aware of it. When they share that information, their information is protected. And he took that pretty serious. And he's provided forms. He's provided information and suggestions on how that should be

done.

But having said that, it's interesting to see why, why he had to go that far. And I think a lot of people will realize, and back in the day and I believe it came out of the Premier's office, where the Premier had sent out information pertaining to an individual and his personal information was shared with the media. And the Premier's office did that and shared that information, and I think that gentleman was Peter Bowden.

Now having said that, this is going to go back, and there's even some of the different recommendations that he makes in here. We talked about privacy, how important it is to protect information from people who share whatever information it is. And right now certain information can be used — social insurance numbers, date of birth — people get certain information. You know, just anybody can use that information. We've seen how that has happened. And then there's health information. The list goes on when we talk about information that should be protected.

And if somebody's giving it to an agency where it's part of legislation and part of an Act or rules, regulations that they have to give certain information to an agency or to government, I think the right thing is to make sure that that individual's personal information is protected in the best way we can do and making sure we have the best regulations, legislation that protects. And I think that's what is being done here is, you know, recommendations from the Privacy Commissioner and the good work he's done and his staff have done as recommendations coming forward.

Now some of the changes that we'll talk about, there is a time where government, whether you request information, there's a time limit. It used to be 30 days and I know that it's been asked to be changed to shorten that, that 30 days even to try to receive information that's allowed to be shared. And seeing what the Privacy Commissioner and following the rules when you need to share that, whether it's opposition asking a question or anyone else asking freedom of information from government or a ministry department, whoever falls under the legislation. It could be a corporation, private. We're not sure exactly who's all . . . But this one refers it to 20 days instead of 30 days to making it faster that there's . . . It needs to, and I think speed up that process nowadays with probably technology and who knows why. And that will be some of the questions we can ask. And moving it to 20 days, is that enough? And you know, obviously it's the recommendations that were made.

[21:00]

So even changing with technology, and I talked about that and I think he referred to some of that. Today's technology, it's so quick. We've made other amendments to legislation where now you can sign documents digital for mortgages, is what they're trying to move. So with that said, you know the different issues that will be . . .

I know we will have more questions definitely in committee, and hopefully the commissioner and those that need to come forward to present to the committee and those committee members and ourselves and our critics, we'll ask those tough questions and need to get the information. And does this go far

enough? Or will there be, you know, better ways or suggestions that can be?

And could ask the Privacy Commissioner, did the government act on all the recommendations you made, and then are you pleased with that? As that is his role to give independent advice to this Assembly and, you know, to make sure this Assembly adheres to the regulations and the legislation and to make sure that people have access to certain information that is a right to the public to have. Because sometimes, you know, we see the government trying to not share information that the public has a right to. When you look at the finances for the election, there was many things that went on that the public should have had a right to. You know, first-quarter reports, stuff like that that should have been shared with the public didn't get shared, and should be.

So when we think about that and stuff, you know, that before the election, a lot of things that this government's doing now after the election did not share, unfortunately, with the public. And the public has a right to know. And we're hearing it out there; they're not happy. And there's many people talking about it, you know, privatization and stuff like that. That's something that — you know what? — they could have shared with the public. They didn't have to hide. They didn't have to have legislation to share that. They could have just been right out there, right upfront with Saskatchewan people, and saying, here's what we're proposing to do. This is what we're going to do, should we get elected as a government. We're going to go . . . But they chose not to do that.

This, on the other note, is a different thing. Maybe someday we can have that where, you know, that can be dealt with at some point too, like you need to share certain things. And I know some of the information that we've tried in this Assembly day after day to get information for the public that's asking. And there's opposition from this government, and it's so painful. This government doesn't . . . [inaudible].

But I reassure this government the public is paying attention. They are paying attention. We're being approached everywhere. It doesn't matter where you go, people are talking about it, and they're not pleased. They are not pleased with the government, the way it's handling it. Some tough questions need to be asked. And you know, we've been calling for certain things, and I'll go back to legislation, privacy. But they've been asking for a forensic audit, which we have been asking for. You know, there's been people saying RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police] investigation. You know, everything . . . People are asking for things: is this being done? Is that being done? Is there a forensic audit, judicial inquiry? Are those things being done?

Well we're pushing that from opposition. All the government has to do is agree to that. And I know our colleagues on this side and our leader has been asking for that. Let's get down to it. Let's give the facts and be the facts. Let's release some of those phone records that show everything. That's not private. That doesn't have to be protected.

So there's things that could be done but this legislation here makes some changes where . . . And maybe we'll be able to get those answers within 20 days instead of 30 days or never

getting them from them. It may be helpful. I'm hoping that it'll help, but I don't see that. I don't see it will.

And you know, the last thing I'll say about this bill before I'm done: there's many members on this side and that side of the House, 61. You know, they have a lot of backbenchers back there, and I've said this before. It's time for the backbenchers to look around and ask questions of cabinet. You at the end of the day will be judged by your constituents. The ministers and cabinet makes the decision. Ask some tough questions. You have a right to those informations. You're a part of the caucus. Like ask, what's going on here? What about the GTH [Global Transportation Hub] land deal? What about these deals? What's going on here? Ask those tough questions. You have a right to do that as you're a part of the caucus.

So I would say that we don't need privacy to protect cabinet from backbenchers. They should have a right to . . . it's the part of your colleagues to get that information. But maybe we'll introduce legislation that says, you know, backbenchers and caucus members will have to . . . can get information from cabinet so they know what kind of deals that's going to impact them when they're door knocking and going home to deal with things.

So with that, you know, there are some good recommendations. And I want to thank the Privacy Commissioner and his officials and his staff. They do a great job. And with that, I will say our critic will have more questions. I know we will be wanting more questions and making sure that process is done. And who they consulted with and all that is very important. So at that point, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have no further comments. I'm prepared to adjourn debate on this bill.

**The Deputy Chair of Committees:** — The member from Cumberland has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 30, *The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Amendment Act, 2016*. Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Chair of Committees:** — Carried.

### Bill No. 31

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

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

**Ms. Chartier:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'm pleased to enter the discussion today about *The Local Authority Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Amendment Act, 2016*. This is following on the heels of my colleague who just spoke about the sort of partner or companion bill, *The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Amendment Act*. They're two different bills, but both dealing with freedom of information and the flow of information and the protection of privacy.

And interestingly enough, I'll talk a little bit about this in my remarks, but actually the Privacy Commissioner, when he had done his report, *It's Time to Update*, in March 2015 actually recommended that these two bills be rolled into one. His 35th of 35 recommendations was consolidation of the freedom of information and privacy protection Act and *The Local Authority Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. He says that "It is proposed the Acts be merged to eliminate confusion as to which Act applies and to address discrepancies between the two." So here we are today speaking to two, so just seeing clearly one of the recommendations that this government didn't follow out of the 2015 report.

There are some that the government did take into consideration and are in this bill, and I'll speak about that. But I think, just looking at the history of this Act, *The Local Authority Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* was passed in 1993 and so is 23 years old this year, Mr. Speaker. And in that time, it has only had minor amendments.

So Mr. Ronald Kruzeniski, who's our Privacy Commissioner, had recommended 35 different items that he felt the government should move on. In the minister's second reading comments, he points out that this particular bill, it will take, it does propose implementing some of those changes which include ". . . a duty to assist applicants for information, a duty to protect personal information, extension of the definition of the local authority to include police services, and creation of a new offence for snooping."

Some of the other amendments that are being made: ". . . to provide for the introduction of mandatory breach notification when personal information has been leaked that places an individual at serious personal risk." It also addresses the recommendation around ". . . broadening the grounds for review by the commissioner to include reviewing complaints regarding fees, transfers of access applications, and improper handling of personal information . . ." which is one that I will go back to in a moment, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It also includes dealing with the rejection of frivolous and vexatious access requests, and recognition of electronic access requests and responses, and increasing the penalties for offences.

But I just want to take you back to broadening the grounds for review by the commissioner to include reviewing complaints regarding fees, transfers of access applications and improper handling of personal information. That was actually recommendation no. 7, the summary of proposals that the Privacy Commissioner put forward, Mr. Speaker.

And it's interesting, in my time here as an MLA, about five years ago, I submitted a freedom of information request to the Ministry of Social Services. And it came back, Mr. Deputy Speaker, with a cost of \$30,000 attached to it. And there was no way that I had the capacity to pay \$30,000 for information that I felt was something that not only me as the opposition critic at the time, but the people of Saskatchewan wanted to know, but there was no process in place to review that.

But I have to say to the deputy minister's credit, at that point in time, I happened to run into him that same day that that letter saying it would be \$30,000, the same day that that letter hit my desk. I was at an FASD [Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder]

conference with him. We had a brief conversation, and he committed to getting me the information so I did not have to pay that \$30,000 fee.

But I just want to take your attention back to actually just the spring, Mr. Deputy Speaker, where we can . . . I'm just looking at a CBC [Canadian Broadcasting Corporation] news story with a headline, "Saskatchewan government charging \$180K for access to GTH land deal documents." So these can be a way that . . . can be a way of putting a chill on people's ability to get information.

I have to acknowledge that obviously there is two sides to the coin here with this legislation. There is freedom of information and making sure that information flow is available and information for the public good is accessible, but there is also protection of privacy. It's about striking a balance. And the minister, in his second reading remarks, says this, but I don't know any thinking person who would stop for a moment and looking at a price of \$180,000, thinking that that was fair or reasonable, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

But we see why as more and more have . . . more and more information continues to come out around the GTH land scandal, Mr. Speaker, we see perhaps why the government was invested in not having that information come to light. But we've had opportunities to continue to push the question asking . . . I know the media and we in the opposition and people in Saskatchewan, quite frankly, want more answers, Mr. Speaker. They know there is more to this story than the government is willing to admit. And tomorrow morning in Public Accounts, I know Public Accounts will as a scrutiny committee take some due diligence, I trust, in trying to get to the bottom of this, Mr. Speaker.

But with respect to . . . and, Mr. Speaker, I think that there is much more. The auditor's report was . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . as members opposite at this point in time are heckling about the auditor's report being the definitive body of work, but I think that the auditor's report opened up more questions than answers, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

But when we talk about the office of the Saskatchewan Information and Privacy Commissioner and these recommendations that have come forward, another area of interest, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is when one of the . . . another recommendation that this government didn't, one of the recommendations this government didn't follow was government institution response time. The commissioner proposed the Acts be amended to reduce the government response time to access to information to 20 days for 30 days.

For people in the general public who have maybe not done a freedom of information request, when you submit one . . . and it's one of the tools that we in the opposition use. I think it's a tool that people in the general public use to get further information, and the media uses the freedom of information request. So as it stands now at 30 days, the institution to whom the request is being made, the institution has 30 days to respond, and if they need an extension, they can apply for a 30-day extension. But it's our experience in the opposition that there's been many, many freedom of information requests that have gone over those 30 days and, actually quite honestly in

fact, over the 60-day period.

I can cast your mind back a few years ago around seniors' care, Mr. Deputy Speaker. We can talk about seniors' care and the CEO [chief executive officer] tours actually, which the government was reluctant to do in the first place. Actually they were reluctant that spring starting in question period when we started bringing in validators around seniors' care, Mr. Speaker. And the government initially said there's nothing to see here, and people continued to bring forward the issues or bring the issues to us and we provided them a venue to share their concerns.

[21:15]

And finally the minister at that point, in fact said, okay we'll do a CEO tour. But ironically enough, those tours were done. And we did a freedom of information request to get those reports and 30 days passed; we didn't get those reports. There was an extension, Mr. Speaker, 60 days. And lo and behold, the day after the 60-day extension the government finally made those reports public, Mr. Speaker. And we know that history shows us that this government has refused to implement minimum quality of care standards and our most vulnerable seniors still suffer, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

But with respect to this particular bill, that move to 30 days to 20 days, the proposal by the Privacy Commissioner I think would have been one that was well worth looking at, Mr. Speaker.

When we look at one of the other proposals, number 33, the commissioner recommended that, thinking in fact that there's been so few modifications over the years or amendments over the years to this particular bill. In fact, as I said, it's 23 years old and there have been few changes in those 23 years.

The commissioner recommended, "In order to ensure that the Acts are reviewed regularly, it is proposed the Acts be amended to make it mandatory every five years." And that was a recommendation that this government didn't choose to act on, Mr. Speaker. And I think that that's a disappointment and something that could have served us all well, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in terms of keeping legislation current and applicable to the world in which we live, Mr. Deputy Speaker. So although that there are some positive amendments, and I know the Information and Privacy Commissioner said it's a work in progress and he's happy with the changes, but he does have a report with 33 recommendations, many of them not . . . or pardon me, 35 recommendations, many of them that are not part of this new legislation.

But I know that our critic will weigh in on this when it gets to committee and have many questions to ask, and I know that I have colleagues who will want to speak this bill as well. But for the time being, I will move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 31. Thank you.

**The Deputy Chair of Committees:** — The member from Saskatoon Riversdale has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 31, *The Local Authority Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Amendment Act, 2016*. Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Chair of Committees:** — Carried.

**Bill No. 1**

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

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

**Ms. Rancourt:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'm happy to be discussing Bill No. 1, *The Crown Corporations Public Ownership Amendment Act, 2016* this evening. This was brought forward by the previous deputy premier in the spring session. And so there's a lot of information within this bill that's very concerning, I believe, and I have a lot of information that I plan on discussing with regards to this, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

This bill, in essence, removes Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority from the list of Crowns, and so I think that would be a great loss for the Saskatchewan people and very concerning. This will "... simplify and expedite the process for expanding the private retail system of alcohol in this province." That was what the previous deputy premier indicated when he presented the rationale for wanting the amendments to this bill.

The minister makes reference of a survey the government circulated. But I myself participated in that survey, and I felt that it was really quite misleading to be honest, Mr. Deputy Speaker. So the results from that survey, I really question.

So with regards to the reason why they want to remove the Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority off the list of Crowns, is so that we could sell some of our liquor stores. And it's proposed to sell 40 of the liquor stores, and we have about 75 that were publicly owned liquor stores, and so that would be more than half of them. And we know, of course, if this bill is passed that the other ones will be on the market. So this is just the start of them.

So the 40 affected stores are: Battleford, Broadview, Canora, Carrot River, Davidson, Foam Lake, Gravelbourg, Gull Lake, Hudson Bay, Indian Head, Kamsack, Kelvington, Kindersley, Kipling, Lanigan, Leader, Lloydminster, Maple Creek, Melfort, Melville ... [inaudible interjection] ... And the members across are complaining that I'm reading these out, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but it's really important that I do because these impact a lot of their areas — Outlook, Preeceville, Raymore, Regina, the Broad Street one; Rosetown, Rosthern, Saskatoon, the 20th Street West; Saskatoon Market Mall, Shaunavon, Shellbrook, St. Walburg, Stoughton, Tisdale, Unity, Wadena, Wakaw, Waskesiu, Watson, Wilkie, and Wynyard.

So those are the 40 that were put forward to be up for sale for private realtors. And like I said before, we know that once they're gone, they're gone. And these are real people and these are real families we're talking about that work in these areas. And a lot of these are impacted in smaller communities, which

is really troubling.

The reason for this was more choice, more convenience, and more competitive pricing, Mr. Speaker. And so I don't understand why that couldn't have been done in our own public liquor stores. We could look at different ways of expanding our public liquor stores and we could modernize them. And I think that that would have been a more important way of going about it.

So prior to wanting to privatize some of these government-owned liquor stores, there was 75 locations that were government run. We had 450 locations of off-sales that are privately run. We had 190 privately run rural facilities, and we have four private, full-line stores. So we already had a complement of private and public stores. And I think that balance was good. And I don't think going towards private is the option.

When we say we want to have competitive pricing, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we know that when we have a combination of public and private services that does provide the competitive pricing because as a government, we can determine what prices we're going to put down, and the private stores will have to match that because they don't want to lose their business. But once all of these stores become private, they can do whatever they want, and they can charge whatever they want.

And longer hours ... Well I'll talk about the social consequences of alcohol later, but the longer hours, I don't understand. It seems like a really step back from a government that wants to stop drinking and driving to provide longer hours of availability for alcohol. That seems to really conflict in my mind. We know that a lot of the people who are out driving drunk are driving in those hours, so why would we provide the liquor there?

Are people having a hard time accessing alcohol within our province? I don't know one person who told me that they had a hard time finding alcohol in Saskatchewan, especially with all of these locations within our province. I think it's pretty hard done by to not find alcohol. So with the reasoning of the more choice, more convenience, more competitive pricing, to me just doesn't make sense. That could've been done ... A government, their job is to review their services and to expand them if needed.

So also when the previous Deputy Speaker brought forward this, when he was talking to the media, he said that a lot of communities were under-served communities. So that was why, with also privatizing the 40 stores, they're adding 12 new private stores. And so the under-served communities, these also included Regina and Saskatoon. And I've had an opportunity to travel around both of those cities, and again I didn't have a hard time finding alcohol in those cities. So I don't think that those communities are under-served.

The liquor system has actually, like I said before, Mr. Deputy Speaker, been a hybrid of private and public for many years, so I don't see why we would want to change something that is actually working. Also we know that we benefit a lot from the sales of the alcohol here. The sales of public liquor pays for Saskatchewan hospitals, schools, highways, and long-term care

homes, Mr. Deputy Speaker. So when we sell these stores, we're going to be draining millions in revenue from the Saskatchewan public coffers. And it would've been really nice if this government would've done an independent analysis and would've had the independent analysis review the financial impact because we should be making decisions within this province that are objective and evidence based.

So I will give you some evidence here. So selling . . . Forty SLGA stores, they earned profits of 32.6 million in 2014, Mr. Deputy Speaker. So that's profits. And so closing those 40 stores, that's what we're going to be losing. So also according to Donna Christianson, the Chair of SGEU's [Saskatchewan Government and General Employees' Union] Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority bargaining unit, she indicates here how much revenue will Saskatchewan people be losing and how much of this will be replaced. Or will families be facing cuts in services to make up for the lost income?

And the members across are asking about research. Well provide me your research. Where's your evidence-based research? We haven't seen that.

"Given the recent financial downturn, government has a responsibility to show the public what any potential changes will cost them," she says. And I agree with her. That's right. So out of all of these stores that are being closing, Mr. Deputy Speaker, like I said previously, small town Saskatchewan's going to suffer. It's the rural areas. Thirty-five rural communities stand to lose their public liquor stores. They're good, family-supporting jobs, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Employees in small stores live and work in their communities. They support local businesses. They pay local taxes. They send their children to local schools. Losing those jobs will hurt towns already struggling to survive, Mr. Deputy Speaker. When you lose those jobs in these small communities, there's not many other options for work.

So that's 210 jobs that'll be lost with privatizing these 40 stores and 148 of them are in rural Saskatchewan. So it is reckless to pull, push ahead with privatization with no idea on how the millions in lost revenue will be replaced. The stakes are too high for Saskatchewan people who rely on the benefits and services provided by profits from public liquor stores. There's no justification for putting profits for private corporations ahead of the interests of Saskatchewan families and communities.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, on average, an SLGA employee makes about \$18 an hour. Private stores pay their workers approximately \$12 an hour. That is not a living wage, and that is not going to help with our tax base. It's not good mortgage-paying jobs, and it's not a good decision for the people of Saskatchewan. Also, Mr. Deputy Speaker, SLGA staff are trained, professional employees. They are trained so that they don't serve underage people accessing alcohol . . .

[Interjections]

**The Deputy Chair of Committees:** — Can we have a little quiet? Thank you.

[21:30]

**Ms. Rancourt:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. So it's really important that underage people aren't accessing alcohol, and SLGA staff are trained and professional with regards to that. And so we also know that they're trained to make sure that they're not over serving. And because their sales aren't dependent of their jobs, they adhere to those rules. If it's a person who, the sales of the alcohol is going to be putting money in their pockets, they might be more flexible of breaking the rules. But we know that these staff are trained and won't do that.

And you know, I've seen first-hand, Mr. Deputy Speaker. SLGA staff in my own home community help people who come there and they know that they're having some issues or they need some support and they've provided them that support. They've called mobile crisis in our community and got them access to the detox centre or whatever they need. And so we've got professionally trained employees working there, and when you pay people good money, they stay professional, so that's really important as well.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, according to the World Health Organization, alcohol is a major global contributing factor to death, disease, and injury. And you know, the Minister of Rural Health is like . . . He's chirping here. And this is health-based information. This is important stuff. This is happening in rural Saskatchewan. Maybe he needs to listen up here. So I'll repeat what I just wanted to say here, Mr. Deputy Speaker. According to the World Health Organization alcohol is a major global contributing factor to death, disease, and injury. Worldwide alcohol abuse is estimated to cause 2.5 million in premature deaths per year and is the world's leading risk factor for death among adult males.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, studies also show that Saskatchewan already has the highest rates of alcohol-related diseases and alcohol-related injuries. So increasing accessibility will increase society issues. So privatizing liquor stores would only lead to greater costs to society, and we know that. So this is . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . We do know that. There's studies. There's evidence. Look at evidence-based documentation. Whether it's drinking and driving, Mr. Deputy Speaker, whether it's fetal alcohol spectrum disorder, underage drinking, domestic violence, chronic diseases, liver cirrhosis, suicide and homicide, alcohol-related offences and violent crimes, that's all because of the increase of alcohol in our communities. So alcohol consumption is a major contributing factor to death, disease, and injury, and social consequences related to alcohol abuse are wide-ranging and very serious.

And I'm really disappointed to think that the members across don't believe that this is a serious matter because it is. And I think if you would talk to front-line workers in communities, they would also tell you this is a serious matter. And I'd like to see how much the Ministry of Health expenses are related to alcohol because I bet a lot of the expenses that are going into health are alcohol related. Mr. Deputy Speaker, alcohol is a big issue in our communities and for you to not think that this is serious is wrong. A key deterrent of overall alcohol consumption is availability. If liquor is cheaper and easier to find, more will be consumed. So we'll see what's going to happen with our health expenses once all this happens.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'm very proud that my own community of Prince Albert said no to a private-owned liquor store. We have a lot of issues of alcoholism in our community and our community's taking a stand and we're working towards a way of dealing with addictions in our community and so I'm very proud about that.

And you know, privatization has been a problem for the people of Prince Albert. We lost over 80 jobs from the privatization of our laundry services. We lost almost 30 people with the privatization of food services in our correctional centres. And just last week we lost five deputy sheriffs, and they're going to be laid off. And you know what? We know that the privatization of correctional workers is coming soon. Everybody's concerned about that. We've had health care cuts. We've had health care workers that have been cut.

And you know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Prince Albert is a government town because unfortunately we still don't have a pulp mill which was an election promise. So if this government can't even keep private jobs, then how can they afford to get rid of the public jobs, Mr. Deputy Speaker? Again, Mr. Deputy Speaker, these are real people and these are real families, and we need to consider this when we're making these decisions.

And you know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I really hope the members across, they look through these bills like we do. We examine each and every bill and we do our research and I hope they consider doing that and that they vote . . . When it comes time to vote on these bills, I hope they vote based on what the research shows them and also what their constituents want. Not like the Moose Jaw members that voted for the cuts for their own park that's against what their constituents wanted. You need to vote based on the research not what your leader tells you. And you know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, sometimes the right thing to do is not the most popular thing to do, but the right thing to do is always the right thing.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I know my fellow colleagues have a lot more that they want to add to this bill. This is a really important bill. I know there'll be a lot of discussion with regards to this in committee. And so with this, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I move to adjourn debate. Thank you.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

### Bill No. 32

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. McMorris that **Bill No. 32** — *The Automobile Accident Insurance (Benefits) Amendment Act, 2016* be now read a second time.]

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

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's my pleasure and honour to rise this evening to speak to Bill No. 32, *The Automobile Accident Insurance Act*. Now this is quite a hefty piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker. And it's interesting that the members opposite seemed to speak so loudly. It's almost like they woke up for a couple minutes there when my colleague was speaking to the last bill. I hope they're just as engaged and interested in the important changes within *The Automobile Accident Insurance Act* as they were with the last bill, Mr. Deputy Speaker . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . And as long as they're not heckling, then they'll be able to hear what I have to say, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I feel no need to speak any louder than I speak, and as long as the members opposite stay awake and pay attention, then they'll be able to hear all the important things that I have to say with respect to this piece of legislation, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Now the minister, the ex-minister, the former minister, I apologize, for this bill when they tabled it indicated that there are more than 30 changes to this piece of legislation, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and it's a very, very hefty piece of legislation. So there's a lot to go through, and there's a lot of technicalities as there always is with respect to this area when we're talking about benefits. It's a really important thing that we get right when we're dealing with . . . Those who are using *The Automobile Accident Insurance Act* provisions are typically by nature injured and at essentially the mercy of the insurer. And we need to make sure that there's appropriate provisions in place to adequately compensate the people of Saskatchewan and ensure that they get just benefits in terms of what they're entitled to and what they deserve frankly, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

So this is an extremely lengthy piece of legislation, as I had said, something that's going to be a bit more appropriate for probably for committee later on to be able to really work through it and really discuss the changes. I encourage anyone who's watching who works in this field to peruse it and, if there's any recommendations that they think should have been made or shouldn't have been made within the legislative changes, to be sure to contact the current Minister for SGI as well as members opposite, and we'll ensure that those legislative provisions are in place.

Just to speak to a couple of the changes — because there are, like I said, the former minister has indicated that there are over 30 — this bill increases the amount of weekly benefits for employed injured persons, which is about equivalent to 40 hours at minimum wage for fully disabled persons and 20 hours a week at minimum wage for partially disabled persons or those confined to a hospital bed or a wheelchair.

It also prohibits Saskatchewan Government Insurance from paying benefits to a person who is in prison, and prohibits Saskatchewan Government Insurance from paying benefits to a driver who is more than 50 per cent responsible for the collision and convicted of or charged with causing death or bodily harm by street racing, being negligent, or fleeing a peace officer, and have been found guilty in the last five years of causing death or bodily harm by street racing, being negligent, or fleeing a peace officer. And as I said, there are many, many other changes that are in this bill that's almost a bit too lengthy to be able to discuss at this time.



One of the ones that I thought was a bit interesting, Mr. Deputy Speaker, was the inclusion of a new provision which I believe is section 30.5. It will be 30.5 of the Act which requires that or indicates that:

- (1) the insurer is not required to pay benefits based on the insured suffering a catastrophic injury until the medical information establishes that the insured suffered a catastrophic injury; and
- (2) the insurer shall back pay benefits on the basis that the insured suffered a catastrophic injury with interest once the medical information establishes that the insured suffered a catastrophic injury.

Now if my reading of this is correct, it places the onus on the insured to prove that they have suffered a catastrophic injury, and it also gives them the onus of not receiving any benefits until they've proven that. I understand that subsection (2) allows for the payment of back pay should it later be determined that they have in fact suffered a catastrophic injury.

But a concern that I have with respect to this, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is the length of time that it can often take to accumulate the requisite medical information that's required. I've actually represented a few people through the AIAC [Automobile Injury Appeal Commission] process, and I know that it's a lengthy, it's a lengthy process. Getting appropriate medical information and enough medical information that the tribunal is therefore satisfied that the individual has suffered what would be defined a catastrophic injury can be very lengthy and can be very onerous.

So we could potentially be talking about people who are injured who are going years, and it's not an exaggeration to say, are going years without pay and having to do whatever they can to essentially cover that time, be it through, I don't know, be it through social assistance, be it through friends and family. Some people don't have that luxury frankly, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And it's not like those who have a catastrophic injury are able to continue working or to be able to fill the gap in through their own financial needs. That's the whole point, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is that those who are suffering an injury and have to go to the AIAC for compensation and have to go through this process aren't able to work and aren't able to fill that gap in terms of how are they going to pay for their rent or their mortgage or utilities or food. It creates a very, very burdensome process and a very concerning gap that can frankly run for years, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

[21:45]

So I hope, I hope that members opposite are paying attention to this and have thought about this. And I hope that this discussion comes out in committee because it is concerning. It's something that happens not just with respect to the catastrophic injury piece but with all the benefits when it comes to government, is any sort of delay can be essentially a matter of life or death frankly, Mr. Deputy Speaker, for the recipient.

Another thing I noticed that the former minister mentioned when he tabled this bill was that the government has decided to defer two of the more financially significant injury programs, and one of them being changes to the living expenses, Mr.

Deputy Speaker. The living expenses allowance hasn't been changed for awhile, and it's quite low. And it's not really reflective of the reality of what actual living expenses are in today's times, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's something that I urge the members opposite to look at very closely and very soon.

They've mentioned that they want to make sure they're implementing it later when it's, and I quote, "... financially prudent to do so." The problem with that is I don't know what that means. Are they going to wait until oil hits \$100 a barrel before they start looking at important things like this, or are they going to wait until oil hits something else? I have no idea. "Financially prudent to do so" could mean a million different things to a million different people. But what the reality is, is that people are struggling today to try and survive off of the living expenses allowance that they're provided now. So that's something that I'm hoping that this government and members opposite will take a look at sooner rather than later because it's essentially, Mr. Deputy Speaker, a matter of life or death to a lot of people in Saskatchewan.

Like I said, this is a really lengthy bill. There's a lot of very technical changes. I know that the critic will have a lot of important things to ask at committee and a lot of things to say about this bill, and that I have other members who are going to want to join in on this debate. So with that, I'll adjourn debate on Bill No. 32.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

### Bill No. 33

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

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

**Ms. Chartier:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's my privilege to wade into the discussion on Bill No. 33, *The Child and Family Services Amendment Act, 2016*. Just in summary here, Mr. Deputy Speaker, there's a few things this bill does. It replaces the term "department" with "ministry" throughout the Act. So we'll just cast your mind back to 2007, and there was a time where the now ministries were referred to as departments. I'm not sure about the rationale at the time for changing from department to ministry, but this is something the current administration had chosen to do. So they appear in this legislative session to be changing much of the language in many of the bills that are before us from "department" to "ministry" that haven't had that happen yet, Mr. Speaker.

It replaces *The Children's Law Act* with *The Children's Law Act, 1997*. It modernizes the language and reflects current drafting standards by replacing people of "Indian" ancestry to

“Aboriginal” people. So I think that that’s an interesting discussion actually. So this bill in 2016 is moving from people of Indian ancestry to Aboriginal people, but it might be something to consider when this bill gets to committee to consider using the word “indigenous” rather than “Aboriginal.” I know that that is a move that many, many people would like to see happen.

The federal government moved to the term Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada, from Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development. I’m actually very proud to say our political party here in the opposition, the Saskatchewan New Democrats, at our last convention actually moved from . . . One of the wings of our party was previously ANDS, the Aboriginal New Democrats of Saskatchewan. And ANDS at the time brought a resolution forward. They debated and discussed their desire to move to being referred to as Indigenous New Democrats of Saskatchewan.

So that was a change that just passed a couple of weeks ago, Mr. Deputy Speaker. So that might be something that the minister just with these changes might want to think about at committee. And I know that will be a discussion that will happen, that perhaps instead of using “Aboriginal people” we use the word “indigenous people” here in this particular bill.

This bill introduces provisions and explicit criteria to be included in agreements with First Nations Child and Family Services agencies, as well as others prescribed in regulations. The bill also enables the termination of existing agreements with First Nations Child and Family Service agencies and other prescribed agencies that do not include a fixed contractual term or termination provisions . . . the minister believes that it’s in the public’s interest to do so.

Agreements must be terminated in accordance with the procedures and terms prescribed in the regulations. The bill requires a 90 days written notice of intent to terminate an existing agreement, and it identifies that the circumstances in which information may be disclosed without written consent will be specified in regulations. And it also ensures that the disclosing of information is done in accordance with the intent of the Act, with what is outlined in the Act or what is specified in the regulations.

I think it’s important . . . I know the minister outlined in her remarks that this was about, the changes to this particular bill, this is part of the transformation strategy of this government around renewing child welfare legislation and that this is part of the province’s attempt at doing just that.

We need to think about our relationships with First Nations. It should be about respect and trust, that nation-to-nation relationship, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And I think this government also needs to think about how this bill fits in with respect to the Truth and Reconciliation, the work of The Truth and Reconciliation Commission and their recommendations, that putting in place of those recommendations and bringing them to life here in Saskatchewan is imperative, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

We can look to the North where we see tragedies happening, i.e. youth suicides, young kids, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It’s very hard for me as a parent of an almost nine-year-old to think of a

10-year-old girl choosing to end her life. We have much work to do around the reconciliation piece, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and looking at how these proposed changes to *The Child and Family Services Amendment Act*, I think, would be very worthwhile.

So I do know I have very capable colleagues. The critic for Social Services will look very closely at this bill and will have an opportunity to speak to this bill. And then in committee she will do her diligent work in asking the minister many questions. And I look forward to hearing out some of that, Mr. Deputy Speaker. But for the time being, I would like to move to adjourn debate.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member from Saskatoon Riversdale has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 33. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

### Bill No. 34

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Stewart that **Bill No. 34 — *The Provincial Lands Act, 2016*** be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It’s a pleasure to enter into debate on Bill No. 34, an Act requesting provincial lands and so forth.

And this is a pretty important piece of legislature before us. And I understand that it’s been under review since 2013. There have been consultations, according to the minister, which we are glad to hear. It is interesting that quite often we don’t hear about the consultation process, but he has gone out of the way to make note that they have in fact consulted with the First Nations and Métis and other groups that would be impacted by this, you know, because it has such a long, long history, an important history within our province, and as our province has matured. He references in 1930, Canada transferred the responsibility for Crown lands, mines, and minerals to the province. And he goes, lots has changed.

But what’s interesting is that in fact when you talk to the First Nations, the Métis, the indigenous folks, this has always been a bit of an issue for them, particularly in light of the treaties. And that they weren’t consulted back in leading up to the transfer in 1930. So we need to hear more about this, but I am glad that the minister has recognized that, and if he has, then that’s very, very important. He talks about how he has met with, engaged with key stakeholders including the public, people who are leasing the lands, First Nations and Métis groups, and in-depth consultations.

So it’s very important, and many of the stakeholders told them about environmental issues like care and conservation, and they needed clarity on who to contact with the administration of Crown land. Because we know, and it appears now — the

minister references this — that in fact that you do have the Ministry of Environment, who really is in charge of administering the Crown lands in the North, past the forest belt and into the North, where in the South it is Agriculture's responsibility. And that seems to continue on, and we hope that is. But it's not quite clear in the minister's remarks, so we hope that this is something that is the way that we move forward.

I am glad to see that we see the ecological reserves are continued on, and in particular, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'm particularly glad to see the Great Sand Hills Representative Area designated as it was in 2005 and continues to be. That was a source of major pride for many people who were involved in the local areas, the local RMs [rural municipality], and how we work together to make sure that we could protect those areas, and yet to see some economic development, particularly around natural gas. And so that's key, and so the ecological reserves continue on. We need to make a line-by-line comparison to make sure that they are as they were, and that's very, very important.

You know I don't plan on going too exhaustive into this because I think this is the kind of bill that will have a lot of questions in committee, but I do want to say that it is interesting to see some of the old language from the old bill from the '30s, particularly when it comes to access to water, water beds, and shores. There's a certain sense in Canada and in this province that our public waterways, our public lands should be accessible, and that's so, so important, and that continues to be the case.

And so while the minister talks about how they want to reduce red tape, they want to make sure people have access so that . . . to be able to ensure economic development on Crown land, because we know many of the people who are engaged in agriculture in rural Saskatchewan do so because they're leasing Crown land. And that's important, but it does hinder long-term investment. He talks about wind turbines as something that could be appealing to be placed on Crown land, but the issue then becomes mortgaging the land or having access to long-term investments. And so there needs to be a way of doing that as well. So this is an important piece of legislation.

He talks about . . . and again, you know, I think that the Minister of Agriculture deserves some credit for having pretty thorough speaking notes here. He does talk about, we need to recognize the importance of Saskatchewan's land base for our future and need to protect it, particularly when it comes to taking action when land is being misused. And an example of this would be illegal drainage, where the government could step in and issue a stop work order. But this needs to be worked with, and we hope that that will actually be accomplished.

[22:00]

And we also know that people have a lot . . . You know, Saskatchewan is blessed with an abundance of land and of water, and all of this comes under the responsibility of the provincial government. And we need to make sure that we do all that we can to protect it, and as the minister says, that the Crown land is protected and productive for generations to come. And that is so, so true.

And as we move to make sure that we have an appropriate amount of land set aside as representative areas, I know at one point there was talk about up to about 12 per cent of the land protected. It doesn't mean that it's taken out of economic activity; it just means that it's protected and that it's status, and the way it is will be protected. But it doesn't mean it can't be used for some economic activity. All of those things are important.

So we look forward to hearing more about this, particularly in committee in a dialogue with the minister and with the officials about the long-term plan. I know, though, others will have a few comments to speak. I may be getting ahead of myself here. I'm just . . . But I know that that's what I'm looking forward to hearing, those kind of questions.

So with that — to make sure, I want to clarify and be clear about what I speak — I want to adjourn Bill No. 34, *The Provincial Lands Act, 2016* . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . You almost caught me up.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

### Bill No. 35

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

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

**Ms. Beck:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'm pleased to rise this evening and enter debate on Bill No. 35, the small claims amendment Act. This and its companion, Bill No. 36, were proposed by the minister back in June of this year, and what's being proposed here is to repeal the existing legislation and replace it with this new Act, moving from just over 24 pages up to over 45 pages with this new bill. But of course the new bill has the French translation as well, so that I think accounts for most of that increase in the length of the bill.

But there are some substantive changes as well that are anticipated and proposed with this legislation. The first and maybe one of the more significant ones is the fact that the cap for small claims moves from 20,000 up to \$30,000, so a 50 per cent increase, Mr. Speaker, which is significant. Another change is that it enables a judge to order that one party pay the legal costs of another party if that's decided, and there's some particular circumstances that I'll get into in a little bit around that. It also proposes that all defendants in a suit would be required to fill their . . . file their claim, rather, with the courts so that all parties would have access to information. And again, I'll get into that in a little more detail.

I'm going to read a little bit from the minister's remarks on June the 15th when . . . during second reading. The minister noted that this legislation is one of the pieces of legislation that came out of the justice innovation agenda, and I know my colleague earlier remarked how many pieces of legislation we're seeing from that minister. So I would expect that some of that is, substantively, that it's flowing out of that agenda.

And it was noted in his comments that the ministry last year had conducted reviews of the small claims process in Saskatchewan, which certainly is something that I think is reasonable, to do that type of consultation and to meet with those stakeholders and those impacted in the community before you would introduce such legislation.

I understand that there was a consultation paper that was released to the public in order to gain that feedback and identify some potential changes and enhancements to the small claims process, Mr. Speaker. So I would anticipate that the changes that are proposed here came out of that consultation. But I know that isn't always the case so I'd be interested to see who was met with, and what their advice and their input was into that review.

As noted, the first recommendation is bumping that small claims monetary limit up from 20 to \$30,000 which is a fairly significant change, Mr. Speaker. And I'm not sure how often that's reviewed and those claim amounts are looked at and made sure that it's providing equal access to coverage when you take into account inflation.

One of the other substantive changes that's noted in this legislation, or proposed in this legislation is expanding the court's authority to award costs from one party to another, as I noted in the brief summary. And in particular, in one instance when this might be the case would be when the court would award costs when the party fails to show for court or otherwise purposely delays. And certainly I would guess that that would be to perhaps cover some legal costs and also to be a way of ensuring that people do show up to their court dates and make the process more timely and have fewer adjournments. But I would only be speculating there, Mr. Speaker.

It also would allow the court to award general costs at the conclusion of a matter based on factors such as behaviour of the party again, Mr. Speaker. Disruptive or uncooperative behaviour could also be penalized in this way, Mr. Speaker, is my understanding. And I don't think that, without reading the consultation or having further consultation with community members, I can speak to the extent that that is a problem within court. But certainly, if that is a problem, that would be one way to deal with it.

It is also noted that this bill will require all defendants to file a reply to a claim. So if someone has a claim against them in court, that the defendant would be required, I believe at the first day of the trial, to submit a reply to that claim. I think that it would be reasonable to wonder about what kind of notice that that defendant would receive. I wonder in instances where perhaps that person doesn't have access to legal counsel, how that would be dealt with to ensure that they had some legal advice about that. But those would be questions perhaps better proposed by the critic or perhaps in committee, Mr. Speaker.

And again, looking back to what came out of those consultations, and if indeed that was a recommendation that came out of those consultations, that would be interesting.

It also notes that requiring all defendants to file a copy of a reply to the claim will ensure that claimants have early notice of the defence that will be made. And again, when I was looking at this, just wondering how notice would be provided to the defendant. Of course, this is always a matter of balance, Mr. Speaker, to weigh rights. And it certainly is important to have scrutiny no matter how noble the intent here, Mr. Speaker.

Another proposed change in this legislation would be allowing, where the defendant fails to file a reply or doesn't attend proceedings, to award a default judgment, Mr. Speaker. And I think that could happen as early as the first trial date which certainly is very early on in the proceedings. So I'd be interested to hear what my colleagues and perhaps others in the legal community might have to say about that.

Existing protections, it is noted by the minister, remain in place that will allow the defendant to apply to overturn that judgment where the defendant can reasonably demonstrate that they had a good excuse for not showing up or not filing that defence claim. So I guess that is a bit of a balance or a counterbalance there, Mr. Speaker. And again, I would anticipate that others would want to have a look at that, ensure that that balance is correct.

In some of his closing remarks, Mr. Speaker, the minister noted that access to justice remains an important issue in the legal community as well as the public at large, and certainly I would concur with those comments. He notes that the intention of this bill is to "enhance access to justice for Saskatchewan residents . . . [and provide] timely, cost-effective, and citizen-centred dispute resolution through the small claims process," Mr. Speaker.

And again that sounds reasonable but would like to see that weighed against the input that was provided during the consultation process and just to be sure that a broad swath of those impacted by this legislation would have been consulted and that their input would have been reasonably weighed in proposing these amendments while replacing the former Act with the small claims amendment Act, as is proposed in Bill No. 35.

So as I've noted several times in my comments, I'm sure that the legal minds on this side, and in their comments and perhaps also in committee, will want to take some further scrutiny of this bill, and certainly I think that is well warranted given the scope of Bill 35.

But with that, I think I'll conclude my remarks and move to adjourn.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member from Regina Lakeview has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 35, *The Small Claims Act, 2016*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

**Bill No. 36**

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

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

**Ms. Beck:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I note that in his comments regarding Bill No. 36, the minister kept his remarks quite short, as have my colleagues at this point. So I think I will follow suit. But just to make note that Bill 36, as I had noted before, certainly is the companion to Bill No. 35, and it makes those consequential amendments to the non-bilingual legislation to accompany *The Small Claims Act* of 2016, and in particular references the current small claims Act and updates to refer to the new Act. So really a lot of housekeeping issues and not, I don't think, anything else of real substance in this, Mr. Speaker.

So assuming that the legislation is passed, it would be reasonable to make those changes to that amendment. And I think from there, I've got nothing further to add of consequence, so I will also move to adjourn.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

**Bill No. 37**

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

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

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise this evening and speak to *The Traffic Safety Amendment Act*, Bill No. 37. Now this bill makes a few changes that I'll speak to fairly briefly, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Now the first change is the bill allows SGI to cancel the licence or registration renewal of someone who has large amounts of unpaid debt to SGI that they've not created a plan yet to pay off. So I am assuming that means that it's up to the discretion of essentially whoever within SGI to decide whether the plan is an adequate plan or whether or not it's being fulfilled in a way that SGI seems happy with.

[22:15]

Now I find that a little interesting, the first change, a little bit interesting, Mr. Deputy Speaker, because I'm not too sure if there's a way or there's some sort of mechanism in place for an

individual who disagrees with what the decision is of SGI to appeal that to the courts. I hope that there is.

Unfortunately I hadn't had time to quite look into it, but I'm sure that our critic will ask some questions around that in committee because it's really important that . . . Well having a licence is extremely important. It's a privilege, of course, it's not a right. But when we're talking about things like abilities for people to pay off a debt to SGI, for example, they'll need to get to work and perhaps they also need their licence to be able to get to work.

Again saying it's not a . . . As I've said, it's a privilege, it's not a right. But these are factors that we need to consider, that it can become difficult for people to maintain employment when they lose their licences.

So I'm just hoping that there's a certain level of discretion there. First of all that there's discretion there for those who are making this decision to remove someone's licence if they're not paying off this debt. And second, that there is an appeal provision in place or there's an ability for an individual, if they're not satisfied with the decision of the person within SGI, to appeal that decision. I suppose perhaps they could judicially review that but I'm not entirely sure, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Another change that was made, the bill makes it clear that SGI may now collect money for impoundment fees from the owner of an impounded vehicle or the driver if the owner cannot be determined. Now it's a little bit of a change from what I understand, reading the comments from the former minister when he tabled this bill, that it's going to instead of just requiring, for example, the fees to be recovered from an owner, they can also, they have the discretion to try and get those impoundment fees against the individual that was operating the vehicle at the time that it was impounded. So that's an interesting change, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

I'm hoping, I'm wondering if there was some issues with respect to collecting these fees from SGI, if this was an onerous process for them. I'm not too sure why it would be onerous if they already . . . it's quite accessible to them, the registered owner of the vehicle. Or if they felt that this was unfair to registered owners and that in fact those people who, those individuals who caused the impoundment in the first place should have to pay the fee, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

From what I understand, this bill also makes some new rules for passengers on motorcycles, including that they must wear a helmet, but I think a helmet is already a requirement. In any event, eye protection is being added, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that they have to have their own footrests, and that they cannot sit in front of the driver. So I think it's very important that we ensure the safety of our motorists and those who ride a motorcycle.

I had a friend actually about 10 years ago — he was about 20 years old — who got into an accident while he was driving a motorcycle, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And really the only thing that kept him from dying was the helmet on his head. And he had to go through quite a few surgeries, and thankfully he's quite healthy now. And he has a little girl, and him and his wife are expecting another little girl, which is really nice. But like I said, really the only thing that kept him alive at the time of that

accident was his helmet.

So it's important to make sure that we're keeping in line with safety standards and especially safety standards as they are seen across jurisdictions. So I'm assuming that this is to keep up with other jurisdictions. I hope it is. And I hope that we continue to ensure that the safety of motorists, whether they are in a vehicle or in a car or in a motorcycle, is paramount concern.

I also notice, similarly, that the bill also prohibits driving a three-wheeled vehicle with small passengers and children under seven. Now I was trying to rack my brain about what these three-wheeled vehicles would be, and all I can think of are those motorcycles that you sometimes see people in. They're not really motorcycles because they have the two wheels in the back. I don't even know what the heck those are called, Mr. Deputy Speaker . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Spyders? Apparently the . . . Some member opposite says that they're a Spyder, and I don't know if that's a true thing or not. That sounds a little goofy to me, but maybe that's a real thing. I don't know. I have no idea . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Well no, the three-wheeled vehicles, we're talking about . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Mr. Deputy Speaker, it seems like I'm getting . . . I'm not getting the quite correct information from the members opposite. Sounds like a Spyder has two wheels in the front and two wheels in the back, so still questions remain what the one wheel at the front, two wheels at the back are called, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

But you know what? There's lots of time for the critic to weigh in on this, and hopefully at committee he can ask important questions like what the heck is a vehicle called when there's one wheel at the front and two wheels at the back. But I know he'll also . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Aside from a tricycle, Mr. Deputy Speaker, because I have a feeling that this is talking about a motorized vehicle and not a tricycle, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Again I'm not sure if I'm getting correct information from the other side.

In any event, I know that there's going to be that question plus significantly more important questions asked by our critic on this bill at committee, and I know that there's going to be a lot of other members who are going to want to weigh in on this important piece of legislation as well, Mr. Deputy Speaker. So with that, I would adjourn debate on Bill No. 37.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that this House do now adjourn.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

[The Assembly adjourned at 22:22.]

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

**EVENING SITTING  
GOVERNMENT ORDERS  
ADJOURNED DEBATES  
SECOND READINGS**

<b>Bill No. 8 — <i>The Summary Offences Procedure Amendment Act, 2016</i></b>	1173
Vermette .....	
<b>Bill No. 9 — <i>The Enforcement of Canadian Judgments Amendment Act, 2016</i></b> <b><i>Loi modificative de 2016 sur l'exécution des jugements canadiens</i></b>	1174
Beck .....	
<b>Bill No. 12 — <i>The Public Health (Miscellaneous) Amendment Act, 2016</i></b>	1175
Sarauer .....	
<b>Bill No. 13 — <i>The Cancer Agency Amendment Act, 2016</i></b>	1176
Vermette .....	
<b>Bill No. 15 — <i>The Provincial Court Amendment Act, 2016</i></b>	1177
Rancourt .....	
<b>Bill No. 16 — <i>The Adoption Amendment Act, 2016/Loi modificative de 2016 sur l'adoption</i></b>	1178
Chartier .....	
<b>Bill No. 17 — <i>The Power Corporation Amendment Act, 2016</i></b>	1180
Sarauer .....	
<b>Bill No. 19 — <i>The Film and Video Classification Act, 2016</i></b>	1182
Forbes .....	
<b>Bill No. 26 — <i>The Patient Choice Medical Imaging Act</i></b>	1183
Beck .....	
<b>Bill No. 28 — <i>The Extension of Compassionate Care Act, 2016</i></b>	1186
Sarauer .....	
<b>Bill No. 29 — <i>The Justices of the Peace Amendment Act, 2016/Loi modificative de 2016 sur les juges de paix</i></b>	1187
Forbes .....	
<b>Bill No. 30 — <i>The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Amendment Act, 2016</i></b>	1188
Vermette .....	
<b>Bill No. 31 — <i>The Local Authority Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Amendment Act, 2016</i></b>	1190
Chartier .....	
<b>Bill No. 1 — <i>The Crown Corporations Public Ownership Amendment Act, 2016</i></b>	1192
Rancourt .....	
<b>Bill No. 32 — <i>The Automobile Accident Insurance (Benefits) Amendment Act, 2016</i></b>	1194
Sarauer .....	
<b>Bill No. 33 — <i>The Child and Family Services Amendment Act, 2016</i></b>	1195
Chartier .....	
<b>Bill No. 34 — <i>The Provincial Lands Act, 2016</i></b>	1196
Forbes .....	
<b>Bill No. 35 — <i>The Small Claims Act, 2016/Loi de 2016 sur les petites créances</i></b>	1197
Beck .....	
<b>Bill No. 36 — <i>The Small Claims Consequential Amendments Act, 2016</i></b>	1199
Beck .....	
<b>Bill No. 37 — <i>The Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2016</i></b>	1199
Sarauer .....	

# GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

## CABINET MINISTERS

---

**Hon. Brad Wall**  
**Premier**

**President of the Executive Council**  
**Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs**

**Hon. Tina Beaudry-Mellor**  
Minister of Social Services  
Minister Responsible for the Status of Women

**Hon. Ken Cheveldayoff**  
Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport  
Minister Responsible for the Public Service Commission

**Hon. Kevin Doherty**  
Minister of Finance

**Hon. Dustin Duncan**  
Minister of Energy and Resources  
Minister Responsible for SaskEnergy Incorporated  
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan  
Telecommunications

**Hon. Bronwyn Eyre**  
Minister of Advanced Education

**Hon. Joe Hargrave**  
Minister of Crown Investments  
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan  
Government Insurance  
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan  
Transportation Company

**Hon. Donna Harpauer**  
Minister of Government Relations  
Minister Responsible for First Nations,  
Métis and Northern Affairs

**Hon. Jeremy Harrison**  
Minister of the Economy  
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan  
Liquor and Gaming Authority  
Minister Responsible for The Global  
Transportation Hub Authority  
Minister Responsible for Tourism Saskatchewan  
Minister Responsible for Innovation

**Hon. David Marit**  
Minister of Highways and Infrastructure

**Hon. Scott Moe**  
Minister of Environment  
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Water  
Security Agency  
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan  
Water Corporation

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

**Hon. Greg Ottenbreit**  
Minister Responsible for Rural and Remote Health

**Hon. Jim Reiter**  
Minister of Health

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

**Hon. Christine Tell**  
Minister of Central Services  
Minister Responsible for the Provincial  
Capital Commission  
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan  
Gaming Corporation

**Hon. Gordon Wyant**  
Minister of Justice and Attorney General  
Minister Responsible for SaskBuilds  
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan  
Power Corporation