



FIRST SESSION - TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

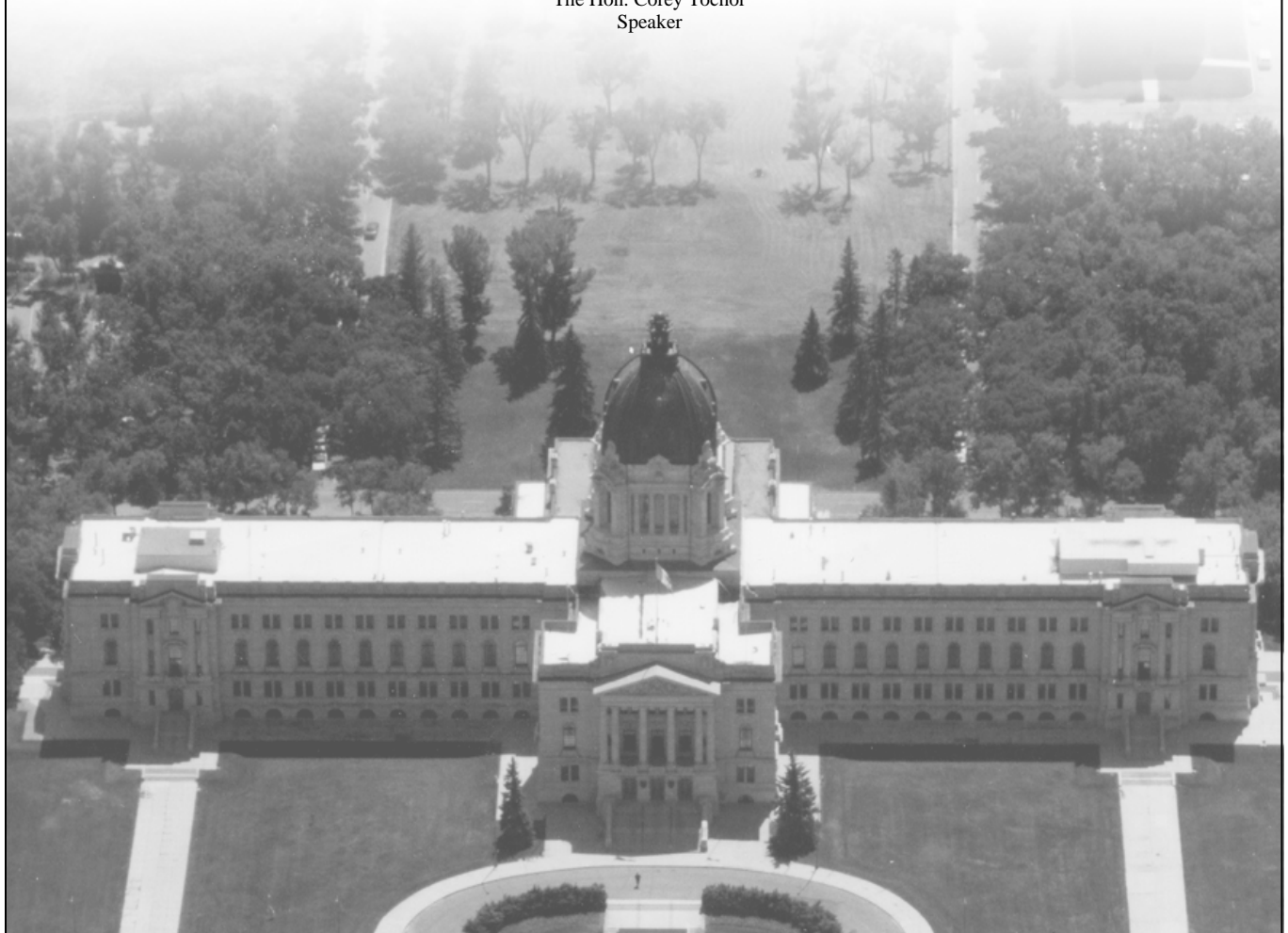
of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

(HANSARD)

Published under the
authority of
The Hon. Corey Tochor
Speaker



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

Speaker — Hon. Corey Tochor

Premier — Hon. Brad Wall

Leader of the Opposition — Trent Wotherspoon

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Lawrence, Greg — Moose Jaw Wakamow (SP)

Makowsky, Gene — Regina Gardiner Park (SP)

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

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

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Wilson, Hon. Nadine — Saskatchewan Rivers (SP)

Wotherspoon, Trent — Regina Rosemont (NDP)

Wyant, Hon. Gordon — Saskatoon Northwest (SP)

Young, Colleen — Lloydminster (SP)

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

Clerks-at-the-Table

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[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Provincial Secretary.

Hon. Ms. Wilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With leave for an extended introduction, please.

The Speaker: — Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. I recognize the Provincial Secretary.

Hon. Ms. Wilson: — Thank you. It is my pleasure to introduce a very special guest at the Legislative Assembly today. Seated in your gallery is Mr. Massimiliano Iacchini, consul general of Italy in Vancouver. A career diplomat, Mr. Iacchini was appointed to his current position in August of last year. This is his first official visit to our province. Accompanying the consul general on his visit are David Salamena, the deputy consul of Italy in Vancouver.

The consul general has a busy schedule during his two full days in our province. We had lunch together, and he has already met with the ministers of Agriculture and the Economy and with you, Mr. Speaker. This afternoon he meets with Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor. He will also visit SaskPower where he will have a presentation on carbon capture and storage from officials and the International CCS Knowledge Centre.

Tomorrow the consul general and his delegation travel to Saskatoon where they have meetings scheduled with officials from the Saskatchewan Trade and Export Partnership, the University of Saskatchewan and its Crop Development Centre, and the Canadian Light Source synchrotron.

Mr. Speaker, Italy is a very important trading partner and market for Saskatchewan. The country is Saskatchewan's ninth-largest export destination. Our exports were valued at almost 468 million last year. Most of these exports were durum wheat. Saskatchewan is Canada's largest agriculture food export to Italy, and Italy is the largest export destination for our wheat.

I am confident that during his visit the consul general will see many examples of the dynamic nature of Saskatchewan as we work to build on the strong bonds of trade and friendship between Saskatchewan and Italy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members of the Assembly join with me in welcoming Consul General Iacchini and his delegation to Saskatchewan legislation. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd just

like to join with the minister and welcome on behalf of the official opposition — benvenuto a Saskatchewan — the Italian delegation that is here today.

Certainly it's a good sight to, Mr. Speaker, to see in your gallery Mr. Massimiliano Iacchini and Mr. David Salamena. Certainly the work that these gentlemen do to further and strengthen the relationship between Canada and Italia, and certainly Saskatchewan and Italia, is a wonderful thing. Certainly the Italian community in Saskatchewan is one that we value very much and contributes an awful lot to the well-being of the province. So to see these gentlemen here furthering that work is a good sight to see. Mille grazie and buongiorno.

The Speaker: — Today I'd like to introduce a guest sitting in my gallery, if Emma Bonk could please rise, give a quick wave. We had a chance to spend some time together today and over lunch. We discussed the role of Speaker and world events and life in general. She is a very smart 12-year-old and if she is representing the next generation, I think Saskatchewan will be in great hands. Please join with me in welcoming Emma to her Assembly.

I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to this Assembly, it's my pleasure to introduce a number of officials from the Canadian Diabetes Association. The association is having an advocacy day today. They have a number of events they've been holding in the building including a number of meetings, including one with the Minister of Rural and Remote Health and myself earlier this morning.

They also were hosting a 21-day healthy habit challenge which the Minister of Rural and Remote Health is participating in, which is good, Mr. Speaker, because he has a number of bad habits.

Mr. Speaker, they're also hosting a reception later today at 5 o'clock, I believe, for MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly] from both sides of the House. We look forward to that.

And in the west gallery with us today, we have — I'll just get you to give a wave when I introduce you — we have Brie Hnetka, who is the regional director for Saskatchewan. We have Warren Wagner, the senior regional director for Western Canada; Russell Williams, vice-president, Government Relations; Scott McRae, regional director for Alberta.

And a number of advocacy committee members are with us as well, Mr. Speaker. We have Tristan Banyay, Peter Dickinson, Lynne Eikel, Bob and Evelyn Gawley, Bill Gowen, Georgia Joorisity, Paul Kuspira, Bob Lydiate, Renee Mochnacz, Diana Orser, Ken Zech, and Don Henricksen.

Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned, we look forward to the reception later on today to chat with the various members of the association and we thank them for being here. And I ask all members to please give them a warm welcome to their Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure on behalf of the official opposition to welcome this delegation from the Canadian Diabetes Association. I didn't have an opportunity earlier today to take in the 21-day challenge, but I will think very closely about all the habits that I have that could be changed, Mr. Speaker, including that road trip back to Saskatoon that often involves puffed wheat squares or any kind of treat that I can get my hands on, Mr. Speaker. But I . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . A&W occasionally, Mr. Speaker. But I know my colleague and the Leader of the Official Opposition is committing to no late-night snacks. I understand he's a fan of ice cream very late in the evening, Mr. Speaker.

An Hon. Member: — Peanut butter.

Ms. Chartier: — And peanut butter, Mr. Speaker. But I look forward to the reception this evening and conversations. And thanks to all these folks again from the Canadian Diabetes Association for all that they do around research and advocacy and helping us understand the issues better, around service, education, and information, making sure people living with diabetes are well served as well, Mr. Speaker. So with that, I'd ask all my colleagues to join in welcoming these folks to their legislature.

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

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Request leave for extended introduction, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's indeed a pleasure for me to rise in the House today to introduce a very special group in your gallery, on the east side of the gallery. Mr. Speaker, they're children that have gone through a cancer journey, along with their family and some friends that have been affected by childhood cancer. Some I met along with the member from Saskatoon University in September when we did the flag-raising outside, bringing awareness to the province through commemorating Childhood Cancer Awareness Month in September.

Mr. Speaker, there's great strides that have been made when it comes to cancer, specifically childhood cancer, but we know there's more work to do. And it's important, I believe, to bring awareness and also to recognize these families, especially these young ones that are going through a struggle. And we know through diagnosis that we are supporting them, but also they need our thoughts and our prayers and that's part of what we're doing in this advocacy as well, Mr. Speaker.

My family strongly believes that God comforts us in our troubles so we're there to comfort others in their time of need,

Mr. Speaker, and it's truly my pleasure to introduce these individuals in your Assembly today. With us today are Jennifer Lyster and Steve Lyster — can you guys give us a wave as we introduce you — with their kids Jessie Lyster, and of course Tegan has successfully gone through a cancer journey, Mr. Speaker. Marla Bachman and Aaron Bachman, Kaidence Bachman is with us. Joel Bachman. Kim Lendvay, Lauren Lendvay, and Isaac Lendvay. Unfortunately Naomi Lendvay was supposed to be with us today, but she's feeling a little bit ill today, Mr. Speaker. She couldn't make it, but she's in our thoughts and our prayers, along with her mom, Vanessa, wasn't available to make it today as well, Mr. Speaker.

Also with us today are Mary Lou Selinger, Brenda Rookes, Leonard Selinger, Enrique Reyes Viltre, Brad Boyko, Kim Pasloski, Jason Cody, and I think Scott Livingstone is with us today. He was supposed to be with us — I don't see Scott up there — from the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency. But, Mr. Speaker, please join with me in welcoming these very important guests to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure and honour to join with the minister opposite in welcoming these very strong families, the Lyster, the Bachman, and the Lendvay family, among many others, to their legislature today. Thank you for bringing a face to childhood cancer. I know your journey isn't an easy one but know that there are many thoughts and best wishes and prayers on both sides of the House in your journey, and we wish you all the best. I'd ask all members to join me in welcoming these special guests to their legislature today.

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

Ms. Lambert: — Mr. Speaker, to you and through you and to all members of the Assembly, I would like to introduce my mother, Marilyn Wilchuck, seated on the floor of the legislature Chamber. Mom's maiden name is Berthiaume and she was born here in Regina. Mom left her job with Saskatchewan Government Insurance to become a full-time homemaker of seven children born in nine years. I was the middle child of the clan. She modelled volunteerism to me through the school, church, and community.

Mr. Speaker, my mother was a great support to me once I made the decision to seek the nomination for Saskatoon Churchill-Wildwood. Her support never wavered during the 20 months I spent working to win the election. Although Mom was not politically active she always exercised her franchise. She offered me practical advice during the election campaign, and she was confident that this was the path I was meant to follow.

Mom had a penchant for baking. I share her love of baking. When I published a cookbook in 2013, I named it *Recipes I Stole From My Mum* to honour the time she spent in the kitchen cooking for her large family. I ask all members to join me in welcoming her to her Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Douglas

Park.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you and to all members of this Assembly, I'd like to introduce an individual seated way up at the top of the east gallery, my mother, Donna Sarauer. Donna was born and raised in Muenster, Saskatchewan, and then mom went to STI, Saskatchewan Technical Institute at the time, to study computer technology in Moose Jaw. And then after moving around with my dad, we finally settled in Regina where we've been living ever since I was five.

She currently works for SaskCentral and has been my number one supporter, not just during this campaign but always. She definitely learned the importance of door knocking, unfortunately for her, I think. But we got to spend a lot of quality time together over the last 18 months during the campaign. If she's taught me anything, it's hard work, independence, and compassion. And I hope to be half the woman that she is, Mr. Speaker.

I hope I've done a sufficient job sucking up to her so she'll continue feeding me and buying me lunch every once in a while. I'd ask that all members join me in welcoming her to her Assembly.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've got a few guests to welcome here but I would like to just start with those that are in the Speaker's gallery here today, those courageous young people, families that are here today. We can only imagine what you're going through and our thoughts, our prayers are with you on this very challenging journey. We know you're very courageous, very courageous people, children, and families. So thank you for being here today.

I'd like to recognize or welcome in your gallery, Mr. Speaker . . . actually in the east gallery, 50 Mustangs here today, Mr. Speaker. These would be grade 4 and 5's from McLurg school in my riding, Mr. Speaker. They're accompanied here today by Ms. Weinrauch and Ms. Brittnee Cruse, two awesome teachers, Mr. Speaker. They're also here with some parents: Ms. Lana Wilkinson, Ms. Tera Roberts, Ms. Valerie Sawcyn.

I'm looking forward to meeting with these students after question period. I look forward to their questions. I already visited with them briefly. These are a very bright group of young leaders that bode well for the future of this province. So I ask all members to join with me in welcoming 50 McLurg Mustangs to their Assembly, along with these teachers and parents. And I ask them to say hello to Principal Norman for me. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[13:45]

While still on my feet, I'd like to introduce a guest in the west gallery. This would be Mr. Pat Dunne. Pat Dunne has practised law in Regina for many, many years. He's also a rugby player, and he's also the brother of Sister Veronica Dunne of the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions, Mr. Speaker. Pat Dunne has been following proceedings closely. He's committed to getting to the bottom of the GTH [Global Transportation Hub] land scandal,

along with the sisters, and I'm pleased to have him in his Assembly here today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I would ask members to ask for leave when extended introductions take place. I recognize the member from Prince Albert Northcote.

Ms. Rancourt: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a very important guest of mine sitting here in the Assembly today, actually in your gallery, Mr. Speaker, and that's my partner, Darren. I think most members here would relate that family plays such an important part with us getting to be elected officials and supporting us through our journey here with our workloads and such. And Darren has been ever so supporting to me. He's a dedicated father to not only his children but mine as well. And he's such a loving grandfather to our two grandsons.

And, Mr. Speaker, since I've been elected, Darren's been following the proceedings here, and this is the first time he gets to see everything live. So I'm really happy to have him here, and I'd like all members to welcome him to his Legislative Assembly.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise once again to present a petition to reverse the cuts to the Lighthouse program. Mr. Speaker, the petitioners point out that in April 2014, the minister of Social Services, the then minister said that the Lighthouse in Saskatoon would “. . . take pressure off existing detox facilities, hospitals, and police cells, while keeping people safe, especially in our brutally cold winters.” The petitioners point out that too, on that same day, the minister of Health said, “We want to ensure that individuals with mental health and addictions issues have a safe place to stay.”

And again they point out that this government has repeatedly indicated that the Lighthouse stabilization unit keeps individuals out of hospital emergency rooms and jail cells. In Saskatoon Health Region, the hospitals in Saskatoon have seen record over capacity this last month, Mr. Speaker, and although the Lighthouse isn't the whole problem, making these cuts to the Lighthouse stabilization unit certainly don't help with those ER [emergency room] waits, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to read the prayer:

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am standing in my place today to present a petition to stop the sales of our Crown corporations, and that's all our Crown corporations, because they belong to the people of Saskatchewan. And this particular petition, it relates to SaskTel, Mr. Speaker, but it goes for all the Crowns. And, Mr. Speaker, some of the points that people are raising is that SaskTel creates thousands of good jobs, ensures services to parts of the province that other providers ignore, and offers the lowest mobile phone rates in the country, Mr. Speaker. So our Crown corporations, in particular SaskTel, the people of Saskatchewan, I tell them it belongs to them and that they don't want them sold in any way, shape, or form.

And the people that have signed the petition, Mr. Speaker, they're all from throughout Saskatchewan, and on these particular pages . . . The prayer reads as follows:

Call on the Saskatchewan Party government to keep their promise, stop their plans to sell off SaskTel, and keep all of our valued Crown corporations in the hands of the people of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, and as I said, the people that have signed this petition are all from throughout Saskatchewan, and on these particular pages they're primarily from Regina, Saskatoon, Spruce Home. And I so present.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present a petition regarding wetlands. The people that have signed the petition wanted to bring to our attention the following: wetlands serve a very vital function in our ecosystem. They take the form of marshes, bogs, fens, swamps, and open water. Wetlands are home to wildlife, including waterfowl. They clean the water running off of agricultural fields. They protect us from flooding and drought, and they are a playground where families can explore and play and hunt, Mr. Speaker, duck hunt.

In the worst cases, such as some areas on the prairies, as much as 90 per cent of our wetlands have disappeared. As they continue to disappear, so too do the many benefits they provide.

Sound wetland policy will allow Saskatchewan to provide sustainable development for all sectors of business in the province. I'd like to read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request the Government of Saskatchewan to:

Increase funding to do the proper inventory work, putting Saskatchewan in a better position to manage the water resource;

Speed up the evaluation of high-risk watersheds where there is significant damage annually from flooding. This evaluation must include a recognition of drainage works that could be closed or restored that will alleviate some of the issues downstream with respect to flooding and nutrient loading; and

Create a sound and transparent mitigation process that adequately addresses sustainable development. This sequence should first focus on avoiding environmental harm whenever possible, before a secondary focus on minimizing the harm with compensation being sought only when the development is deemed essential and the first two stages cannot be met.

Mr. Speaker, this particular petition is signed by individuals, citizens of Regina. I so submit.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to present a petition in support of Wakamow Valley Authority. And we know that as a result of the passage of *The Wakamow Valley Authority Amendment Act, 2016* on June 30th, the Wakamow Valley Authority lost its statutory funding of \$127,000 from the Saskatchewan government in addition to its \$30,000 in supplemental funding. And this loss of annual funding negatively affected the ability of Wakamow to maintain its lands and repair its facilities and provide services to the community of Moose Jaw and surrounding area. Mr. Speaker, on June 21st, 2016, the provincial government voted in favour of this bill, including the members from Moose Jaw, that resulted in the cuts to Wakamow and subsequent job losses. I'd like to read the prayer, Mr. Speaker:

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

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

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

Mr. Speaker, the people signing this petition are from Moose Jaw. Thank you so much.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Prince Albert

Northcote.

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

The Sask Party's latest cold-hearted cut will take money away from people who are unable to work due to a disability. The many people who are being hurt by the Sask Party cut live with serious illnesses such as multiple sclerosis, cancer, and autism, among other illnesses, and that contrary to the Minister of Social Services' claims, the government underfunds clients in regards to shelter allowance, and that shelter allowance should be reflective of the current rental costs, not availability. I will read the prayer:

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

Mr. Speaker, I got many petitions here that I'm going to present today and the residents that signed these petitions are from Saskatoon, Regina, Maple Creek, Cabri, Eastend, Abbey, Rouleau, Spruce Home, North Battleford, Dalmeny, Lake Lenore, Dundurn, Cumberland House, Prince Albert, Air Ronge, Ile-a-la-Crosse, Martensville, La Ronge, Canwood, Meadow Lake, Hague, Warman, Shellbrook, Buffalo Narrows, Carrot River, Harris, Humboldt, and Swift Current. I do so present.

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

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

Child care is essential to the economy, yet most centres struggle to balance their budget, and this issue threatens both the quality and number of spaces. Mr. Speaker, quality child care has an enormous positive impact on a child's future outcomes and yields high rates of economic return.

I will read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan recognize that licensed non-profit child care centres provide programs that are foundational to a healthy society by

including them in the Saskatchewan education Act and exempt all licensed non-profit child care centres in Saskatchewan from property tax through changes to appropriate legislation.

Mr. Speaker, the pages that I'm submitting today are signed by residents of Regina. I do so submit.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present a petition calling for a stop to the redirection of funding of the Northern Teacher Education Program Council, Inc.

Mr. Speaker, the undersigned residents of the province of Saskatchewan wish to bring to your attention the following: that NORTEP-NORPAC [northern teacher education program-Northern Professional Access College] has been a program of higher learning and has changed the educational landscape in the North over the past 40 years.

They point out that NORTEP-NORPAC is a successful program where, in the most recent report of the last five years of graduates, it has been shown that 94 per cent of the teacher education program graduates have successfully found employment in northern Saskatchewan.

They point out that NORTEP-NORPAC has always incorporated the inclusion of the First Nations and Métis cultures, languages, and traditional ecological knowledges which are so important to northerners and the truth and reconciliation process, Mr. Speaker.

I could go on in terms of the things that they point out. It's a long list certainly. But in the prayer that reads as follows, Mr. Speaker, the petitioners:

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

Mr. Speaker, these particular petitions are signed by citizens from La Ronge and Air Ronge. I so present.

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise again today to present another petition calling on the government to reverse the short-sighted cuts to the Aboriginal court worker program. The Government of Saskatchewan cut the budget for the Aboriginal court worker program in the 2016-2017 provincial budget. Aboriginal court workers play an important role helping Aboriginal people in criminal and child apprehension cases. Aboriginal peoples are disproportionately represented in Saskatchewan's correctional centres, and Aboriginal court workers successfully help to make our communities safer through reduced recidivism rates. I'd like to read the prayer:

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

that the Government of Saskatchewan reverse its short-sighted and counterproductive cuts to the Aboriginal court worker program.

I have pages of this to submit today, Mr. Speaker. Those signing this petition today are from Pennant, Regina, Nipawin, Shaunavon, Moose Jaw, and Melville. I do so submit.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Saskatchewan Air Ambulance Marks 70th Anniversary

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In February 1946 the Tommy Douglas government launched the Saskatchewan air ambulance service, SAAS, the first non-military service of its kind in the world. At that time many Saskatchewan residents lived far apart, with an inadequate network of roads to transport patients to emergency medical services.

[14:00]

In its first year, SAAS began its service with two planes, and in that first year those two planes flew 250 patient missions. Saskatchewan people felt some relief knowing accident victims could be transported within a few hours to medical facilities in either Regina or Saskatoon. Pilots required impressive courage and skill to land in pastures and fields while avoiding various obstacles, including a documented close call with a bull on a landing strip.

Since those early days, Saskatchewan air ambulance has transported more than 65,000 patients province-wide and has expanded to a 24-hour operation, employing nearly 70 people in a variety of roles. Today its three planes can each hold two patients on stretchers. The ability to be dispatched in as little as 30 minutes gives communities in remote locations who may not be properly equipped to deal with certain emergencies peace of mind that help is on the way.

Mr. Speaker, 2016 marks the 70th anniversary of the Saskatchewan air ambulance service, which continues to be an essential part of health services in our province. Congratulations and thank you to the remarkable people who have served us so bravely over the past seven decades. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Batoche.

Diabetes Awareness Month and World Diabetes Day

Mr. Kirsch: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. November is Diabetes Awareness Month and today is World Diabetes Day, a day which seeks to raise awareness about diabetes and also commemorates the birthdate of Canadian Sir Frederick Banting, the co-discoverer of insulin. More than 90 years ago, Canada gave the life-saving gift of insulin to the world. The Diabetes Awareness Month is an opportunity for Canadians to celebrate this important discovery and create greater awareness of this complex chronic disease.

Mr. Speaker, today more than 97,000 people in Saskatchewan

are living with either type 1 or type 2 diabetes. Diabetes costs individuals 5 to 15 years of life expectancy. It contributes to 30 per cent of strokes, 40 per cent of heart attacks, and 70 per cent of all non-traumatic amputations, as well as being the leading cause of blindness.

Diabetes must be diagnosed early and managed well in order to delay or prevent serious complications. The Diabetes Association encourages everyone to visit diabetestest.ca this month to complete a short online risk assessment.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in commemorating Diabetes Awareness Month and World Diabetes Day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

University of Saskatchewan Student Makes Innovative Discovery

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I'd like to recognize a constituent of mine, University of Saskatchewan biology master's student Rachel Parkinson. Parkinson, with the aid of supervisor Jack Gray, has become an international pioneer of innovation this year when her use of a virtual reality simulator led to a breakthrough in her study on the harmful effects of neonic pesticides on locusts.

Mr. Speaker, Rachel has created a 3-D [three dimensional] flying simulation where insects roam through a video game-like environment. By using this simulation on locusts, she has found that neonic pesticides, among the most commonly used in Canada, may play a role in affecting insects' ability to detect moving objects. This study is paving the way for research on the effects of such chemicals on insects with even more complex flight patterns such as bees, and may even demonstrate how pesticides can contribute to the deaths of millions of bees worldwide.

Mr. Speaker, Parkinson's findings have been presented at conferences around the world. Now, going forward, Parkinson and Gray are interested in directly testing neonic pesticides on bees in hopes that their findings may contribute to the protection of the species in the future. Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in congratulating Rachel Parkinson's innovative discovery and for her work towards the protection of environmentally significant insects. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Raising Awareness of Childhood Cancer

Mr. Olason: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This morning it was my pleasure to join with the Minister of Rural and Remote Health to meet a remarkable group of individuals. Mr. Speaker, these individuals are here today to raise the awareness of childhood cancer, every one of them impacted by this disease in some way. A diagnosis of cancer affects more than just the child, Mr. Speaker; it affects family, friends, the school, and the whole community.

In the group today are Kim, Lauren, and Isaac Lendvay, dad and siblings to Naomi Lendvay, who are constituents of mine. Today and on other occasions I have heard Kim and his wife, Vanessa, who is unable to be here today, describe their family's experience with their daughter Naomi's treatment for stage IV cancer. This is just one Saskatchewan family, along with others here today, who are every day faced with a situation no parent should have to.

On September 24th, the Minister Responsible for Rural and Remote Health, the member for Saskatoon Westview, and I attended a flag-raising ceremony at the Legislative Building to publicly recognize September as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month.

Mr. Speaker, the diagnosis of childhood cancer is devastating, but we can look to inspirational stories of children like Naomi Lendvay with extraordinary courage. We thank them for joining us today to raise awareness of this disease. Mr. Speaker, research is the answer; fundraising is the lock, and awareness is the key. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government House Leader.

Saskatoon Hilltops Win Canadian Junior Football League Championship

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once again I'm pleased to inform members of the House that the Saskatoon Hilltops have won the Canadian Bowl again. Mr. Speaker, for the third time in a row and the 19th time in club history, the Hilltops have won the prestigious CJFL [Canadian Junior Football League] championship. The team battled through a back-and-forth game on Saturday to defeat the Westshore Rebels 37-25.

The Hilltops struggled with turnovers and penalties throughout the championship game, taking points off the board and giving their opponents extra opportunities. Despite this extra adversity, Mr. Speaker, running back Logan Fischer, the game's offensive MVP [most valuable player], helped lift the team to a victory with two touchdown runs and 246 yards in total offence, including a massive 202 yards rushing. The defensive side of the ball, linebacker Cody Peters earned defensive MVP honours for his 11 tackles throughout the game.

Mr. Speaker, the Hilltops have much to be proud of. And although the game was closer than Head Coach Tom Sergeant would have liked, he had to say this about his team: "We just believed. We stayed together and we figured it out."

I ask all members to join me in congratulating the Saskatoon Hilltops, their players, coaches, and fans on winning their third straight Canadian Bowl national championship. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Breweries Granted Court Injunction

Mr. Buckingham: — Mr. Speaker, last Tuesday an Alberta court granted an injunction to Saskatoon's Great Western

Brewing Company and Toronto's Steam Whistle against the Government of Alberta's small brewers development program. This was an important victory for the brewers over the Government of Alberta and its unfair markup on out-of-province beer.

Mr. Speaker, the Alberta NDP [New Democratic Party] government introduced a grant and markup program in August 2016 to subsidize Alberta craft brewers and provide them an unfair advantage against craft brewers from any other province, including Saskatchewan. Both brewers alleged that the program created unconstitutional barriers against brewers from outside Alberta. And in May 2017, the Alberta court will hear arguments on the larger constitutional issue of trade barriers. In the meantime, the brewers will revert back to paying the markup price prior to the grant program.

Mr. Speaker, in direct response to the Alberta's NDP predatory pricing and direct handouts to its craft beer industry, our government introduced a new markup rate structure. It allows all craft and regional brewers to make necessary investments for them to grow their production, create jobs, and not be unfairly impacted by Alberta's protectionist policies.

Our government supports Great Western Brewing Company and their injunction, and will continue to fight for the province's interests in order to keep Saskatchewan strong.

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

Liquor Markup Structure Supports Beer Industry

Mr. Bradshaw: — Mr. Speaker, and speaking of the NDP and liquor, the NDP here in Saskatchewan appear to have not done their homework again. On October 27th, our government introduced a new markup structure to support a growing beer industry in our province. The large reduction in markup rates will assist brewers to make the necessary investments to increase their production volumes and create jobs.

The next day, the NDP issued a reality check on that that once again lacked reality. The NDP alleged that large multinational brewers were getting a markup cut as well. Wrong. If the members opposite paid attention to liquor policy in this province, they would have known that since October the 9th, all liquor retail store permittees operate under the same level playing field and set of rules. All permittees purchase from the SLGA [Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority] warehouse at the same warehouse markup, allowing individual stores to set their own retail markup, unlike the former combined markup structure.

The SLGA has not reduced the retail portion of the markup for large national brewers at their stores. Had the NDP taken the time to do their research, they would've known that fact and not spread false information to the public. I ask members opposite to support this initiative to create jobs and build our province's brewing industry, as well as do the research from now on.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Auditor's Report and Details of Land Transaction

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, day after day the Premier has shown no interest in answering any of the important questions that Saskatchewan people have about the Sask Party's GTH land scandal. But perhaps he's willing to answer some questions now that the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions are engaged and wondering about themselves.

Mr. Speaker, in 2010, under the threat of expropriation, the Ministry of Highways purchased 29 acres of land in the GTH from the Sisters for 11,000 per acre. Mr. Speaker, a few years later, the rest of the nuns' former adjoining land was bought through the GTH for over 100,000 per acre. This time though, the land was bought from a Sask Party supporter who flipped the land after buying it from a Sask Party-supporting land baron from Alberta that had bought the land from the nuns, whose identity was concealed and also who rented land to the then minister.

Mr. Speaker, to the Deputy Premier, why did the Sask Party force a group of nuns to sell their land for millions less and then pay far, far more than market value to wealthy businessmen with connections to that government?

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

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Well, Mr. Speaker, the premise of the question is of course wrong. The auditor had, the auditor had full authority to look into all of these matters. The auditor was tasked by the Public Accounts Committee and by cabinet to look into these questions and the transaction.

What the auditor confirmed — again, as recently as last Tuesday in Public Accounts Committee — was that there was no fraud, there was no conflict of interest and there was no wrongdoing, Mr. Speaker. She in fact, she in fact directly refuted the conspiracy theories put forward by members opposite as directly as she could, Mr. Speaker, proving again that, and confirming . . . I would actually quote, Mr. Speaker, from the Public Accounts Committee, Jason Wandy, who is the lead auditor amongst those tasked with this matter, and what he said as recently as Tuesday, and I quote, "The audit did not find evidence of conflicts of interest or indications of fraud or wrongdoing by GTH management or its board of directors."

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, no answer there. Of course the question was to the Deputy Premier. Of course we haven't got answers day after day from the Premier. And the nonsense from the minister again, he should finish maybe some of those quotes as well about the auditor. But everyone knows that wasn't a forensic audit. And even the statement that he refers to doesn't exonerate the Sask Party cabinet or lead actors of government, Mr. Speaker. It's scathing and exonerates no one.

Mr. Speaker, rising land prices are one thing, but the nuns got

only \$11,000 per acre for their land in 2010. Then they made a deal with a well-connected businessman for \$55,000 an acre. But, Mr. Speaker, when the sisters heard about the possibility of more expropriation by that Sask Party government, they did what honest people do. They called the potential buyer and told him that \$55,000 may be too much. They were worried he might get ripped off by the government through expropriation. Little did they know, Mr. Speaker, he would be just fine. Apparently he knew too because he said he was happy to take that risk.

Mr. Speaker, can the Deputy Premier explain why the nuns thought that more expropriation was coming from that Sask Party government, but the well-connected businessman somehow knew millions were in his future?

[14:15]

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

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — You know, of course, Mr. Speaker, the auditor had full authority to look into all of these matters. The auditor had access to all of the documents to which she asked for access. She had access to all of the individuals involved in the transaction.

She did, on the basis of those documents, including cabinet documents, a very thorough report . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Well the Deputy Leader of the NDP says, bring her back. She was back, Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday. And what did she do? She confirmed the findings of her report and systematically refuted the conspiracy theories of the members opposite, including the member for Athabasca. She systematically refuted the conspiracy theories of the members opposite and reinforced her conclusion, Mr. Speaker, there was no fraud, there was no wrongdoing, and there was no conflict of interest.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, we're talking about \$25 million of Saskatchewan people's hard-earned dollars here. The question wasn't for the minister who stands up day after day and provides tired and growingly arrogant talking points. The question was for the Deputy Premier.

The nuns got one price: \$11,000 per acre. The two well-connected businessmen walked away with an \$11 million profit of Saskatchewan people's dollars, Mr. Speaker, at \$103,000 an acre. Eleven thousand dollars an acre for the nuns, \$103,000 for the well-connected business men. To the Deputy Premier: how can he justify this?

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

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Well of course, Mr. Speaker, the premise of the member's question is just wrong. With respect to the knowledge in the community, I want to quote from the Provincial Auditor, from her appearance at the Public Accounts Committee just last week. And she said, and I quote, ". . . what it showed to us is that there was knowledge within the general community that the GTH and Highways was interested in

purchasing these specific properties . . .” There was general knowledge in the community. The auditor confirmed that.

What she also confirmed, Mr. Speaker, what she also confirmed, Mr. Speaker, was that there was no fraud, there was no conflict of interest, and there was no wrongdoing. The auditor very directly and specifically refuted every single one of the conspiracy theories put forward by the members opposite — directly refuted every single one. No fraud, there was no conflict of interest, and there was no wrongdoing. That was her conclusion, Mr. Speaker, and we support the work of the Provincial Auditor.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, the question was to the Deputy Premier. The minister with his tired talking points got up. But he also said something else. He said the premise of the question was wrong. It was a pretty straightforward question to the Deputy Premier. One was that the nuns got \$11,000 per acre, and the business people with connections to the government got \$103,000 per acre — \$11 million profit from taxpayers.

My question to the government: what’s wrong with . . . What facts does that minister take issues with? To the Deputy Premier: how can he justify this?

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

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Mr. Speaker, the Provincial Auditor, at the request of the Public Accounts Committee, at the request of the Public Accounts Committee, with the support at . . . and frankly at the call . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — I recognize the minister.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Public Accounts Committee heard from the Provincial Auditor just last week. The Provincial Auditor was asked by the Public Accounts Committee to do an audit of the transaction in question. She did that, Mr. Speaker. She conducted that audit with full access to all of the documents, including cabinet documents, with access to all of the individuals involved, whom she interviewed with the support of a forensic auditor as a part of her team of experts who looked into all of these matters. What she concluded with her team of experts was that there was no fraud, there was no conflict of interest, and that there was no wrongdoing. She also said in a subsequent interview that there were no red flags that would require subsequent investigation.

She addressed all of these matters again as recently as Tuesday. The government accepts her report, all 10 recommendations. Why won’t the members opposite do likewise?

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, I think it’s that sort of pathetic and weak display from this government that has people like the brother of Sister Veronica Dunne, Mr. Pat Dunne, here

and asking questions and working to get to the bottom of this scandal.

Day in, day out we see a government that won’t answer basic questions. We see a Premier that hides from answering questions, a Deputy Premier that’s hiding from answering questions here today.

Back to an important question . . . Then a minister with tired talking points that gets up and utters a bunch of nonsense, makes allegations of which simply aren’t the case, Mr. Speaker. The question is to the Deputy Premier: can he explain why the nuns thought that more expropriation was coming from the Sask Party government, but the well-connected businessmen somehow knew better?

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

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Mr. Speaker, you know who got to the bottom of the matter? The Provincial Auditor got to the bottom of the matter. At the request of the Public Accounts Committee, the Provincial Auditor examined every single one of the questions being posed in the Assembly. She examined every single one of these matters. And she came to a conclusion, Mr. Speaker, which was that there was no fraud, there was no wrongdoing, and there was no conflict of interest. That was the Provincial Auditor getting to the bottom of the matter, Mr. Speaker.

She provided a list of recommendations, which we accept. We also accept the conclusion of the report. It’s unfortunate that the members opposite do not. But with respect to the matter, I’ve referenced the knowledge in the general community from the testimony of the Provincial Auditor just last week, and I would quote it again: “. . . what it showed us is that there was knowledge within the general community that the GTH and Highways was interested in purchasing these specific properties . . .”

That’s the testimony of the Provincial Auditor. We accept the recommendations and the report, and we wish the members opposite would do likewise.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, again this is, for anyone watching this, this is utter nonsense again. The question was to the Deputy Premier. These are straightforward questions.

We know that the Ministry of Highways bought land from the nuns for far, far less: \$11,000 an acre. And we know that the nuns were being told that the rest of the land would likely be expropriated. So the question to this government and to this Deputy Premier — not the minister who can’t answer a question, Mr. Speaker, but to the Deputy Premier — is, why did those businessmen get the royal treatment from this government, the Sask Party government with a sweetheart deal? And what does he have to say, what does he have to say to the nuns?

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

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of course we've responded to every single question posed by the members opposite. And do you know who else responded to every single question posed by the members opposite? The Provincial Auditor did, Mr. Speaker, last Tuesday. And what did she, in her testimony, make clear? She refuted every single one of the conspiracy theories advanced by the members opposite directly. Every single one in the Public Accounts Committee just last week were refuted by the Provincial Auditor.

The auditor had full authority to look into all of these matters. She did, by her own testimony, a very thorough job of looking into the matters, of examining all of the documents, of interviewing all of the individuals involved. Her conclusion after all of that work, Mr. Speaker, was that there was no fraud, there was no wrongdoing, and there was no conflict of interest.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

Support for the Northern Teacher Education Program

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, last week the Minister of Advanced Education took a trip up North. After five hours of listening to the reality of northerners from chiefs, from stakeholders, community members, and students, the minister said that we should "... broaden, not shrink, the umbrella of northern education teaching program." She said, "We should do more talking and sharing of our collective past in this province."

Mr. Speaker, after listening to students talk about their present realities, she tried to compare herself to them because her grandparents had it hard too. Mr. Speaker, did the minister hear anything that was said to her at that meeting? Will the minister show that she was not just talking but listening too? Will she reverse the Sask Party's plan to take away northern control of these successful northern programs?

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

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — I spent the day in La Ronge on Thursday listening to stakeholders and community members and found it very productive. I understand that tensions are running high, and the prospect of change can sometimes be difficult. But I think it's great news, Mr. Speaker, that NORTEP [northern teacher education program] council is leading consultations with other post-secondary institutions to find the best solution for teacher programming in arts and science education in the North for everybody, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Mr. Speaker, how can the minister act so unaware of the current reality of indigenous people? She doesn't even acknowledge that assimilation happened to indigenous people in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, yes, people had it hard back in the day, her grandparents too. In residential school, kids weren't provided any education past grade 8 since they assumed they could only be labourers anyway. There were laws set up just to hold

indigenous people back, and they tried to force the Indian out of the child. And because of all of this, indigenous people are still working on healing and reconciliation. Mr. Speaker, today indigenous kids are twice as likely to live in poverty. And on reserve, 60 per cent of our children do. That is the reality today.

The minister said this cut is "... not just about saving money when times are tight." So when she points out to students, who are desperately trying to save a post-secondary education program that works, that her grandparents weren't bitter, Mr. Speaker, what is she insinuating? That we should just suck it up? Why is she being so patronizing to the northern people?

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

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The comment, Mr. Speaker, by the member opposite is a complete mischaracterization. And it was said in the spirit of truth and reconciliation, Mr. Speaker.

What I said is that, like the story that one young woman from La Ronge shared about some of the hardships that her grandparents had faced, so it was with my grandmothers, my grandparents. Lunch money was also unheard of. They also had no running water or indoor plumbing, and ultimately they didn't have the access to education, certainly to post-secondary education, that perhaps they should have had, that they deserved. They too, Mr. Speaker, experienced child poverty.

What I said was that we should draw on our own stories, share stories as different people with different backgrounds in this province, draw more from our collective past in order to move into our future together, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Response to Northerners' Concerns

Mr. Belanger: — Mr. Speaker, for the last 40 years this program has been graduating successful teachers who stay in the North. And the minister said that they are "... trying to make sure that the North has a sustainable post-secondary program and opportunity that it deserves." Is her message to the kids in the North that we don't deserve the NORTEP-NORPAC program, that we in the North deserve a cut? And, Mr. Speaker, we're getting tired of the patronizing tone of the Saskatchewan Party government.

The Saskatchewan Party say they care about the North. But I want to shift gears on to another aspect of northern life, and it's not just a lot of talk that people are asking the Sask Party for leadership on. This is followed by cut after cut. And one of the most recent examples, in discussing some of the tragedies in the North, the Premier stood in this House and over and over again told people to call 811 if they needed help. Well, Mr. Speaker, people have tried in the middle of the night, and it is not available. How could the Sask Party recommend a service that isn't there when people desperately need it?

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

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Mr. Speaker, I had the privilege to travel to La Ronge last week, along with the Minister of Government Relations, again with the Premier to visit with many leaders from the North and hear some of the concerns and some of the challenges that they do still face. And, Mr. Speaker, it was quite encouraging to hear a lot of the good-news stories that are coming. And realizing that some of the front-line care workers are getting tired, but what we were hearing from the leaders in the North is that they're very appreciative of the level of care, and along with the local emergency operations teams as well as the ones in Stanley and in La Ronge, feeling that the coordination of supports is getting a lot better.

[14:30]

What we did hear — I appreciate the member from Cumberland being there as well — from one young lady was saying that maybe the youth helpline was a little bit onerous to use, or maybe the 811 number is a little bit onerous to use. But we did hear from Chief Tammy Cook-Searson and other leaders from there was that there is also First Nations phone lines that are available with quick access to the youth there that have people staffed as well. So, Mr. Speaker, more work to do, but we're committed to working with our partners in the North.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Mr. Speaker, of course now we know that 811 is only one piece of the puzzle. We still need good follow-up services in addition to this phone service. But when people tried to call the number at the Premier's suggestion, a mental health worker was not available.

Mr. Speaker, we have called continually for the implementation of the mental health and addictions plan that the ministry commissioned. But once again, no real action from the Sask Party government, only after we saw six terrible suicides that the Premier went up North. But the question we ask, now what? Even after the Premier referred people to 811, it still isn't being staffed all the time with a mental health worker.

Mr. Speaker, when will the talk come to an end, and when will the Sask Party stop punishing the North?

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

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Mr. Speaker, this government has been very focused on listening to our partners in the North, our friends in the North, and responding to the needs, Mr. Speaker. I mean I explained here, I think, in the House last week that even prior to the terrible tragedies in La Loche, we were up north and listening to some of the concerns of the people in La Loche and responded to those very quickly as well, Mr. Speaker.

As well, we've expanded training for northern people from the North that will be better trained and have those opportunities to serve in their own communities, Mr. Speaker. Whether we're training nurses in Ile-a-la-Crosse or mental health workers across the North and having them have the opportunity to practise in the North and support our citizens in the North as well, Mr. Speaker, or if it's the expansion of psychiatric clinics,

whether it's remote presence technology, or people on the ground travelling up to the North to perform those psychiatric clinics, Mr. Speaker, we in fact know that those clinics for the most part are double. Then the access to psychiatric care is increased as well, Mr. Speaker. So again, more work to do. We're committed to working with our partners in the North.

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

Supreme Court Ruling and Funding for Education

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, last week the BC Teachers' Federation won a historic victory in a ruling that took the Supreme Court justices a mere 20 minutes to decide. The ruling affirms teachers' ability to negotiate caps on classroom sizes and hold the BC government to account to make sure that their education system is properly funded. It was a long-fought victory for teachers in British Columbia, a victory for all who believe in properly funded education.

Mr. Speaker, they won despite the BC government fighting them every step of the way. And it wasn't just their own government, Mr. Speaker, that BC teachers were up against. No, the Sask Party were fighting them too. The Sask Party sent lawyers all the way to the Supreme Court to argue against the teachers' ability to limit class sizes and ensure a certain number of teacher specialists in schools. Why did the Sask Party waste legal resources and taxpayer dollars to fight BC teachers instead of investing in our own classrooms?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Deputy Premier, the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, the situation in BC, the court situation, we haven't seen a written decision on that. It was rendered orally. So we'll review the decision when it comes down, and we'll make sure that it's reviewed carefully and applied carefully.

I would like to say, Mr. Speaker, to the members opposite, that since we have been in government, we have increased the operating grant to divisions by 33 per cent when enrolment has gone up 9 per cent. Mr. Speaker, the members opposite all throw it back and say it includes capital. Mr. Speaker, it does not. That in fact, Mr. Speaker, is the grant to the operating . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — I recognize the minister.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, in 2007-2008 the operating grant was \$1.41 billion, including the education property tax of \$714 million. That amount increased in 2016-17 to \$1.88 billion. At the same time EPT [education property tax] went down to \$680 million. Mr. Speaker, we've added 750 more teachers, 53 per cent more child care spaces, 104 per cent more kindergarten spaces, and record reductions in property tax.

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

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, perhaps the minister will tell the

members of the SSBA [Saskatchewan School Boards Association] today how rosy things are in the classroom because I don't think they're buying it, and neither are Saskatchewan teachers.

Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party decided to waste tax dollars to meddle in legal battles in other provinces to gang up against teachers because they know that this Supreme Court ruling might mean that they'll actually have to start investing more in education here at home, and they'll have to start dealing with cuts that they've made to classrooms in this province. And they might have to start respecting the agreements that they signed, Mr. Speaker, because our children's classroom sizes are larger than ever and our teachers are overwhelmed.

Mr. Speaker, when it comes to education in Saskatchewan, Saskatchewan children should come first. So why did the minister decide that he needed to join a Supreme Court battle to undermine teachers, and why is he not focused on strengthening our children's classrooms?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, members over there should not be talking about the record of what went on in this place. Their record was closing 176 schools. During their period of time, 32,000 students left the province.

Mr. Speaker, let's look and see where the investment was in our province. Regina Elphinstone-Centre, one of their members: Scott Collegiate, \$31 million; Sacred Heart, \$27 million; Seven Stones, \$20 million. Regina Douglas Park, one of theirs as well: Douglas Park School, \$20 million; Arcola, \$18 million. Prince Albert Northcote: St. Anne's, \$15 million. Saskatoon Nutana: major renovations, \$14 million. Saskatoon Centre: E.D. Feehan, major renovations, \$6 million. Saskatoon Riversdale . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — I'm having difficulties hearing the minister. Could we please show decorum and listen to the minister's response. I recognize the minister.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Saskatoon Riversdale: St. Mary's, brand new school, \$16 million. Athabasca: Birch Ridge School, new school, \$4 million, money shared with the feds, Mr. Speaker; Cumberland, Churchill Community High School, a major addition, \$34 million; Regina Rosemont, Rosemont Community School, new roof; Martin Collegiate, new roof; McLurg School, new roof. And in the critic's own constituency, Connaught School, something, Mr. Speaker, which she opposed, \$21 million for a school that that member did not want to see happen.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to request leave to withdraw Bill No. 41, *The Coroners Amendment Act, 2016* from the order paper.

The Speaker: — The member has requested leave to withdraw Bill No. 41, *The Coroners Amendment Act, 2016* from the order paper. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. Consent has been granted. The Government House Leader may proceed to move his motion.

BILL WITHDRAWN

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

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Mr. Speaker, pursuant to rule 15(3), I move to withdraw Bill No. 41, *The Coroners Amendment Act, 2016* from the order paper.

The Speaker: — The Government House Leader has moved to withdraw Bill No. 41, *The Coroners Amendment Act, 2016* from the order paper. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. Pursuant to rule no. 15(3), it is the order that Bill No. 41, *The Coroners Amendment Act, 2016* withdraw from the order paper.

I recognize the Opposition Leader.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — I request leave to introduce a guest.

The Speaker: — Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, to you and through you, it's my honour to introduce someone who's seated on the floor of our gallery just behind us here today, someone that's been a strong and remarkable leader in our community and our province for many, many years, that being Ms. Louise Simard, MLA for Lakeview for a good period of time, and minister of Health, minister of the Status of Women, a well-respected lawyer within our province, and a lot of work from a national perspective as well including continued efforts in leadership on matters of health and wellness for Canadians and for Saskatchewan people.

It's my pleasure to welcome Louise to her Assembly. I ask all members to join with me in welcoming Louise Simard to our Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Deputy Premier.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, leave to introduce guests as well.

The Speaker: — Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to join with the member opposite in welcoming Louise Simard to the Assembly. As one recovering lawyer to another, I'm not sure becoming Minister of Health is a real good solution to that problem but would like to wish her all the best in the House. And I'm not sure where her career is taking her, but I know she had a great career in the Assembly and in the community as well, and want to wish her the very best and welcome her to the House today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure and honour to rise and join in the debate around Bill No. 8, *An Act to amend The Summary Offences Procedure Act, 1990*. I've had the pleasure of reviewing the comments made by my colleagues previous to this as well as comments by the minister opposite, Mr. Speaker, and it's helped for me to have a good understanding of the bill. I've also had the opportunity to both read the bill as well as the explanatory notes, Mr. Speaker, and I found them quite helpful.

This bill makes a few changes to *The Summary Offences Procedure Amendment Act*, Mr. Speaker, that will create some changes. But I'm looking forward to having the opportunity to discuss them with the minister in a more full context, Mr. Speaker, in committee, which I imagine will likely be happening relatively soon.

I do want to speak to some of the changes that are proposed in this bill, Mr. Speaker, one of them being section 4 which is going to be amended to allow for the swearing of informations by phone. I'm assuming this is going to allow for a certain level of increased expediency in having informations sworn. Off the top of my head, I can't think of a whole lot of issues that we would have with respect to that, but I would want to make sure that we're fully complying with any type of issues.

I know there's sometimes an issue around informations not being sworn properly or there being errors in informations that can actually result in charges being withdrawn or acquittals, Mr. Speaker. So we want to make sure that when informations are being sworn that they're being sworn in a . . . that essentially everything's being looked at, that there's no errors so that there isn't any, like I said, withdrawals of charges because of something that would be largely an administrative issue, Mr. Speaker.

Another change that is being proposed is — and this one's a little bit beefier, I suppose, Mr. Speaker — is it's going to essentially sort of change the way fines work and fine extensions work with respect to summary offences, matters that relate to that. For example, section 21(1) will change sort of the extension for time request. It's removing that portion from the Act which . . . When that happens, it will basically mean that an individual who is trying to request an extension of time for payment, they will no longer be able to do that in front of a justice of peace. It's going to actually be changing to more of an administrative process through the fine collection branch, is what it's going to be called.

So I'm going to be interested to learn a little bit more about how this administrative process is going to work, Mr. Speaker. I understand that there's going to be an appointment of a director of fines and extensions, which is a new position, I believe, and it kind of marries into section 26 changes which will include the admin process for fine payment. So like I said, I'm always interested when things are being moved to more administrative in nature.

[14:45]

I'm assuming that this could mean potentially a more . . . It's possible that this could mean an easier access for individuals when making requests for time extensions, for example, for fine payments. But it could also be more difficult. I'm not quite sure. So I'm interested to know what the actual process is going to look like — for individuals, I understand that, I believe they're going to have to fill out a form — and what sort of policy the individual who's making that decision is basing their policies on.

Largely when these decisions are made in front of a Justice of the Peace or a judge, Mr. Speaker, there is the ability for a bit more discretion the judge will take into, or the Justice of the Peace will take into that individual's whole circumstances. Perhaps there is reasons why an extension for time for payment is needed. Oftentimes it's because of an inability to pay, or issues with other payment obligations that the individual is faced with.

If we're dealing with traffic safety issues, as an example, then there can be some issues with respect to employment. And if one is having difficulty finding employment, then one is going to have difficulty paying a fine, Mr. Speaker, and we don't necessarily want to bog up the court with multiple additional charges that are faced if an individual is unable to pay a fine.

So I hope . . . All I'm saying, in a nutshell, Mr. Speaker, is that there's some sort of discretion that's available to this individual who's going to be making these decisions, and that the removal of the power from the Justice of the Peace or a judge to this new individual or this new administrative individual, Mr. Speaker, won't remove the . . . essentially the level of discretion that's enjoyed at present.

Another thing that I'm interested to know is whether or not there's an appeal process, Mr. Speaker. If there's an individual who has an issue with the fine extension, what sort of level of oversight essentially of the decisions of this administrator are going to be included, and how we're going to be able to watch

over that to ensure that there's no issues, that there's no issues there. And if an individual or if a series of individuals are having issues with the decisions of this administrator, that there's an avenue available for there to be some sort of an appeal process as well.

Another interesting thing, and I'm not entirely sure based on my reading of the changes, Mr. Speaker, is I'm not entirely sure if it's taking away judges' discretion completely for the timeframe for payment. So I can tell that if an individual wants to ask for an extension for time they're not able to do it, but if a judge automatically decides that they want to extend what I believe is the automatic 15-day time period for a fine payment, that there is an avenue there for the judge to do that.

And I'm always quite concerned when we're removing discretion from judges or from justices of the peace and moving it towards something that's a bit more administrative or a bit more rigorous, that we can be . . . it actually ultimately creates problems within the justice system, Mr. Speaker, when we're not able to account for individuals' specific life circumstances for example, Mr. Speaker.

So there's a few questions that I have with respect to this bill. There's a few questions that I'm going to have with the minister about how this is going to work. I know I will have that opportunity as critic at committee shortly to do that, and I look forward to doing that as well as meeting with stakeholders and ensuring there's no issues in that respect, and essentially all the t's have been dotted and the i's have been crossed. So with that, Mr. Speaker, I'm prepared to let this bill go to committee.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion by the member that the Bill No. 8, *The Summary Offences Procedure Amendment Act, 2016* be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Principal Clerk: — Second reading of this bill.

The Speaker: — To which committee shall this bill be committed? I recognize the Minister of the Economy.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I designate that Bill No. 8, *The Summary Offences Procedure Amendment Act, 2016* be referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

The Speaker: — This bill stands committed to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

Bill No. 19

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

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Lights, camera, action, Mr. Speaker. Good to join debate this afternoon, take my place and get a few words on the record to *The Film and Video Classification Act, 2016*. And as pointed out by the minister in his second reading speech, this will repeal the existing legislation and replace it with new legislation. It will set up authority to “. . . allow the administration of the industry to be performed by an official, the director of film classification, and not by a board,” which is new, Mr. Speaker.

It will “. . . allow registration of exhibitors and distributors to continue in perpetuity provided that annual reports are provided by registrants.” You know, sort of a variation of the current trajectory. And that the “. . . measures are consistent with other programs administered by [the good folks at] the Financial and Consumer Affairs Authority.”

The minister also references the fact that Saskatchewan “. . . has an agreement with British Columbia film classification office to classify most films to be shown in our province.” And wherein BC collects the fee, remits half to us, we'd be interested to know what sort of dollars are involved there, Mr. Speaker. And that relates to a point that I'll be making later on in my remarks.

And that, you know, the minister reports that that arrangement works well and that they think that the director versus a board will be a positive development and will streamline the process. And as such, that is what they're going forward with. So again, you know, we can debate the merits of that approach, Mr. Speaker. But the minister also stated that opening the Act or providing new legislation, having repealed the old Act, that it provides an opportunity to address a number of issues, such as where the director is given the discretion to limit classification to a specific exhibitor, time, or location, and also that the new Act more logically being organized. And here's where we've got some question to raise with the minister, and this is perhaps best addressed through the committee process, Mr. Speaker, but certainly where the minister states that “Consultations respecting the legislation with exhibitors, distributors, industry association, and other jurisdictions revealed no issues with the proposal.”

And I guess at this time, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to read into the record a letter that was addressed this fall to the minister responsible for the legislation, the Minister of Justice, and it is dated November 2nd, 2016, and again, Mr. Speaker, keeping in mind what the minister had to say about consultations and how this letter comes to be on the public record. Anyway, to get this correspondence on the record, Mr. Speaker:

On behalf of PAVED Arts, a charitable, not-for-profit, Artist-run Centre in Saskatoon, I am writing to you regarding the Film and Video Classification Act. PAVED Arts is a multi-faceted production and exhibition centre for artists working with photography, video, audio and digital media. As an organization which receives public funding and provides free arts programming, which often includes video and film presentation both in our facility and in public spaces and off-site partner venues, I would like to clarify where our activities might intersect with the Film and Video Classification Act. As I understand the definitions in the act, I believe PAVED and many other arts organizations in this province could be identified under

the following:

- d) “exhibition” means showing, projecting, or otherwise displaying of film in a theatre to the public;
- e) “exhibitor” means a person who engages in exhibition of films on a continual and successive basis [and]
- f) “film” means photographic moving picture film or any other means by which moving pictures are displayed and includes video tape, video cassette, video discs, or other similar video devices by which moving pictures are shown, projected or displayed; [and]
- m) “theatre” means a building or hall or any premises, room or place, including an open-air place, to which the public is admitted and where film is or is to be shown, projected or displayed.

Carrying on with the letter and getting that on the record, Mr. Speaker, the author of the letter states:

I understand the act is currently being reviewed, and this would be a good opportunity to ensure that its wording and application reflect its intent. There are a few reasons for my concern about this legislation. First, as a public art gallery, we help artists share their work, which can be challenging and thought provoking. No other aspect of our programming (sound art, live performances, photography) requires classification before it is publicly presented. If the video or films we exhibit fall under the classification act we would have an added level of administration which would hinder our operations, and additionally the fines associated with the act (Section 14) could financially destabilize our organization.

Carrying on, quoting from the letter, Mr. Speaker:

The reasons I outlined above apply to PAVED Arts and many other arts organizations in Saskatchewan that also present film and video publicly in different capacities. I have been in contact with many of them, and it became clear that there was a lack of knowledge about the film and video classification and its relevance to their respective programming.

It is for the above reasons that I feel an exemption (Section 13) would be a suitable amendment to the act that would offer the same protection to art galleries and cultural organizations as provided to religious and educational institutions.

I would be pleased to meet with you to further discuss the contents of this letter at your earliest convenience.

Carrying on to the bottom of the letter, Mr. Speaker:

Sincerely, Alexander Rogalski, executive director, PAVED Arts.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Rogalski and the organization on which he speaks on their behalf raises some very valid concerns which certainly demand answers and hopefully remedy from this government as regards this piece of legislation. He also provides comments which, you know, in terms of the assurances that were made around the consultation that had

taken place, perhaps that is not as complete as we would hope, Mr. Speaker.

And in the aim of pursuing improvements and remedies and to get that work done so that again folks out there operating these kind of organizations, oftentimes, Mr. Speaker, on not even a shoestring but probably, you know, a good third of a shoestring, that they not be encumbered by unnecessary red tape and bureaucratic wrangling; that you know, this should be . . . Again there’s that balance in terms of the classification. But this is perhaps a good argument for remedies to be forthcoming.

And again where we see . . . You know, we’re glad to see that where different of these endeavours on the part of government have gone wrong, it’s not unimaginable that the government takes a step back and moves to correct the action.

And certainly, Mr. Speaker, we will be looking forward to the government’s more detailed response that is available, that is on offer at the committee stage hearing of the bill. And in that respect, Mr. Speaker, we are prepared to see this particular bill, No. 19, *The Film and Video Classification Act, 2016* move on to committee so we can engage in just that kind of consideration of this legislation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion by the member that Bill No. 19, *The Film and Video Classification Act, 2016* be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Principal Clerk: — Second reading of this bill.

The Speaker: — To which committee shall this bill be committed? I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I designate that Bill No. 19, *The Film and Video Classification Act, 2016* be committed to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

[15:00]

The Speaker: — This bill stands committed to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It’s my pleasure to rise and add my comments to the debate around Bill No. 29, *The Justices of the Peace Amendment Act*. Similar to other bills, Mr. Speaker, that I’m speaking to today, I had the pleasure of

reviewing comments from my colleagues as well as the comments that the Minister of Justice made when he tabled this legislation. And I've also had the opportunity to both review the legislative changes as well as the explanatory notes, Mr. Speaker.

So this bill is . . . From what I understand, it repeals *The Traffic Safety Court of Saskatchewan Act* and then creates a regime where traffic safety issues can be resolved differently than the Act that was provided now.

From what I understand, these are amendments that have been requested by the Saskatchewan Justice of the Peace Association in terms of some amendments to improve and clarify the commission's processes, as well as I believe making the legislation a bit more reflective of what the current court practices are, Mr. Speaker. From what I understand, some of these, for example . . . I can't quite remember . . . One of these . . . Oh I believe it was traffic, traffic justices that were a part of this Act are being removed essentially because no traffic justice has been appointed under the Act since April of 2006. So it's really just catching up essentially, Mr. Speaker, to the court procedures that already exist in Saskatchewan.

So it's creating a new category of Justice of the Peace, which is the senior Justice of the Peace. And the senior Justice of the Peace is going to be able to impose fines or order a driver to take driver's training for traffic offences.

Similarly the bill is going to allow for the creation of an assistant supervising Justice of the Peace who will take over for the supervising Justice of the Peace if they're not around, and also assist them with some administrative support or some of their more administrative duties, Mr. Speaker. Again essentially clarifying and modernizing the legislation and making it more in tune with practice that already exists.

I believe that the bill is also going to include some payments, some provision payments so that these senior justices of the peace can get paid, Mr. Speaker — always a good thing to make sure that our judges and justices of the peace are getting paid — and some other fairly minor changes to reflect that change, Mr. Speaker.

So I understand I'll have the opportunity to speak with the Minister of Justice and ask some questions with him with respect to these changes. So I'm going to be interested to hear more about the Saskatchewan justice of the peace organization and the recommendations that they had made with respect to these legislative changes. I'll be interested to know if there were any legislative changes that were requested that were not made with respect to this Act, Mr. Speaker.

So at this point I don't feel I have anything else to say to this bill. I think this is probably more appropriate for me to have a conversation with the minister at committee. So with that in mind, I'm prepared to allow this bill to move to committee.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion by the member that Bill No. 29, *The Justices of the Peace Amendment Act, 2016* be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Principal Clerk: — Second reading of this bill.

The Speaker: — To which committee shall this bill be committed? I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Mr. Speaker, I designate that Bill No. 29, *The Justices of the Peace Amendment Act, 2016* be committed to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

The Speaker: — This bill stands committed to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

Bill No. 30

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

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure and honour to rise yet again this afternoon to speak to yet another Justice bill, this one being Bill No. 30, *An Act to amend The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* bill.

There's an accompanying Act, Mr. Speaker, that I'll be speaking to next, another one that deals with some changes, some privacy changes and freedom of information changes as well, Mr. Speaker.

So from what I understand, most of these two pieces of legislation come from a report, a 2015 report called *It's Time to Update*, where the Information and Privacy Commissioner called for a number of changes to information and privacy protections in Saskatchewan. I believe from what I understand from speaking with my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, these are changes that have been a long time coming, and it's been a little bit of a slow process in terms of getting these legislative changes, despite the fact that the Privacy Commissioner has been calling for them and been asking for more clarification on their role and some broadening abilities as well, Mr. Speaker. So I'm happy to see that this bill includes some of these recommendations.

Some of those recommendations include creating a new offence for snooping on a person's personal information, and extending the rules for personal information protection to members of this Legislative Assembly offices as well as cabinet ministers' offices. This recommendation is a little bit interesting, Mr. Speaker, as it came, from what I understand from colleagues on this side, after the Premier's office sent an individual's personal information to the media after he spoke out about poor quality seniors' care in Saskatoon. And from what I remember, although I wasn't an MLA at the time, Mr. Speaker, from seeing on the news, I believe he was subsequently fired.

So there needs to be protection for individuals who are speaking to their MLAs and providing information to their MLAs, and there shouldn't be a chill in the air, Mr. Speaker, if individuals have concerns about policies of their government, that if they speak out against those policies that they're going to receive some sort of ramification or repercussion from their own government, which is what happened in this particular instance.

We need to make sure, Mr. Speaker, that that never happens again because this is the people's Assembly, Mr. Speaker. We all act on behalf of the people and we need to ensure that people feel safe and like they're able to approach their MLA or to approach any MLA if they have concerns or they have any issues with respect to government procedure.

From reading the minister's remarks, Mr. Speaker, it sounds like, and from looking at the report, there are quite a number of changes that had been requested by the Privacy Commissioner and they all are not included in these legislative changes. From reading the, like I said, reading the minister's remarks, it appears that he approached the Privacy Commissioner and asked him specifically what particular legislative changes were priorities for this Privacy Commissioner and that those are reflective now in these changes, Mr. Speaker. So there are still important recommendations in fact that weren't included in these legislative changes. And if we have one main criticism of these two bills, the two accompanying privacy bills, Mr. Speaker, it's that these haven't quite gone quite far enough.

Mr. Speaker, I understand from reading the minister's remarks that there is still going to be some consultation in terms of including — the word he used was “most” of — the recommendations that were requested into future legislation, or if legislation isn't needed, that future changes will occur. One of the concerns I have, Mr. Speaker, is I'm not totally sure what “most” means and what specific recommendations that government perhaps has already decided that they're not going to implement, Mr. Speaker. So I'll be interested to having that discussion with the minister at committee.

Some of the recommendations that we feel are important that weren't included ... Although perhaps the Privacy Commissioner didn't include them as a priority for this particular legislation. I don't see any reason for why it wasn't, frankly, included in this legislative change, as it's not too onerous on government or doesn't cost a ton of money for the government to include these changes, one of them being the change to the maximum time for a response from a freedom of information request from 30 days to 20 days. That was a recommendation that the Privacy Commissioner made that wasn't quite implemented.

The other one is that the freedom of information and protection of privacy include a requirement that it be updated every five years to respond to modern technology. And that's a really important recommendation, Mr. Speaker, so we essentially don't get into the situation that we got ourselves into this time, needing this legislative change. I understand that there wasn't any substantive legislative change with respect to this area for quite a long period of time. And it creates quite an issue, Mr. Speaker, when we're talking about, for example, disclosing electronic documents, Mr. Speaker.

And technology tends to run a little bit faster than we do, but I can only imagine in five years what kind of technological changes will be implemented that will affect this House, Mr. Speaker, and government and all of its various ministries, Mr. Speaker, in the future. I can't even imagine what it's going to look like two years from now, Mr. Speaker. So it's important to make sure that there's a legislative requirement that we're always reviewing this legislation, and we're always updating it because oftentimes what can be considered more pressing matters will sort of take the day and will push these kinds of things to the back burner until ultimately the legislation almost becomes problematic to the point of redundant, Mr. Speaker.

So those were some of the changes that would've been nice to have seen in this bill. Unfortunately we're not seeing it in this bill, but despite that, some of the changes that have been requested seem appropriate. They are requests that were recommended by the Privacy Commissioner who is an independent individual outside of this House.

I understand I'll have the opportunity to have this dialogue with the minister at committee, and I look forward to doing so, Mr. Speaker, and I hope the Privacy Commissioner is there as well so I can have some discussion with that individual too. So with that, I'm prepared to move this Bill to committee at this time.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion by the member that Bill No. 30, *The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Amendment Act, 2016* be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Principal Clerk: — Second reading of this bill.

The Speaker: — To which committee shall this bill be committed? I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I designate that Bill No. 30, *The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Amendment Act, 2016* be committed to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

The Speaker: — This bill stands committed to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

Bill No. 31

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

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's yet again my pleasure and honour to rise and speak to this specific bill, Bill No. 31, *An Act to amend The Local Authority Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

Mr. Speaker, as I had said earlier this afternoon, this is sort of the sister legislation to the other legislation I was just talking about, *The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, but it does deal with some things that are a bit different. Instead of dealing with more government and ministry, this one's dealing more with local authorities — for example, police forces, Mr. Speaker.

This legislative change, like the legislative change I'd just spoken about before, comes after the Privacy Commissioner making several recommendations in the 2015 report. It's time for an update, it was called, Mr. Speaker.

And as I said before, there were many recommendations and requests made by the Privacy Commissioner in terms of updating what was essentially this outdated legislation. Mr. Speaker, some of the requests have been implemented in this legislation or these bills, Mr. Speaker, but there are, like I said earlier, many recommendations by the Privacy Commissioner that still remain outstanding. So we'd be interested to know how much longer it's going to take, frankly, Mr. Speaker, before all of these recommendations are implemented.

The Privacy Commissioner plays an extremely important role in the function of government, Mr. Speaker, and it's very important that we make sure that both the legislation is up to date and that the Privacy Commissioner has roles and duties that are clearly outlined and that are broad enough so that the Privacy Commissioner can maintain his mandate.

So this particular bill will update the local freedom of information and protection of privacy Act, Mr. Speaker, and it includes, as I said, some of the recommendations that were made in his report. One of them that's quite interesting is that it will include police forces under this legislation, which will now make police forces subject to freedom of information requests. From what I understand, Mr. Speaker, this is in line with freedom of information and privacy legislation in other jurisdictions, Mr. Speaker, that were sort of late to the party in terms of including police forces in this legislation. I haven't spoken with police forces on this legislative change yet, Mr. Speaker, so I'll be interested to hear the consultation that the minister has done with respect to this.

[15:15]

I imagine this will put a bit of an additional amount of pressure on police forces. However as I said, it keeps us in line with other jurisdictions that have similar provisions in place and it allows for a level of transparency and accountability, Mr. Speaker, onto police forces with members of the public, which is something that sometimes we hear as concerns that people of the public have. And when transparency is increased, Mr. Speaker, then typically trust is also increased in parallel. So I think it's very important that this change is happening, but again as I said, it would be very important to ensure that everyone has been properly consulted and there's no flags or issues here that government hasn't quite thought through.

Another change that this bill is including from the recommendations is it creates a new offence for snooping on personal information, Mr. Speaker, which is similar to one of the changes that will also be in the Bill No. 30. So it's just

basically mirroring that, including ensuring that there's that extra provision, there's that extra level of teeth essentially in this bill should there be anything that goes awry, Mr. Speaker.

As I said before in my last comment there are provisions in this bill that should have been included that weren't included. There were recommendations made by the Privacy Commissioner that this government has chosen to not implement at this time, one of those being changing the maximum time for a response from 30 days to 20 days. It's very important that we make this change, Mr. Speaker. From what I understand those who . . . I haven't done any freedom of information requests on my own, Mr. Speaker, but from those I heard who have done them, oftentimes they're getting their freedom of information request responses well in excess of the 30 days that's currently required under the legislation. So it's really important that these FOI [freedom of information] requests, Mr. Speaker, are responded to promptly and done in a way that creates transparency, Mr. Speaker, both within government as well as local authority, as this bill has authority over.

Similar to the last bill, Mr. Speaker, one of the changes that should have been included in this bill that wasn't, would be a requirement that it be updated every five years to respond to technology. As I had said in the previous bill, Mr. Speaker, it's very important that we ensure that our legislation doesn't get outdated, especially when we're dealing with what is dealt with under these legislations, which are, you know, government documents, sometimes emails, and who knows what those are going to look like in the future. But I can't even begin to imagine what sort of technology's going to be created that we're all going to be relying on five years from now, Mr. Speaker, but it's very important that we don't get into a situation where the legislation becomes outdated so that certain documents actually don't fall within the Act, Mr. Speaker.

So it would have been good to see that legislative change, Mr. Speaker. Unfortunately we don't see that legislative change. Like I said earlier, I'm looking forward to having an opportunity to discuss this with the minister at committee — hopefully also the Privacy Commissioner — to figure out exactly what legislative changes does the Privacy Commissioner wish would have been included in this bill that hasn't been included, as well as what sort of plans are there in terms of consultation on legislative change in the future. Because I hope that the minister doesn't think that now that some of the changes have been made, we can essentially put this piece of legislation back to the bottom of the pile, Mr. Speaker. So I think it would be quite good to ensure that this still stays top of mind in terms of legislative updates that are needed in the future, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

As I had said, I'm going to have the opportunity to speak at committee with the minister and hopefully the privacy commissioner and other officials on this bill. I have the opportunity to talk to them about the level of consultation that they've done and what their plans are with respect to this legislation in the future. Hopefully I may ask . . . I'll also be interested in knowing what their plans are in terms of ensuring that the Privacy Commissioner has the resources available to actually make that 30-day timeframe for responses to requests, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

So I think with that, I don't really have much more to add to debate at this time. Looking forward to that opportunity at committee, and with that I am prepared to allow this bill, Bill No. 31, to proceed to committee.

The Deputy Speaker: — Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Deputy Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 31, *The Local Authority Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Amendment Act, 2016* be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Principal Clerk: — Second reading of this bill.

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

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I designate that Bill No. 31, *The Local Authority Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Amendment Act, 2016* be committed to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

The Deputy Speaker: — This bill stands committed to the Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

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 Saskatoon Centre.

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It is a pleasure to rise into the debate on Bill No. 26. Now it's interesting that we refer to it as *The Patient Choice Medical Imaging Act*, and we know those are code words, that when we talk about choice, and what does that really, really mean? And is it really an honest choice?

I know that the right wing ideology likes to portray things as all about choice, and if we have choice then the world just happens to be a much better place. But it's often not quite as simple as that, especially where in Canada we believe in certain principles around medicare that have served us well and have become well known around the world, around the world, in terms of delivering quality health care to individuals. And we are worried that this is a wrong step, that this hasn't been well thought out, that this is an ideologically driven plan that was delivered in a rush.

We don't understand the unintended consequences. It may seem simple that, if you give people choice, that what possibly could

be wrong with that? And of course we know that that leads to a much more fragmented, a much more complex system. And of course there's more costs involved.

I mean, it is interesting that this government, when it's talking about transformational change, is actually probably making it more complex, more difficult. Layers and layers of services or options that really in the long run may not serve the individuals as best they might if they really took some time and thought this through and invested in Saskatchewan's health care system in a meaningful, meaningful way. And we've seen the challenge that this government has had in working through those kinds of consultations in sort of a bizarre, one extreme to another, where you have lean and John Black approach. And then we see now we have the transformation changes that are out there that the government is wanting to create a more efficient, effective system.

But in fact, at the end of the day we really wonder, we really wonder is it delivering the kind of services in our hospitals, in our community clinics, in our doctor's offices, in the places where we expect good personal service and not be driven by just-in-time philosophy. And really this is the kind of thing that really worries us because . . . And the professionals . . . And I'll take some time and quote from some of the organizations who have been watching this.

These kind of things . . . You know, it's interesting. We have a history. We have a history. And we take a lot of pride in the fact that it was the CCF [Co-operative Commonwealth Federation] who brought in medicare. In fact, actually in Swift Current was the number one health region, I believe, if I have my history right.

But I think all people of all political stripes over the course of the years have come to understand that this is the most cost-effective way to deliver health care according to the principles that guide the medicare system, that being universality, that it could be transferred from one province to another, and that you aren't considered a second-rate citizen just because of the ability to pay.

Now we have this system in front of us that's reintroducing it under the guise of talking about choice. And it's such a slippery slope, Mr. Deputy Speaker, when we get into this because we know this bill, actually this bill itself repeals an earlier bill passed by this government previous to the election that was introduced last year. And now it's introducing a new law that includes MRIs [magnetic resonance imaging] and CT [computerized tomography] scans. So it's expanding the concept of what medical imaging is. And of course, you know, we've all started out with the idea of the X-ray, and that was one of the first type of medical imaging types of procedures. And now it's interesting that X-rays are pretty commonplace, but it was at one point quite a big deal.

But under this bill, patients will be able to pay for an MRI or CT scan out of pocket and the clinic will need to provide a second scan to the public waiting list at no cost to the taxpayer. So the question here becomes then who does pay for the second scan? And of course you know this government will say well obviously it's the company. The company will pay. Well companies, if they actually have a solid business plan, they

won't pay either. They don't pay either. Somebody pays. Somewhere along the list, along the way, somebody pays. So it's either the individual pays for two under the guise of thinking they're only paying for one, but they are paying for the next one. I mean somebody's got to pay. So somebody will take on debt because somebody's paying for that second image.

And now we're introducing . . . The costs may be significant. These images are not cheap. It's not the X-ray that we were once talking about. But some of these imaging processes can be fairly expensive. So that's the misnomer here, Mr. Deputy Speaker. You have a situation where somebody will pay for it. And whether it must be the customer or the taxpayers because for sure it's not the business if they have a sound business plan that provides for a profit element. I mean it just doesn't make any sense.

And also this new feature of this bill is that it defines medical imaging services including MRIs, CT scans, and other prescribed services. And so we are deeply, deeply concerned. We have grave concerns about this because it gives the Premier and the cabinet a backdoor way to add other medical imaging such as scope procedures or X-rays for its two-for-one patient system. So who does pay? And we are deeply, deeply concerned about that, you know.

And, Mr. Speaker, I know that I just want to reflect a little bit on CUPE's [Canadian Union of Public Employees] concerns here because they've really . . . This was on the previous bill, Bill 179, which really this was the bill that was before us a year ago that really opened the door about this idea of a two-for-one and the idea that somehow you could jump the queue or get ahead of the queue.

[15:30]

But at the same time, and we've heard this over and over again by policy-makers in the health area that really it doesn't work as cleanly or neatly as that. When you have somebody jumping out of the queue and then jumping back in, somebody has to be keeping track of that. Somebody has to be monitoring that. And if you do jump in, that is breaking the queue, and is that fair to the other people? It may be because . . . And then they say, well it's just a matter of choice. But clearly then you are introducing this concept of choice which, as so many people have said, really isn't choice at the end of the day.

Now I want to just take a minute and read from the CUPE thing. And it was really interesting because I think this really makes a lot of good points. And it's on page 7 of "Sustaining Medicare":

Some suggest that private for-profit delivery is more efficient than not-for-profit delivery. Given that most of the private facilities currently operating and being planned focus only on . . . a limited range of services, there are some important concerns that must be addressed in terms of how these facilities interact with the more comprehensive public system. In effect, these facilities "cream-off" those services that can be easily and more inexpensively provided on a volume basis, such as cataract surgery or hernia repair. This leaves the public system to provide the more complicated and . . . [inexpensive]

services . . . which . . . [are] . . . difficult to control [at a] cost per case.

And this is what this government will be looking at over the course of the budget, is trying to get a handle, trying to get a handle and trying to get a sense of what can we project for costs.

Now it was interesting . . . Over the weekend I met a young woman who was actually applying for a job at the U of S [University of Saskatchewan]. She has her Ph.D. [Doctor of Philosophy] in mathematics. And what she does is modelling on HIV [human immunodeficiency virus] which is very interesting because she's working now in Boston, but she is applying for work here. And I'm thinking boy, we could really use somebody like that.

But when you have somebody who . . . When you have this interaction where you're cutting into the system, it throws the system into chaos actually because you don't know which ones are you losing, which ones are you keeping, which cases . . . And is it a matter of cost? And will there be appropriate research done on this? And will that research be public? It will be very interesting. The minister did talk about the number of people who've used it. Have they been analyzing that so they can make some decisions about their own needs? This is something that is really, really important.

And I continue:

But if something goes wrong with a patient after discharge from . . . [the public facilities] — as a result, for example, of a post-operative infection or medical error — then the patient will likely have to be returned to a public hospital for treatment insofar as private facilities . . . do not have the capacity to treat individuals on an intensive care basis. Thus, the public system becomes liable for the care triggered by a poor quality outcome within a private facility . . .

Now interestingly with that, you might say, well we're not talking about that. We're talking about imaging. But this all leads down the road, and you have to make sure that there is quality control within these private facilities that are ensuring that the imaging processes are being done accurately.

And I believe it was in the Maritimes where we've had some horrendous situations where the imaging processes were done inaccurately. And if I remember, it was dealing with cancer in Newfoundland. And these things . . . Mistakes do happen. And so if you're having a private facility working through this, there is some real issues.

But I just have to say that we have some real big questions about this. And when this goes to committee, this is going to be one that's going to be very interesting because we've had a little bit of data on this but what about some of these concerns?

And it goes on to talk about:

Proponents of for-profit care may insist that the quality of care is not an issue, but there is evidence from the United States to suggest that the non-profit sector tends to have

better quality outcomes than the for-profit sector . . .

And then it goes into . . . that's nursing homes care organizations and hospitals. And so this is very, very interesting because . . . so if there is . . . If you take out the for-profit element, and again this is a right wing who was saying this is about choice. This is about choice. No, it's about profit. It's about profit. And we have to be careful about that because if the government is reluctant to invest in health care in Saskatchewan, then they should just be upfront about that and campaign and say, no we're not going to do that. And this, and then that becomes the choice. That becomes a choice — either investing in medicare or you're not investing in it. But the government has used the code system . . .

An Hon. Member: — You can do both.

Mr. Forbes: — I'm not sure. I'm not sure if you can. We'll have some questions about this. Now the former minister will say, and he says, well we can do both. And I'm not sure about this. And we're entering into some areas that are pretty grey, and there may be some grave consequences, some unintended consequences . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have to tell you about a grey image here. And this may, and well this may be the commercial break to talk about Movember. I know the members across the way are supporting Movember in a big way, and it's kind of related to medical imaging, so I'll make a pitch here. But I just have to respond to that heckle.

But there are several grey areas, and I think we have some questions about this. And as we take a look at this new twist that this government has introduced, and what we'll see over . . . what we've seen in the past year and what we see in the future, and will the government do the appropriate research and follow-up to see, are they really, is it really making the difference that they thought it would? Or is it making it more complicated? Because as I said that they've identified situations where it's fragmenting the system. You're creaming off parts of the system, and are there situations that happen where you have unintended consequences and people are, at the end, get worse service than if they had stayed in the line? And so we have some real, real concerns.

So with that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I know we have a lot of work to do today, and I do want to, I did want to get that on the record though because we will continue to monitor this. We will continue. And I know the critic responsible for this bill will have a lot of questions about this. Did last time, will continue to have it. And it will be a new minister. But I know this is a very, very important area.

So I would move adjournment of Bill No. 26, *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*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Saskatoon Centre 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 Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to join on Bill 28, *The Extension of Compassionate Care Act, 2016*. I guess the reason why this is coming before the Chamber and we're having the debate on this bill, there has been a process happen with the federal government under EI [employment insurance] and the federal government under the EI has now . . . And I believe there used to be so many weeks that you could have compassionate leave if you had a loved one who was, I guess, you know, on their deathbed or had a serious illness and you were going to be with them, supporting your loved one. And this was a federal bill that came forward and changes to EI to allow for that.

So again I think from our side, you know, it's good to see that people who are dealing with their loved one and taking care of them, whether it's your aging, I guess your aging parents, you know, when we look at . . . Many of us have parents that are, you know, are aging. Unfortunately, some of us have lost our parents already, but some will have to be the caregivers of our loved ones and make sure . . .

And this can, you know, not only affect our seniors, our grandparents, but our parents, but it could be children. It could be your spouse. It could be, you know, a brother, a sibling, a sister. You know, in northern Saskatchewan we have extended family where you have family who, members that you get to and you're so close they adopt you in their family. They look at you and they support you and they give you the love as a family, and they're willing to do that.

And this provision in the Act for the EI would go to 28 weeks, I believe. But having said that, that process and the challenges and, you know, our hearts always go out to those loved ones that are showing care and taking care of their loved one. It's not an easy task for any family member to say, you know, I'm going to take this on. And sometimes you might have different siblings or, you know, caregivers who take turns taking on . . .

Now I know there's going to be some regulations. We're not sure how that's going to work, you know. And I was thinking about this just when I was looking over it. If you had family and sometimes, you know, you have different family members who will take turns taking care of loved ones. And I don't know how that . . . [inaudible] . . . if it's a week at a time, two weeks at a time, if there's provisions in there. And I don't know, maybe we'll talk a little bit about in the regulations, maybe there will be for that provision.

But again I go back to saying that this came forward because

we're making these changes. And coming from the labour standards, there was a provision in there, I believe it was eight weeks. I'm not sure how many weeks it was provincially. Under the labour standards, you could apply to your employer, and your employer would grant you some leave. In the legislation, it required them to do that.

What this is doing is it's taking the employer to say that, under the labour standards, we're coming in compliance, those labour standards with the federal ruling, EI, to say that those individuals who have an employer and who're working can ask for leave, compassionate leave under legislation. This will give the power to those individuals.

Now talking about that, I'm not sure what requirements are there. And I don't know, I haven't really talked to anyone. I don't know who we've consulted with and if the government has consulted with individuals. And I don't know if that's federally, they did it provincially. But who consulted with individuals to find out, you know, to bring this in that it is not . . . Will it work for them? Will it not work for them? And in what way? You know, currently right now, like I said, my understanding is the legislation says it's eight weeks, and they're extending it to 28 weeks. So having said that, with this care, that an individual . . . So I don't know who they've asked and who, if this was brought forward, to make the changes. But the overall from our side of it I know we support this, you know, change gets to 28 weeks versus what it is.

And I had talked about the regulations in there. And I'm going to talk a little bit because we don't know exactly what will happen once the regulations are . . . And you know, I guess the government, cabinet, whether it's the minister, whether it will go to the labour board that will look at this right now and decide, yes.

So when one applies — and I had talked about that in regulations — if one applies, I'm assuming it's automatic. Who will determine if you qualify? And I was kind of talking about that, that you have to apply. Is it you get something from a doctor? And I don't know, and maybe it's going to be in the regulations and maybe it'll be with the federal government versus the provincial government. So if you apply through the EI and you go through that application process and you're granted by EI, I'm assuming it automatically . . . The legislation's being brought in to say that your employer has to give you the leave for the 28 weeks.

So there is a process. And like I was talking about, I don't know, and I'm assuming it has to do with the federal government because you're applying for compassionate leave with the EI, so you would do that. This is just . . . and I think this is a process that says it's automatic. And I don't know if they can, if you can be . . .

And my understanding about this — and maybe in committee we can ask about this — but I believe the 28 weeks would be in the labour standards as saying you cannot deny if that person qualifies and meets the requirement for the EI under the compassionate leave as a caregiver, that the province cannot, or the employer in this province now with this legislation that's coming forward, when it passes, will be automatic, that the employer cannot deny. Because, you know, sometimes we'll

have people saying, it's a small business that has very few employees. And I don't know who they consulted. Will this create some challenges for them? But also I understand that from a business side, they might be challenged with that. But on the other side . . . So I don't know who all was consulted and will be consulted as they make these regulations and the changes. And you know, and it's not, at this point from my understanding, it's not in the regulations, so it's coming forward.

[15:45]

And I imagine it's going to be the minister that will have certain powers at his discretion to say, yes, no, this is going to go. Whether he hands that over to, you know . . . And I was talking about when it comes to the labour standards and those individuals who work, whether it's administration — we have a lot of people who work within the, following the labour standards — where I know you can call in if you have issues and concerns. So I imagine that will all take place, but I don't know the regulations that are in there and who will determine that, and that'll have to be worked out.

But having said that, there's also another part in this Act that, you know, gives you . . . an adjudicator will look at certain things. And what happens is in this, the Labour Relations Board has a job to do and it's giving them the rules. Regulations are provided by the Legislative Assembly to the minister, and if the minister works out those rules, then the Labour Relations Board has certain things. But in that ability, they have hearings. And what it is, is you have an administrator that oversees things.

And to me when I'm looking at this, and I know we're going to have to ask some questions to be clear on it, it's almost like it's moving out some of that process from, it's my understanding, from whether it's the three-member panel or that the Labour Relations Board, whether it's three . . . It gives it to an administrator, someone who will oversee this when it comes to wage assessments and determining whether one . . . And they can also, from this provision, set the date, the time when there is a hearing. So that administrator would hear the complaint coming in from an employee.

And I'll give you an example from my understanding. And I mean, again we'll go through this in committee and, you know, we'll work through this. But the understanding is if you, as an employee . . . And I don't know if this is with the union, if it's just strictly with, you know, some type of a contract, if this is verbal, that you understand you were going to be paid a certain hourly wage or a monthly salary to do work, that if you all of a sudden got your paycheque or you found that there was a discrepancy in your paycheque, saying, well no, this is not what we had agreed here. This is not what we had said. This would give the adjudicator an opportunity to have a hearing and to actually look at it and see and make a ruling saying, yes the employer . . . There was an agreement. You said you were going to pay that individual a certain amount of an hourly wage, or it could be like a monthly salary, but you've not honoured that. And I find . . . So they could make a ruling ordering the employer to pay that to the employee. So that whole process is there and it's there for a . . . [inaudible].

So it looks like they're making some changes, and I think so

that it's administrative, dealing with it, and it's not the whole Labour Relations Board that has to see this. I think it's governed through them. So there are some changes being proposed in this bill as well. And we'll have more questions, like I said, in committee to deal with some of this. But that just kind of gives you . . . You know, there's another part I guess I just . . . talk about. You know, the bill allows cabinet . . . And there's some changes within the cabinet that it's referring to. And I'm not sure what changes that are going to come forward, but I know for our side, we'll have some questions.

And this is an interesting one because any time you're going to make changes to legislation, especially when it comes to labour, labour in our province, we want to make sure that we've consulted with the right individuals, whether it's the unions, the employer. You want to make sure that this legislation makes sense so they don't have to withdraw it or we don't have to make amendments to it right after because we didn't do, or the government didn't do the homework that the government was required to do, or members opposite didn't inquire. And they might have some questions and make some good changes: we've seen where, you know, we can come together on some of the legislation. We've made amendments and it's been accepted. So sometimes you work together to make some of those changes that you know are, you know, you need to do on behalf of Saskatchewan people, and that's kind of what we're asked to do in it.

So at this point, Mr. Speaker, I know there's going to be more questions and more work will have to be done in committee. So at this point I'm prepared to adjourn debate on Bill No. 28.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Cumberland 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. 1

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

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. As ever I'm good to take my place in this Assembly and join debate on Bill No. 1.

This is an interesting bill and one that's certainly connected to the history of debate that has gone on in different ways in this province, in different, oh, different decades for, you know, probably back to around the time of the founding of the province.

And the question of course is, what is a better way to deliver a particular service or good to the public? And in the province of

Saskatchewan, for many years we've had a hybrid system in the distribution of liquor. And certainly that's been provided oversight by the Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority, and certainly over the last years has provided a great deal of involvement on the part of the government as regards to the very legitimate social regulator kind of questions that come with a substance such as alcohol.

And we've seen different manifestations of that debate play out in this Assembly in different ways over the last days and months, Mr. Speaker, and as well as, you know, just the quality of that service itself, Mr. Speaker, in terms of selection, in terms of availability, in terms of conscientious attention to regulation as regards to, you know, as is considered under the law, Mr. Speaker, in terms of the way that people are able to access alcohol. And also, Mr. Speaker, the way that the licensing and retailing function of the Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority have provided a return to the people of Saskatchewan in, you know, the hundreds of millions of dollars, billions if you go over the past decade alone, Mr. Speaker.

So this particular bill is I think three clauses long. The main piece of action in the bill is to remove the Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority from the protection of the Crown protection Act and, Mr. Speaker, additionally, you know, not just removing SLGA from *The Crown Corporations Public Ownership Act* but certainly the subsequent sale of 40 existing liquor stores, the authorizing of 12 additional new liquor stores. And this in a system where again SLGA is both retailer and regulator, and then on top of that, Mr. Speaker, the removal of the Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority in total from the protections and the auspices of *The Crown Corporations Public Ownership Act*.

And again, Mr. Speaker, this is something that I think was a wrong-headed move. We'd seen different sort of tricks of sophistry and, you know, the . . . I don't know a polite way to talk about it, Mr. Speaker, other than in previous, sort of, moves on this file. We've seen the government talk about how, well, we didn't say anything about new stores, so that's keeping up our promise around not privatizing things. Because of course this is a government that has a long and inescapable association with the move toward privatizing public assets and putting them into private hands.

So the way that this came forward in the election, one of the key promises that, you know, again after different sort of attempts around closing four existing stores . . . I believe the Deputy Speaker would be familiar with the one in Ituna certainly and three others. The experience with those buildings is that of course the service was lost. Those jobs were lost to those communities and those, in the main, those buildings stand vacant. And you know, so did that improve access or did it improve the employment situation in those communities? No, it did not. Did it improve the revenue picture for the people of Saskatchewan in terms of the retailing and licensing function that SLGA performs? Arguably, Mr. Speaker, no, it did not.

And in terms of what happens now in this, as they go forward in this bold new era of privatizing 40 existing stores, you know, providing for 12 additional new stores, and then of course removing SLGA in total from *The Crown Corporations Public Ownership Act*, that in itself, Mr. Speaker, rests on a claim

made by this government that it would be somehow revenue neutral, revenue neutral, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And I guess if you believe that, you're . . . You know, this is something that certainly was campaigned on.

And you know, I think that there were other issues that came to the fore in the way that people made their decision, certainly the kind of magic act that went on with the finances in this province where of course it was impossible to have a budget before the people of Saskatchewan so that people could be acquainted with the real financial picture that exists in this province. And you know, certainly we're well aware that treasury board and the star chamber that attaches to the transformational change agenda, Mr. Speaker, we're well aware that those entities are chugging along in their work of identifying things to cut and things to privatize and on and on.

And I guess we see, you know, recent innovations on that front where the government comes forward with Bill 40 with the amendment to *The Interpretation Act*, where having run the old let's privatize SaskTel flag up the flagpole, the only people to salute were of course, you know, diehard right wingers and conservatives, that ideologically when you're a hammer, Mr. Speaker, everything looks like a nail. And so for these people, you know, it doesn't matter the service. It doesn't matter the return to the people of Saskatchewan. It doesn't matter the fact that these are assets that were built up by the people of Saskatchewan. If it's public, it's got to be sold off — that kind of slavish devotion to a privatization ideology.

So we see that, you know, where after the election . . . It was only this little bit of privatization; that's all that was going to be considered. And then of course after the election it's well, you know, the landscape has changed with the prospective sale of MTS [Manitoba Telephone System] to Bell Canada, so of course we've got to go out and do an assessment. And one of the wags, you know, commented on the assessment. In terms of a risk assessment for SaskTel, well what's one of the biggest risks to a public utility such as SaskTel? That commentator came back saying that the biggest risk was a third-term, right wing, cash-strapped government. And we see that borne out in the way the games got played with. You know, is SaskTel going to be privatized? What does it mean?

And you know, the Sask Party does a lot of things very well, and one thing that I'm certain of, Mr. Speaker, is that they polled like mad when it came to the question of privatizing SaskTel, to see if they got a window for opportunity. And one of the things that I think the Premier and the leading lights in that government, who of course went to the Grant Devine school of economics in the 1980s and learned a number of lessons from, Mr. Speaker, is that when it comes to straight-ahead questions of privatization like that, if you come at it straight on, in general, Mr. Speaker, the people of Saskatchewan will say no way. They'll say no thank you. They'll say where do I vote against that.

And of course this is a government that didn't have the intestinal fortitude to come forward in the campaign and say that we think that the burning issue in front of the people of Saskatchewan is that we need to go at that interpretation Act so that we can, by definition, by a stroke of a pen, click their heels together three times and pretend, Mr. Speaker, that 49 per cent

divestiture of public assets is somehow not privatization. And it's quite the approach, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

[16:00]

But again I think this is sort of the evolution of the file that we've seen. We've seen them run at the question of privatization, you know, straight ahead, and I'm sure polled on it to no end, and they couldn't come up with an answer that they wanted. So they needed to have another way to run at it. And I guess one of the things that's at least worth, that at least holds a shred of merit in the piece of legislation that we're talking about here today, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is that at least they had the decency to come to the people of Saskatchewan and say that's, you know, this is in our platform. This is something we're running on, and please give us a mandate to do it. It wasn't this, you know, chicanery of, you know, we'll go at *The Interpretation Act* so we can get at the Crown protection Act through the back door so that we can divest 49 per cent of each of those Crowns that are protected therein such as SaskPower, SaskTel, SGI [Saskatchewan Government Insurance], and the list goes on.

But did they have the decency, did they have the guts to do that, Mr. Speaker? No, they did not. Instead they come, you know, they slide around the board in terms of what's the approach going to be on SaskTel. And I'm sure, you know, we're going to see . . . We hear a lot of interesting things, Mr. Speaker, as regards other of the Crown corporations. And we know that the treasury board and the star chamber that's doing the transformational change trip on the civil service and on government operations generally, we know that they're, you know, looking for every dime that's nailed down and then some that aren't, Mr. Speaker. And what they're going to be searching for is, you know, quick opportunities to make a buck. And is that going to be good stewardship of public resources? Is that going to provide decisions that are made in the best interests of Saskatchewan people? Well no, it is not. No, it is not, Mr. Speaker.

And again we come back to this particular piece of legislation where at least the government had the decency to say upfront what they were going to do. You know, they maybe made some pretty dubious claims in service of that argument in terms of this is somehow going to be revenue neutral. And again that's right up there with this business of, you know, you can sell 49 per cent of, say, SaskPower and that's somehow not privatization. I don't know if they think that we're stupid or the people are stupid generally, that they can't figure that out for what it is, but it's quite the magic act, Mr. Speaker, in terms of what they're trying to accomplish.

So they come forward with this change to *The Interpretation Act* so they can get in through the back door on *The Crown Corporations Public Ownership Act*, something that they've taken the pledge on when it was introduced in the Assembly, which each member of that caucus voted for at that time, having been in opposition. And in subsequent elections, Mr. Speaker, in 2007, in 2011, and again in 2016, that pledge that they had made to keeping *The Crown Corporations Public Ownership Act* was repeated. So that they now come forward and say that, oh well, you know, it's come to our attention that we need to change the definition of "privatization" and that somehow

people won't catch onto that, is as cowardly as it is less than transparent, would be one way to put it, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

So you know, this particular bill rests on the assertion that it's going to be somehow revenue neutral. And the only problem with contentions like that on the part of this government is that you only get the real picture over months and years.

And in terms of, you know, something that is, on the face of it, kind of laughable, in that on the doorsteps that I had the privilege of being on in the lead up to and during the last election, where you'd hear from SLGA employees saying that, you know, they didn't know where the minister was getting the numbers from, but this revenue neutral piece was going to be quite the bit of magic. I think that provides a fair amount of pause for concern and pause for consideration.

But that was the plank upon which they had rested their platform as regards taking SLGA out of *The Crown Corporations Public Ownership Act* and on which they have said they're going to sell off 40 liquor stores and authorize 12 new ones, that it's going to be somehow revenue neutral, that the people of Saskatchewan — whose resources these are — will be made whole at the end of the day. And again, Mr. Speaker, at least they had the decency to talk about that during the campaign.

But to hear the Premier talk about how, you know, oh it's come to our attention that to make the Crowns really successful is to sell 49 per cent of them, that we need to get into *The Interpretation Act*, Mr. Speaker, you know, speaks to the kind of trickery that we'd hoped was dispensed with in election after election after election where this Premier and this government promised that they would not be privatizing the Crowns because, of course, that is the history of this party, Mr. Speaker.

You don't have to look further than the '80s. You don't have to have to look further than what they had to say in the '90s. You don't have to look further than what they had to say in the 2003 election, Mr. Speaker. But of course here we go again.

You know, it's a real piece of nonsense, Mr. Speaker, to tell the people of Saskatchewan, you know, to divest 49 per cent, to sell from public hands into private hands, 49 per cent of something like SaskPower or SGI . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . And again, you know, I hear one of my colleagues talking about "or to pension funds." Well you know, it's like here we go again, Mr. Speaker.

One of the great professors I had the privilege of learning from at the University of Regina was a fellow by the name of Jim Pitsula, and certain of my colleagues have quoted at length from a book called *Privatizing a Province* that Dr. Pitsula and Dr. Ken Rasmussen wrote in the late '90s. And that chronicled the efforts of the Grant Devine government of course latching on to the then neo-liberal, neo-conservative phase, fad of selling down everything that was public, selling out everything that was public.

And of course, Mr. Speaker, they got up to some terrible things that again, as different from this one particular piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker, that they didn't campaign on it back then either. But when it comes to, you know, well this is . . .

We're going to sell it to the pension funds, and isn't that going to be great? Well, Mr. Speaker, in terms of, you know, you try to think about who that's going to be great for. And is it going to be used to underwrite the various financial misadventures that this government has been up to with the billion five and counting on carbon capture and storage, with the smart meter debacle, with the kind of games we've seen played with SaskPower when it came to underwriting dubious land deals on the part of this government out at the Global Transportation Hub?

You know, that's how these things are going to get underwritten. That's why there's a burning need for capital on a scale that is, you know, they're now ringing the alarms about. And it's going to be underwritten by the fact that despite all those kind of losses, they're going to jack up the borrowing. Then they're going to, you know, keep increasing the rates, you know, despite the sort of slap down that we see from the rate review panel to the latest request on the part of this government to SaskPower.

And, Mr. Speaker, they're going to come to a place where it's going to be, well you know, to save the Crowns we're going to have to not privatize 49 per cent of them. And you know, how do we know it's not privatization? Well we changed the law that says so, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

You know, I don't know if it's a willing suspension of disbelief that they're counting on or if they think people aren't that with it, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but people can count. They can count. And on the math alone, Mr. Speaker, the people of Saskatchewan see this for the disrespectful, less-than-straightforward manoeuvre that it is.

And so in the context of *The Crown Corporations Public Ownership Amendment Act*, where again at least they had the decency to come forward at election time and say, this is something that we're going to do, you know. And again, maybe the arguments they marshalled in favour of that were less than sound or, you know, open to all kinds of question and relied on all kinds of leaps of faith, Mr. Speaker. But at least they had the decency and the guts to come forward to the people of Saskatchewan and say, this is what we're going to do.

As relates to the 49 per cent that they want to authorize themselves to sell off out under the aegis of *The Interpretation Act*, Mr. Speaker, like again it's . . . You'd laugh if it wasn't so pathetic in terms of the disrespect that it shows for the people of Saskatchewan. If this was a burning issue, if this is something they wanted to be straightforward about, well could they have come forward with it at election time, Mr. Speaker? Well the proof of it is here in Bill No. 1. They absolutely could have come forward. And if they thought it was such a great idea, Mr. Speaker, they could've told the people of Saskatchewan all about it and sung it from the rooftops. But they didn't do that. They snuck around and counting on, I don't know, that people are too disengaged or too busy putting bread on the table.

But I can tell you one thing, Mr. Speaker: if this government gets into the 49 per cent privatization of our Crown utilities and, through the back door, goes after legislation that they've supported not once, not twice, not three times but four times, Mr. Speaker, that if they're going to look to carve that up by 49

per cent, I think the people of Saskatchewan see that for what it is. And although the people of Saskatchewan . . . As is always the case with the mistakes of this government, as is always the case when this government gets more interested in its own ideology than in what is in the best interest of the people of Saskatchewan, it'll be the people of Saskatchewan that pay the price for those mistakes, Mr. Speaker, for those wrong choices. And it won't be, you know, over one budget or two, but it will be over years and decades, Mr. Speaker. And I guess we've seen that movie here before and, you know, we didn't much like it the first time.

So when it comes to Bill No. 1, I'll at least give it some credit in that, you know, at least, at least on the face of it, they were upfront about what they were asking the people of Saskatchewan to give them a mandate for. And there are other bills, Mr. Speaker, where that is most decidedly not the case. And with that, Mr. Speaker, I'd move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 1.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 1, *The Crown Corporations 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 Saskatoon Riversdale.

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It is my privilege to enter the debate here today on Bill No. 32, *The Automobile Accident Insurance (Benefits) Amendment Act, 2016*, Mr. Speaker. The name of that bill is almost as long as, well the content of that bill.

There are more than 30 changes that the minister is proposing. Considering, Mr. Speaker, that there are more than 30 changes in this bill, the second reading comments of the then minister are actually relatively brief, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to just tell you . . . I will point to some of the changes, Mr. Speaker. In summary, this bill increases the amount of weekly benefits for employed injured persons, 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 wheelchair.

[16:15]

This bill, one of the things, one of the many changes, it will prohibit SGI from paying benefits to a person who is in prison. It will also prohibit SGI 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 has been found guilty in the last five years of causing death or bodily harm by street racing, being negligent or fleeing a peace officer. And again there are many other changes that I know our critic for SGI will bring to committee, Mr. Speaker.

In the minister's second reading speech, he points out that when an impaired driver causes a collision and is killed, the family impacted will now be able to sue the estate of the deceased impaired driver for pain and suffering or bereavement damages. And he points out that the list of offences that trigger the ability for an innocent party to sue has also been expanded, as I've just mentioned, to cover criminal negligence causing death or bodily harm, criminal negligence causing bodily injury, flight from a peace officer, and dangerous operation while street racing, Mr. Speaker.

Drawing your attention to . . . You know, I'd like to talk a little about the impaired driving piece, Mr. Speaker. I wasn't able to be here two weeks ago when this legislature passed a piece of work, not this bill, Mr. Speaker, but a piece of work around tightening our impaired driving laws, and this bill around benefits and the ability for a family to be able to sue a convicted impaired driver I think ties into that, Mr. Speaker.

For the last three years, the opposition has been looking at the changes the government made. I had the privilege of sitting on the Traffic Safety Committee in 2013, Mr. Speaker, that proposed many changes that this government implemented to some extent. But there was a minority opinion that the opposition members on that committee recommended, following good practice, very positive practice in Alberta and BC, where someone in the warning range, in that administrative penalty range of .05 to .08 would be able to lose their car for three days if caught in that warning range. And they had found actually in BC, in the very short amount of time that it had been implemented, that their impaired driving death rate had plummeted by 50 per cent, Mr. Speaker.

Having had the opportunity to hear from witnesses, and prior to that committee we had an opportunity to chat with some of those witnesses, and one of them actually, Mr. Doug Beirness had mentioned that in his more than 30 years working in traffic safety, he'd never seen a law have such a drastic impact, or a policy change. And he did admit that there were other components in both Alberta and BC that helped with that death rate, but he was a huge proponent of that three-day administrative penalty of someone losing their car if caught in the warning range, Mr. Speaker. Because it had the ability to be culture changing where people realized that alcohol and driving do not mix and you always . . . It doesn't matter where you live. You need to think about how you're going to get home safely, Mr. Speaker.

So I was not in the legislature, which actually was a bit disappointing, Mr. Speaker, due to family circumstances just two weeks ago when the bill which included that change was passed and many others, Mr. Speaker, that I think will hopefully have that needed impact on our impaired driving death rate, Mr. Speaker. We continue to hear story after story of those people negatively impacted by those impaired by alcohol, and drugs actually are an issue as well, Mr. Speaker.

So this particular bill ties into that by: “When an impaired driver causes a collision and is killed, the family impacted will now be able to sue the estate of the deceased impaired driver for pain and suffering or bereavement damages.” So again I’m glad as an opposition that we were strong on this issue for the last three years and I’m glad to see the government has I think not just heeded our advice but the people of Saskatchewan who were calling for tougher legislation when it came to impaired driving. There are enough families have been impacted negatively by losing loved ones or having loved ones severely injured because of impaired driving, Mr. Speaker.

One thing that I would’ve liked to have seen enhanced though, having conversations with those who have been impacted by impaired driving, Mr. Speaker, is the piece around treatment, Mr. Speaker. So many people . . . Accidents often happen when people are impaired and in the high, high impairment range. The severity of the accident increases the more impaired you are, Mr. Speaker. Not to say that you’re not impaired at a lower rate, but the severity of the injury and the possibility of death increases exponentially the more impaired you are, Mr. Speaker.

But I had an opportunity, when the Premier this summer posted on his Facebook page saying that we had an impaired driving problem in Saskatchewan and asking for people’s input, I responded to the Premier and also posted that on my Facebook page. And I had lots of people responding, Mr. Speaker, but someone with whom I went to high school who said that the only thing that stops impaired drivers from driving impaired is dealing with the underlying issue — the alcohol itself.

So I think, Mr. Speaker, he was talking about addictions and the reality that alcoholism is an illness. And it’s one thing to put a Breathalyzer in a car and interlock so you can’t drive away, but I think we’re doing a disservice to all people in Saskatchewan if we don’t try to help and support those who suffer from alcoholism, Mr. Speaker. As I will reflect upon that comment that my former high school colleague had mentioned is that the only thing that got him to stop driving drunk was to stop drinking altogether, Mr. Speaker. So when the bill was passed just a few short weeks ago, I didn’t see mention of beefing up or enhancing alcohol and addictions support. I think that that would’ve been a place that the government could’ve also gone, but I’m glad that these changes were made, Mr. Speaker.

But with respect to Bill No. 32, *The Automobile Accident Insurance Act*, I think one thing that’s really important when governments bring in legislation is that they do a full and robust and meaningful consultation. I want to draw your attention to *The Auto Injury Insurance Review*, which was SGI’s report and recommendations on this very issue in October 2015. And on June 22nd, 2016 when this bill was first introduced, Mr. Speaker, there was some public commentary and some concern about something that was missing from the bill, Mr. Speaker.

So on June 14th . . . I’m just reading from a CBC [Canadian Broadcasting Corporation] article posted June 22nd of 2016. So the former minister introduced all the changes to this automobile accident insurance Act, and these particular amendments, the news story goes on to say, “. . . were informed by recommendations made by SGI after consultations with stakeholders, including . . . [this] injury review committee.” So

it’s interesting though, because “. . . personal injury lawyer Ken Noble from the Saskatchewan Trial Lawyers Association . . . [sat] on the committee, said the new changes ignore a key recommendation to repeal part of Section 203.”

I’ll just digress again here, Mr. Speaker, and I’ll get back to this section 203. This is like the government back in 2013 ignoring a key piece of evidence when it came to impaired driving that could have potentially . . . one never knows for sure, but could have had the potential to save many peoples’ lives, Mr. Speaker, in the intervening years.

But going back to what Ken Noble said about section 203, that this report actually was looking to have repealed. So this particular section, 203, Mr. Speaker . . . Of course now I’ve lost the page. But the point, Mr. Speaker, he makes is that if someone was injured and if their injury was considered severe and prolonged, they can apply to CPP [Canada Pension Plan] and part of the coverage that you pay for an employee and working in Canada is those Canada Pension Plan disability benefits. He points out that if you qualify, then what happens is the Government of Canada, CPP will pay you a disability benefit, and it varies depending on how much you’ve earned in your lifetime. And Noble points out that section 203 currently allows SGI to deduct that amount from what they would normally pay to victims, Mr. Speaker.

That is recommendation . . . That is found on page 26, that were one of the recommendations and it was on page 26 of the *Auto Injury Insurance Review: SGI’s Report and Recommendations*. I’d like to read into the record the recommendation:

1. Excluding Canada Pension Plan (CPP) disability payments from income benefit calculation (No Fault Coverage): To be eligible to receive CPP disability benefits, the customer must have a physical or mental impairment that is both severe and prolonged, as defined by CPP. If a No Fault customer is entitled to an SGI income benefit and a CPP disability benefit, SGI reduces the income benefit by the amount the customer receives from CPP disability. This was done to prevent over-compensation (i.e. receiving more in income than they would have had they not been injured) and is consistent with the practice of private disability insurers and other no-fault jurisdictions. Based on feedback from the Injury Review Committee and customers, SGI is recommending it no longer reduce income benefits by the CPP disability amount [Mr. Speaker].

So that was a recommendation that was ignored, Mr. Speaker. And the minister touches on it in his second reading remarks. He says that:

. . . two of the more financially significant injury programs . . . the CPP . . . [plan]. Mr. Speaker, I want to emphasize that these changes remain a priority for our government and will be implemented when it is financially prudent to do so.

Mr. Speaker, I know people . . . I think we’ve all, as MLAs have people come into our office who are on CPP disability or any other disability program. They are not getting rich, Mr. Speaker, by any stretch of the imagination. Quite the opposite

They go from leading full and productive lives sometimes to, or most times, Mr. Speaker, to living in poverty, barely able to pay their bills, Mr. Speaker. So it would've been nice to see the minister implement that. There are many, as I said, many changes that our critic for SGI will discuss in committee.

I think one provision that was interesting to me as a former at-home mom, Mr. Speaker . . . In a former life when my oldest daughter was little, I was home for seven years with her, Mr. Speaker. I'm a big believer in parental care where that's a possibility, Mr. Speaker, and for many people that isn't. But this was an interesting . . . So I come from the dialogue that those who work at home are working at home, Mr. Speaker. It's interesting the language people often use around those who are at-home parents or homemakers. I often would tell someone I was home with my daughter Hennessey and they would say, oh, you don't work. It's interesting to me because I think, including this job, Mr. Speaker, being home with my daughter was the hardest job that I have ever had. It was incredibly rewarding, but it started at 6 in the morning and didn't end until about 10 o'clock, 11 o'clock at night, a few hours after she had gone to bed, Mr. Speaker.

So there was a provision in here, Mr. Speaker, around homemakers. I'd just like to . . . So one of the sections, an insured is entitled to a weekly . . . The existing provision was:

An insured is entitled to a weekly benefit pursuant to this section if:
the insured is a homemaker.

And one of the changes was:

. . . [Ensuring] that the weekly benefit in the first 104 weeks following an accident, for a homemaker, if that person elected tort and is fully disabled, will at least meet the amount a full-time employee would receive for a minimum wage employment.

Which is a positive change, Mr. Speaker. The amount before was considerably lower.

There's another existing provision around insured, or around homemakers, where the amount of a weekly benefit payable pursuant to this section was \$150." So the change in that section was ensuring:

. . . that the weekly benefit in the first 104 weeks following an accident, for a homemaker, if that person elected tort and is partially disabled from performing an important household duty, will at least meet the amount of a part-time employee working 20 hours per week would receive for minimum wage employment.

So that will be more money than the \$150 that was payable previously, Mr. Speaker, but I just would like to give a shout-out to all of those who are at home, Mr. Speaker, with children, recognizing that their worth, I would argue, is worth a lot more than minimum wage of a part-time worker, Mr. Speaker. It is more than a full-time job but I'm glad to see that there is at least an increased recognition of the financial value of a parent staying at home, Mr. Speaker, if that is an option and something that someone wants to do.

But with respect to the bill that's before us, Bill No. 32, *The Automobile Accident Insurance (Benefits) Amendment Act, 2016*, as I had mentioned at the start of my remarks, there are more than 30 changes. There are too many . . . I know we have a big agenda before us here today, Mr. Speaker, so there are too many changes to talk about specifically in my remarks this afternoon. But I know the critic will address those in committee, probably line by line, Mr. Speaker. So with that I would like to move to adjourn debate.

[16:30]

The Speaker: — The member from Saskatoon Riversdale has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 32, *The Automobile Accident Insurance (Benefits) Amendment Act, 2016*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise and join in the debate regarding Bill No. 33, *The Child and Family Services Amendment Act, 2016*. I had the pleasure of being in the Chamber during what I think was the last time our side had the opportunity to speak with respect to this bill, and the member from Saskatoon Nutana gave a very long and very poignant set of remarks with respect to this bill and spoke to her personal experience in terms of giving a child up for adoption. And I say that in just that it's a very difficult act to follow, Mr. Speaker. The member from Saskatoon Nutana's comments were extremely eloquent and very touching, Mr. Speaker, and I have a feeling that my comments won't even come nearly close to touching that level of quality, Mr. Speaker.

But with that I will give a few remarks with respect to this bill.

There's a few different changes that this bill is presenting. Some of them just simply involve and . . . It's kind of a common theme, I'd say, to this legislative session in terms of the bills that we've seen tabled for the most part, with the exception of a few bills that have major changes and the exception of a few bills, including Bill 41, where they actually . . . government hadn't even consulted before tabling the bill and then had to quickly turn on their heels and change their minds and withdrew a bill after hearing from stakeholders that it was actually a very problematic decision to make and not one that was supported within the community, Mr. Speaker.

But in saying that, as I had said, a lot of the legislative changes we're seeing are, could be I suppose defined as housekeeping, but there are some points of substance in terms of this bill that definitely deserve discussion. And I know that the critic for this

bill will give a very eloquent . . . and will do a very good job discussing this, both in the debate and later on at committee, Mr. Speaker.

So most of the amendments that are included in this bill involve modernizing the language, for example, eliminating “department” and replacing them with “ministry,” which is something that we’ve seen in other bills, Mr. Speaker, and something that we continue to see — a simple, just, modernization of language. It’s quite innocuous, Mr. Speaker.

But there are a few other changes, Mr. Speaker. One of them changes the length of time for an individual who’s giving a child up for adoption to have a longer length of time to essentially change their mind, I suppose. I think it was a longer time or a shorter time now. I can’t quite remember, Mr. Speaker. In any event, it changes the time, and it’s changed in a way to keep us more in line with some other jurisdictions and other things that we’re seeing in other places.

It also allows for the ministry to enable the termination of existing agreements with First Nations Child and Family Services agencies and other prescribed agencies that do not include a fixed contractual term or termination provisions if the minister believes that it is in the public’s interest to do so. And then it also requires a 90 days written notice of intent to terminate any existing agreement, Mr. Speaker. So I’m sure that the critic for this file is going to have a lot of questions with respect to why this change is taking place and what this is going to mean with respect to existing agreements that the government has.

Another one that’s somewhat interesting is it changes, or it identifies that the circumstances in which information may be disclosed without written consent will be specified in the regulations. And there’s actually several portions of this bill, Mr. Speaker, that speaks to providing more details within the regulations.

And I understand, and I’ve said in several debates actually this session, Mr. Speaker, that I understand the importance of moving decisions to the regulations. Sometimes it makes more sense in terms of expediency and efficiency. Regulations are significantly easier to change than legislation.

But it can also . . . On the reverse side of that, it’s a bit of a double-edged sword, Mr. Speaker, that it also creates a situation where it’s more difficult for this Chamber and for members opposite to have some oversight over those regulatory changes, and also makes it a bit more difficult for us in terms of ensuring that proper consultation has taken place before these changes occur which can be kind of a problem, Mr. Speaker. And it’s always a little bit concerning when we create that sort of situation, Mr. Speaker.

So it’s really important that when anything is moving from a legislative power to a regulatory power that it’s being done so in a way that is expedient and efficient, or creating expediency and efficiency, but is not unduly removing oversight that’s necessary and important in terms of our ability as legislators, Mr. Speaker, to be monitoring and . . . I guess, opposition members, Mr. Speaker, to be monitoring changes that are occurring within government, Mr. Speaker.

There’s some questions as to the circumstances in which information may be disclosed. It’s hard for us to speak to it and to comment on it when it’s of course going to be set out in the regulations and has not quite been explicitly set out here.

I understand the process and I know that regulations are usually drafted after the legislation has been tabled and sometimes after it’s received Royal Assent. Hopefully that doesn’t happen in this case as it creates confusion and some gaps in terms of understanding what the legislative process and requirements are.

But it’s hard for us as an opposition to be able to comment on any of the requirements that are going to be specified in the regulation when we don’t even know what those requirements are going to be yet, Mr. Speaker. So I’m hoping . . . And I’m sure that at committee that there will be some questions around this, what that’s going to actually mean and what that’s going to look like, at least a ballpark figure of what that’s going to look like.

Because it’s very important that information is being disclosed — especially when we’re talking about children, Mr. Speaker, especially when we’re talking about children that are subject to ministry care — is being done so in a way that is, I would say, as little as possible. That we’re doing as much as we can to protect that child’s autonomy and that child’s confidentiality, Mr. Speaker. But I do know that there are some instances where it’s actually important, for example, for ministries to be working together.

I’m guessing that this could be a change that’s being required as a recommendation out of the Hub model, Mr. Speaker, which is essentially a gathering of several different ministries working together to ensure that people aren’t falling between the cracks. And I know that the Ministry of Social Services is involved in that, and the child services branch of that would likely be requiring some clarification as to what their allowance is in terms of participating in these discussions and disclosing information that’s necessary.

Although from what I understand, you know, when we’re talking about some of the Hubs that are in smaller centres, it’s a small community, Mr. Speaker, and it usually doesn’t take too much for individuals to know who they’re talking about when they’re maybe talking with an educator and there is a child who’s having some issues. When it’s in a small centre, that’s, I guess, a little less surprising when that information gets disclosed. But it’s important for us to have clarity and for those who are working in this area to have clarity in terms of what information they can and cannot disclose, Mr. Speaker.

The Hub model is, it’s a fairly newish model, and from what I understand it’s met with some successes and some challenges. One of the main challenges, Mr. Speaker, is these organizations working together and trying to figure out ways of, for example, helping children. As another example, helping a child escape potentially having to go through the justice system, trying to provide them the supports that they need so that they don’t end up going through that process.

However some of the main concerns that I’ve heard is that there is insufficient resources in terms of organizations to refer these

individuals to. So when someone is sort of flagged as an issue, as a person of concern that requires some wraparound supports, unfortunately what I've heard is that there's many communities that don't have organizations that they can then refer to. So it's quite frustrating for those who are working within the Hub model and those who are watching to see how depleted community-based referral sources are, and how difficult it is for individuals who are flagged as needing extra supports to be able to then obtain that support. And that's something that this government seems to continually forget. When they're looking for ways of cutting, Mr. Speaker, they always seem to look at organizations like community-based organizations that are doing front-line work and that are really providing supports to people who are in need in our community, Mr. Speaker.

So that's a long-winded way of saying that I hope that the information being disclosed subject to this provision is being done so in a way that's — like I said, we don't see the regulations yet, so we don't really know what it's going to look like — but is being done so in a way that's minimal, but is done so in light of the best interests of the children, Mr. Speaker.

I understand that there's going to be more opportunity for debate on this bill. I know I have other members who are going to want to join in on this debate as well, and I know our critic is going to be eager to provide her two cents on this important piece of legislation.

What I will add before I move on though, Mr. Speaker, is I know that there's been some work with respect to amending *The Child and Family Services Act*. For a while, I think about five years ago, when I was working for a charity, we provided some legal representation for children, Mr. Speaker. So as such, we were a part of a consultation, a very, very large-scale consultation in terms of amending *The Child and Family Services Act* and *The Children's Law Act* as well. And that consultation was quite broad, and there was some very important recommendations that were made, I know, at the small group that I was a part of. And we essentially haven't really seen anything come out of it ever since, Mr. Speaker.

So when I see these changes I think, well okay, here's some changes that are being made — but what happened to those large-scale consultations? And what happened to the plan of redesigning child and family services in a way that is more beneficial and actually provides the supports that children are needing today, Mr. Speaker?

And that's a frustrating thing when you . . . It's very frustrating actually as a community-based organization when your resources are very scarce, when you dedicate weeks, frankly, weeks to consultation, the consultative process, and you really want to commit and give your two cents and work to improve legislation and work to improve the system, that that consultation . . . I don't know if it's collecting dust in the Minister of Social Services's office in a binder somewhere, but it's very frustrating for a community-based organization when you get called into a consultative process and you dedicate hours and hours of time, when resources are very scarce, to doing that work, and then none of your recommendations ever see the light of day, Mr. Speaker. It's very, very frustrating.

I think that concludes the remarks I have with respect to this

bill. As I said, I know other people will want to weigh in on this important piece of legislation. And as I said earlier, I was very honoured to be here when the member from Saskatoon Nutana was talking about this bill and spoke very, very eloquently and poignantly with respect to her personal experiences. And as I said, and I'm sure I delivered accordingly, I can never live up to that very, very impressive set of remarks that she gave, Mr. Speaker. But I still did my time and I was happy to do so, and I hope I served her well, but I know I could never compare, Mr. Speaker. So with that, I'd like to adjourn debate.

The Speaker: — The member from Regina Douglas Park has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 33, *The Child and Family Services Amendment Act, 2016*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 34

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

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

[16:45]

Ms. Rancourt: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm really honoured today to stand and talk about Bill 34, *The Provincial Lands Act, 2016*. This was brought forward by the Minister of Agriculture in the spring session. This is a very important bill, an important piece of legislation. I think anything that talks about our provincial lands is something that we really have to look into and ensure that everything is right on there, because that's what we have, and that's our bread and butter.

I have to admit, Mr. Speaker, that I'm going to join my friend here when she also indicated that when we have a new piece of legislation and there's no background information, it's really quite frustrating because you don't have any explanatory notes to go off of. And it's kind of expected that you go from the old Act and the new Act and go line by line and determine what exactly has been taken out and what's been left in and not changed. So it's really difficult when you're trying to examine that, but my understanding is that there was a lot of changes that needed to be done here due to the fact that it's kind of outdated legislation.

So according to what the Minister of Agriculture said was:

In 1930 Canada transferred the responsibility for Crown lands, mines, and minerals to the province but, as you know, a lot has changed since then and parts of this legislation have been living in the past. The entire provincial lands Act is largely unchanged from 1978, with clauses and language dating back to the 1930s. Portions of it are no longer used and some are inconsistent with other pieces of legislation. As the legislator, government is held to a higher standard by the courts. The new Act ensures we

reduce any potential risk by clarifying language and standards.

Mr. Speaker, I agree with regards to updating legislation. I could imagine the language was quite a bit different from dating . . . especially the 1930s but never mind the 1970s. We used a lot different language at that point, and we have to look and ensure that legislation kind of matches the type of language we're using at this time, so that when we're comparing different pieces of legislation that it's comparable with regards to language. And also some of the language used back in those days would be deemed as being disrespectful in this day and age. So when I did look at the old Act, I noticed some of that language in there, and so I think that it's important to do that housekeeping and ensure that language is up to date. So also, the minister said:

Across government we are committed to modernizing legislation for the people of Saskatchewan. That is good government. We need *The Provincial Lands Act* to reflect today's uses of Crown land. We need it to be efficient and accountable to protect the land for generations to come. Revising *The Provincial Lands Act* will allow our province to benefit from an improved investment climate. The legislation will have the potential to increase investment and economic development in Saskatchewan. Where appropriate, longer term leases would be allowed on Crown land. This would ensure potential investors — whether in oil and gas, potash, or wind farms — have the opportunity to create long-term projects.

Mr. Speaker, I think we all agree that we have to diversify our economy and that we have to look at different ways to have investment, but I also want us to err on the side of caution that we respect the lands that we have, we respect the treaty rights that are here. And we need to look at the environmental consequences that might occur with having some of the potential investors. And so I think we want longer-term projects, but we also don't want to have long-term consequences with regards to that. So we've got to outweigh all the potential risks and benefits with regards to these deals.

So I'm going to provide a little bit of background with regards to this legislation. Saskatchewan is approximately 161.1 million acres. That's 65.2 million hectares in size. Responsibility for the Act is shared between the Ministries of Agriculture and Environment, with the Crown land portfolio divided as follows. So the Ministry of Agriculture has 6.9 million acres, 2.9 million hectares of Crown land located throughout the agricultural productive areas of southern Saskatchewan. The Ministry of Environment has 93.2 million acres, which is 37.7 million hectares, and of Crown resource land largely found in central and northern Saskatchewan with small parcels disbursed throughout southern Saskatchewan.

So it's another area which is really tricky when you have two ministries that are kind of falling underneath the same piece of legislation. And I think that we have to keep that in mind when we're thinking about this.

So also the Minister of Agriculture, he indicated that the purpose of this legislation was to “. . . ensure Crown land was protected and productive for generations to come.” And I really

hope that we keep that, like in our mind, that that is the main point: is we want to make sure that our Crown land is protected and productive for generations to come because we need that for our grandkids, our great-grandkids. We want to keep this land for them.

So they want to ensure, like I talked about, you know, having longer term contracts, potentially increase access to Crown land, adjust rates and lease terms. That's some of the motivating factors for the changes to this legislation and “. . . the ability to respond and take action when land is being misused . . . the government could step in immediately and issue a stop work order.” Apparently the previous legislation was unable or the language wasn't specific enough in order to do that.

And I think that I'm, you know, happy that we're adjusting this now, but after like almost 40 years, we're now going to be talking about, you know, taking action when land is being misused? I think that should have always been forefront in our mind. But I would like to learn more about how that's going to be progressed and how that's going to be monitored.

Well the minister also said that this will not impact communities and their ability to exercise their treaty or Aboriginal rights or carry out traditional use. Mr. Speaker, I think this is a really important aspect. And I really hope that this is followed through because when we had a meeting with some chiefs the other day, they talked about how they're really concerned about some of the legislation in this Act and how that might be an impact for them. Because the way things have been progressing, sometimes people have been getting contracts in areas of the province and that has been preventing them from being able to pick berries in those areas, collect medicine in some of those areas. And it also has been moving animal and so it causes conflict with, you know, their hunting rights. And so those are all very important things that are important for First Nations and Métis communities, and we've got to respect that as well. We can't make decisions that are going to impact these communities.

And so I think that needs to be looked into when we're making some of the changes within this legislation. And I know the critic that we have with regards to Environment will — and Agriculture; she has both portfolios so that works out good for her — but that she'll really take that into account too when she's discussing this in committees.

We also want to make sure that we have some guidelines and make sure that we're really consistent with regards to those guidelines because that's ethical way of doing business, not having a special way to do business with one person and maybe a different way of doing business with another person. I've heard that there has been some of that kind of dealing, especially with our Crown land, and that concerns me. And so I hope that we can make sure that things are done consistently, that there's proper measures to go with regards to it, and that there's appropriate guidelines, and that we have best practice and regulations that are being implemented, and that we look at ways to enforce these regulations. Because we could have all the regulations we want, but unless we enforce them, that's not going to do any good for anybody.

So we need to come up with a way to have that, because we

know, like if . . . I know the minister was talking about, you know, wanting, like there's parts in here that talk about expediting services and the progress and flexibility on types of agreements. But we also again need to really focus on best practice and ensure that regulations are there so, like the minister said, that we have this land for future use and it's ". . . protected and productive for generations to come," I believe is exactly what he said.

So I also want to kind of go over some of the deficiencies of this current Act:

The language of the current Act is outdated and includes provisions that are restrictive, [so that are] better suited to Regulation, and divided according to which ministry is responsible for oversight. These result in the inability to be flexible as well as in differences in how ministries operate, which creates confusion.

Another thing that's a deficiency is:

The current Act is subject to inconsistent or inaccurate interpretation because it includes unnecessary or redundant sections, is silent on key issues, lacks clear regulation making authority or is written in a manner that may be confusing.

The existing legislation requires that policy is determined according to how or when the province assumed responsibility for the land . . . This results in policy inequities and the need to always remember the source before providing policy interpretation.

There is a need to ensure clear linkages to other appropriate legislation that impact how Crown land is managed and a more clear connection amongst them is important.

The ability to use modern land-use planning principles and approaches are absent in the existing Act and will be beneficial when dealing with complex multi-use conflicts.

So again, like I said before, Mr. Speaker, this is a really complicated piece of legislation. I think there's a lot of stakeholders that need to be consulted and want to be consulted with regards to the process here, and that we need to look at it basically line for line because it is a new piece of legislation. And I'm sure, like my colleagues will have a lot more information, but they'll want to add with regards to discussion of this bill. And so, like I think there'll be a lot of discussion in committee with regards to the bill and that there will be a lot of questions to ask with regards to the agriculture component of it and the environment, environmental component of it. And since our critic has both areas, she's well knowledgeable in both, and so I'm sure she'll have some questions for the ministries that are involved.

And so with that, I think, Mr. Speaker, I think I added all the information that I wanted to with regards to *The Provincial Lands Act*. I know there's a lot of people who have information they want to add, and so I move to adjourn this debate.

The Speaker: — The member from Prince Albert Northcote

has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 34, *The Provincial Lands Act, 2016*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Mr. Speaker, I move that this House be now adjourned.

The Speaker: — It has been moved that this Assembly do now adjourn. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. This Assembly now stands adjourned until tomorrow at 1:30.

[The Assembly adjourned at 17:00.]

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