



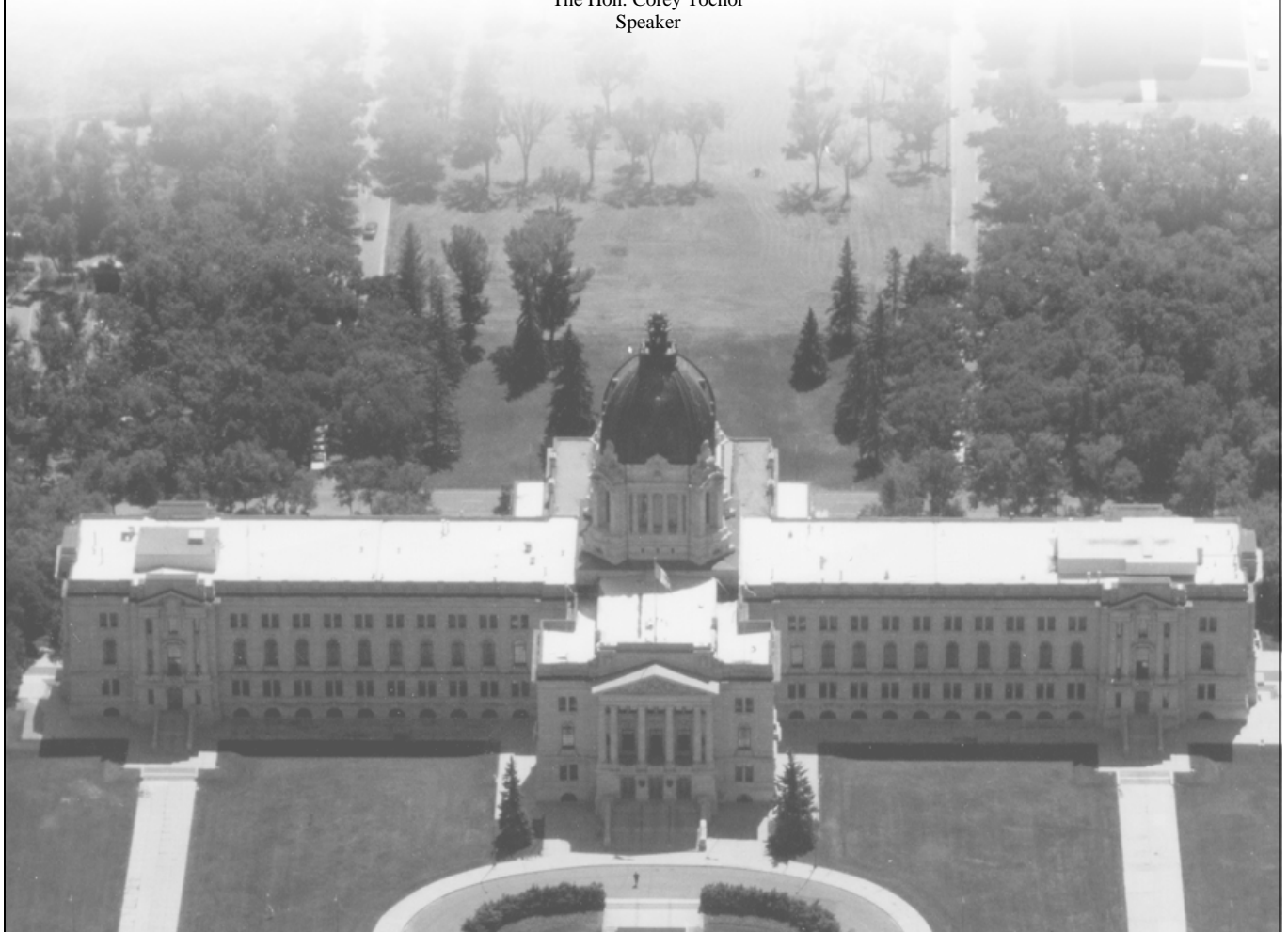
SECOND SESSION - TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

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
2nd Session — 28th Legislature

Speaker — Hon. Corey Tochor
Premier — Hon. Brad Wall
Leader of the Opposition — Nicole Sarauer

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Lawrence , Greg — Moose Jaw Wakamow (SP)	
Makowsky , Hon. Gene — Regina Gardiner Park (SP)	
Marit , Hon. David — Wood River (SP)	Vacancies — Kindersley, Melfort

Party Standings: Saskatchewan Party (SP) — 47; New Democratic Party (NDP) — 12; Vacant — 2

Clerks-at-the-Table

Clerk — Gregory A. Putz
Law Clerk & Parliamentary Counsel — Kenneth S. Ring, Q.C.
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[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's an honour to introduce an important delegation that's seated in your gallery. We welcome them back to the Legislative Assembly from northern Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. No strangers to members on both sides of the House are Mike Natomagan, who is the mayor of Pinehouse — we'll ask all the folks to give us a wave — Alex Ross, the community and business development director for Pinehouse; Walter Smith, who is in charge of training for Pinehouse; Conrad Misponas, who is the deputy mayor of Pinehouse; Al Felix, CFO [chief financial officer] for the Pinehouse business New North; and Greg Ross is also joining them. No stranger to members in the House and specifically one Member of the Legislative Assembly on this side, Mr. Speaker.

We are fortunate, very fortunate as a province to have the outstanding example of local leadership in the North that we've seen from Pinehouse. And we want to say, through you to Mayor Mike, we want to thank him for that leadership, encourage him in those efforts. They've been meeting with the Committee on the Economy and other officials of government to further the interests of their community and the surrounding area. I just want all members if they would please join me in welcoming this distinguished delegation to their Legislative Assembly today.

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

Ms. Ross: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would like to join with the Premier in welcoming our good friends from Pinehouse, especially my brother Greg and his son Alex. They're very dear to our family. And as I've said before, I think it's — what? — 40 years ago Greg left to move up to Pinehouse. And as the family always said, he'll be back in a year. Well 40 years is kind of a big stretch from a year, but he's made it his home. He's got a wonderful family up there and we just appreciate the friendship that his whole community has extended to Greg and his family, but to all of us. So thank you very much for coming down, meeting with us, and enjoy your time at the Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join in and welcome our northern leaders here to the Legislative Assembly, join the Premier and other members that will be inviting some of our northern leaders and some of the business ventures and partnerships and the good things that they're doing back north.

I just want to welcome you as the critic for Northern Affairs,

welcome to your legislature, and hope you have good meetings.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Stewart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure to introduce a guest to the Legislative Assembly today. To you and through you to all members, Mr. Speaker, please welcome, seated in the west gallery, Mr. Al Scholz, executive director of the Saskatchewan Institute of Agrologists, and Nicole Philp, who is a member of the SIA provincial council.

The Saskatchewan Institute of Agrologists regulates the profession of agrology in Saskatchewan by ensuring its safe, competent, and ethical practice. Founded in 1946, the institute is the self-governing regulator of all 1,700 registered agrologists and agricultural technologists in the province. Mr. Speaker, I would ask that all members join me in welcoming Mr. Scholz and Ms. Philp to their legislature.

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

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to join the Minister of Agriculture in welcoming Ms. Philp and Mr. Al Scholz to their Legislative Assembly. I suspect that they are here to be here for first reading of the bill that we are expecting later on today. And it's great to see you here, and I wish that all members would join me in welcoming you to your Legislative Assembly.

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

Mr. Wyant: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I didn't stand and welcome my good friend, Al Scholz, to the legislature today. Al and I used to be neighbours. We built a fence together. I should say he built the fence; I just paid for half.

But we used to motorcycle together. And Al and I haven't been on our motorcycles for a couple of years, and I do miss those long trips together when we used to go down to South Dakota. So, Al, I hope we're going to be able to get an opportunity to do that again in the near future. So I'd ask my colleagues in the legislature to welcome Al to his legislature.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport.

Hon. Mr. Makowsky: — Thanks, Mr. Speaker. I request leave for a slightly extended introduction.

The Speaker: — Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the minister.

Hon. Mr. Makowsky: — Thanks. Thanks, Mr. Speaker. We have a very important group in your gallery today I'd like to introduce to all the members. They're from the Multicultural

Council of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, this past Saturday, to kick off multicultural week, MCOS [Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan] hosted their annual multicultural honours awards at Wanuskewin Heritage Park. Some of the recipients of awards are here and folks that took part in it. So today MCOS's executive director, Rhonda Rosenberg, is here.

Bula Ghosh, on Saturday, was the recipient of the 2017 Betty Szuchewycz Award recognizing outstanding contributions to multiculturalism in the province. Bula works as an ESL [English as a second language] teacher in Swift Current. Her work extends far beyond the classroom and across our country, and we'll hear more about that in a member's statement in a few minutes. Bula is accompanied today by her sister Indra Datta.

And also visiting us today is one of the nominees for the Betty Szuchewycz Award: Barb Dedi is up there. Many in Regina will know, Barb's well known for driving . . . the driving force behind the Spring Free from Racism event held each year in recognition of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. With Barb today is Sharon Pepin, who is also a long-standing volunteer on the Spring Free from Racism committee.

So, Mr. Speaker, through you and to all the members, I'd like to ask that all members join me in welcoming these multicultural advocates to the legislature today. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd just like to respond on behalf of the official opposition to the Culture minister's introduction and just to say thank you very much to all the folks here from the Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan. Executive Director Rhonda Rosenberg — a lot of great work on behalf of the people of Saskatchewan in helping us to realize our provincial motto *Multis e gentibus vires*, "from many peoples, strength." But also certainly to Barb Dedi, to Sharon Pepin, to the Datta sisters, to Indra, and Bula Ghosh, we say thank you very much for all that you do in making us a better province all the year through, be it in Multicultural Week or not.

And certainly, Mr. Speaker, I'm looking forward to a member's statement from the member from Saskatoon Centre concerning the awards that were held this past weekend up in Saskatoon as well. So I'd ask all members to join me in welcoming these very important people to their Legislative Assembly and to say happy Multicultural Week here in Saskatchewan.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Yorkton.

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Mr. Speaker, thank you. To you and all members of the Assembly, it's my pleasure to once again introduce a great number, 11 grade 10 students from the Yorkton Regional High School, under their teacher, Mr. Perry Ostapowich, who brings probably four or five, maybe six classes a year to the Assembly to introduce them here. As well, you know, it's always encouraging when you speak to the students. They've got such a good understanding of this place. We can just have a good conversation and answer some

questions.

So as is kind of customary with this group, he encourages them to contact their MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] through any source they can, and they usually get a shout-out. So today I'm mentioning Dylan Ringdal, Katie Grobler, Evan Matatall, Massen Ziola, and Kyle Janzen along with the other group with them up there, Mr. Speaker. I ask all members to welcome this great group of Yorkton Regional High School students to their Legislative Assembly.

While I'm on my feet, Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure to join with the Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport to welcome these individuals in your gallery, one in specific, Indra Datta. Mr. Speaker, she's been a great support, her and her husband Brian, to our family for well over 20 years, one of the most difficult times we've ever gone through. And Indra personally, plus her husband Brian, an amazing pediatrician in this province, that just goes above and beyond every day. So I just want to ask all members to welcome them and publicly thank them for all they've been to our family. Thank you, Indra.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am 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 our province.

Mr. Speaker, the petition is signed by citizens of the town of Maymont. I do so present. Thank you.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise today to present a petition to reopen the Buffalo Narrows Correctional Centre. Mr. Speaker, the petitioners point out that the closure of the BNCC [Buffalo Narrows Correctional Centre] took inmates far away from their families, which makes visitation difficult or non-existent at all.

They point out that the closure of this centre hurt families of the inmates because the inmates were learning new skills and working with skilled employers to obtain employment upon release. They point out that the closure hurt elders within Buffalo Narrows because inmates helped the elders with odd jobs around the community, Mr. Speaker. And the closure of Buffalo Narrows left 15 people without work, which had a huge financial impact on their families and all local businesses. The closure of BNCC took away from inmates to get treatment and to obtain training tickets while here.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan immediately reopen the Buffalo Narrows Correctional Centre to better our community for future generations to come.

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

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition calling for critical supports for survivors of domestic violence. Those who signed this petition wish to bring to our attention the following: Saskatchewan has the highest rate of domestic violence amongst the provinces in Canada. Employers should be obligated to reasonably accommodate survivors of domestic violence in the workplace. Employees who are survivors of domestic violence should be able to take a leave of absence from their employment without penalty, and Saskatchewan must do much more to protect survivors of domestic violence. I'd like to read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Legislative Assembly to pass legislation providing critical support for survivors of domestic violence.

Mr. Speaker, this is similar to what we've called for in our bill, private member's Bill 605, which we do hope that the government will support and pass. Those who signed this petition come from Regina. I do so submit.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition to get big money out of Saskatchewan politics. The undersigned residents of the province of Saskatchewan want to bring to your attention the following: that Saskatchewan's outdated election Act allows corporations, unions, and individuals, even those outside the province, to make unlimited donations to our province's political parties; and that people in Saskatchewan here deserve to live in a fair province where all voices are equal and money can't influence politics.

And we know over the past 10 years, the Saskatchewan Party has received \$12.61 million in corporate donations, and of that, \$2.87 million coming from companies outside Saskatchewan. And you know, Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan politics should belong to Saskatchewan people. And we know the federal government and the provinces of Alberta, Manitoba, Quebec, Nova Scotia, and now British Columbia have moved to limit this influence and level the playing field by banning corporate and union donations to political parties. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Government of Saskatchewan call on the Sask Party to overhaul Saskatchewan campaign finance laws to end out-of-province donations, to put a ban on donations

from corporations and unions, and to put a donation limit on individual donations.

I do so present. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

[13:45]

Ms. Rancourt: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am proud to stand in my place today to present a petition for a second bridge for Prince Albert. The individuals that signed this particular petition want me to draw these particular points to your attention: that the Diefenbaker bridge in Prince Albert is the primary link that connects the southern part of the province to the North; that the need for a second bridge for Prince Albert has never been clearer than it is today.

Prince Albert, communities north of Prince Albert, and businesses that send people and products through Prince Albert require a solution; that local municipal governments have limited resources and require a second bridge to be funded through federal and provincial governments and not a P3 [public-private partnership] model; and that the Saskatchewan Party government refuses to stand up for Prince Albert and this critical infrastructure issue.

I'll read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan ask that the Saskatchewan Party government stop stalling, hiding behind rhetoric and refusing to listen to the people calling for action, and begin immediately to plan and then quickly commence the construction of a second bridge for Prince Albert using federal and provincial dollars.

The individuals that signed this particular petition, Mr. Speaker, come from the communities of Regina. 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 calling on the government to stop the cuts to our kids' classrooms. Those who have signed the petition wish to draw our attention to the following: that the Sask Party has cut at least \$674 in government funding for every student across this province; that the Sask Party hiked education property tax by \$67 million while also cutting \$54 million from the classroom; and that even though the Sask Party is making us all pay more, our kids are actually getting less; and also that the Sask Party cuts mean that students will lose much needed supports in their classroom. This includes busing for kindergartners and programs to help children with special needs. I'll read the prayer:

We, in the prayer, call upon the government to reverse the senseless cuts to our kids' classrooms and to stop making families, teachers, and everyone who works to support our education pay the price for the Sask Party's mismanagement, scandal, and waste.

Mr. Speaker, those who have signed this petition reside in Regina. I do so present.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Holodomor Memorial Week

Mr. Dennis: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am excited. This week is Holodomor Memorial Week, and yesterday members of this Assembly and Saskatchewan's Ukrainian community gathered to remember those who perished during the man-made famine that devastated Ukraine in 1932-1933.

Holodomor means death by hunger in Ukrainian. In the 1930s Joseph Stalin imposed a man-made famine which killed up to 10 million people. The Soviet government forced Ukrainian farmers to give up more grain, resulting in widespread starvation. A decree was implemented which called for the arrest and execution of any person, including children, found taking food from the fields in which they worked. Military blockades were erected around many Ukrainian villages to prevent transportation of food into the villages. During the height of the famine, Ukrainian people were dying at a rate of 20 to 25,000 a day, and nearly one-third of them were children under the age of 10 years old.

Mr. Speaker, it is important for the people of Saskatchewan and around the world to reflect on this dark page in our global history. We remember the Holodomor victims and honour the survivors by ensuring that genocide is never forgotten. Mr. Speaker, I ask all members of this Assembly to join me in remembering this tragic event.

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, I rise in this House today to commemorate one of the worst atrocities in modern history. Holodomor, or death by hunger, was used to suppress the struggle for an independent Ukraine. From 1932 to 1933, the Holodomor was a genocide by starvation that killed over 7 million Ukrainians. Alongside other atrocities of that era, the Holodomor represents a particularly dark period of humanity, one that we must remember so that we never forget and we never repeat. The *Bitter Memories of Childhood* monument in the southeast of Wascana Centre stands as a haunting memorial of the atrocity of Holodomor.

Mr. Speaker, our province is made stronger by generations of Ukrainians who have chosen to call our province home. On behalf of the official opposition, I want to again take this moment during Holodomor Awareness Week to stand with them and all Saskatchewan people in honouring the victims and supporting the survivors.

[A moment of silence.]

We remember them. Vichnaya Pamyat.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Provincial Secretary.

Geo-Memorial Honours La Loche Shooting Victims

Hon. Ms. Wilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier today it was announced that two geographical features in Saskatchewan's North have been named in honour of Adam Wood and Marie Janvier. Adam and Marie were victims of the shooting nearly two years ago at Dene High School in La Loche, and are being recognized for their bravery for helping students and colleagues during that tragic day. These locations hold special significance to both individuals.

Adam Wood Memorial Landing is along a creek just east of the village. Adam was an avid outdoorsman who loved northern Saskatchewan, was a frequent visitor to what he and his friends called the landing, describing it as a little wooded area beside the creek that made a great place for a campfire.

Janvier Point is a peaceful and serene place located on Saleski Lake just north of the village of La Loche. Marie was a long-term resident of the area, remembered by many as a caring and compassionate person who loved to help anyone in need.

The place nominations for Adam Wood and Marie Janvier were brought forward by the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation, and the Ministry of Education saw an outpouring of support from the community. Through honouring Adam and Marie's memory in this way, we hope that it brings a small measure of comfort to the families, friends, and communities affected by this tragedy. Thank you.

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

Honours Given During Saskatchewan Multicultural Week

Mr. Forbes: — Mr. Speaker, from November 18th to the 26th we celebrate Saskatchewan Multicultural Week 2017. I was pleased to attend the 2017 Multicultural Honours Reception this past Saturday at Wanuskewin sponsored by the Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan, MCOS, where they honoured several special people including Bwe Doh Soe who received the 2017 Multicultural Youth Leadership Award.

Bwe arrived in Saskatoon as a Karen refugee in 2007. He continues his cultural practices and supports others in the Karen community. My colleague from Riversdale will have more to say about Bwe in the next few days.

Bula Ghosh is the recipient of the 2017 Betty Szuchewycz Award. As an English as a subsequent language instructor in Yorkton and Swift Current, Bula has ensured that integration efforts go far beyond the classroom. She is active at both the local and national level, and she always shares the rural perspective. Bula has made it known that truth and reconciliation is very much part of her dream that she has for her community.

I also want to recognize Zoey Pricelys Roy for being named a multicultural superhero, a fierce but gentle indigenous poet.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in recognizing Saskatchewan Multicultural Week, 2017 and in

thanking MCOS as they promote multiculturalism and we recognize our own motto, “from many peoples, strength.” Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Canadian Western Agribition

Mr. Kaeding: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yesterday marked the beginning of Canadian Western Agribition. Since 1971, Agribition has worked to advocate for Saskatchewan’s agriculture industry to people all across Canada and the world. Last year alone the event attracted more than 175,000 visitors, including 1,200 international guests from over 75 countries, and it generated more than \$56 million in economic activity. It has grown into the largest livestock show in the country and truly has become a testament to the strength of our province’s agriculture sector.

Mr. Speaker, this event is not only a trade show, but it offers educational displays and learning opportunities. More than 8,000 students from across the province attended the event last year, providing a unique opportunity to influence the next generation of farmers, ranchers, and agriculture industry leaders.

Mr. Speaker, the government is proud to continue to support this event. Yesterday, the Minister of Agriculture announced a renewed partnership with Canadian Western Agribition, providing \$200,000 in funding over the next four years. Mr. Speaker, with events ranging from the Agribition Pro Rodeo to goat yoga, Agribition truly offers something for everyone.

On behalf of everyone in this Assembly, I want to congratulate the Canadian Western Agribition on all of the successes they’ve experienced in their 47 years of operation and I encourage my colleagues to take some time to check out this world-class event. Thank you.

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

Honours Given During Saskatchewan Multicultural Week

Mr. Buckingham: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This past weekend I also had the privilege of bringing greetings to the 2017 Multicultural Honours gala held at Wanuskewin Heritage Park.

The annual event is held during Multicultural Week, and this year the theme was recognizing multicultural superheroes in our communities. These superheroes are individuals and groups that have demonstrated heroic qualities in ensuring that communities both big and small are welcoming to everyone.

Mr. Speaker, the attendees heard numerous examples of selfless service and generosity to the province. The 2017 award winners were Bula Ghosh who was the recipient of the 2017 Betty Szychewycz Award for outstanding contributions to multiculturalism in Saskatchewan; and Bwe Doh Soe who was the recipient of the Multicultural Youth Leadership Award.

Both award winners have demonstrated outstanding contributions to multiculturalism in the province and commitment to relationship building, reconciliation, and combatting racism.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan for organizing a great event and, Mr. Speaker, I would ask all members to join me in congratulating Bula and Bwe as this year’s multicultural superheroes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

New Joint-Use School Opens in Regina

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This government is again opening doors for the future leaders of our province. I am pleased to rise in the House today and announce that École Wascana Plains and École St. Elizabeth are now open in the Greens on Gardiner community right here in Regina. It has been wonderful to welcome the hard-working staff and students to this state-of-the-art facility.

Mr. Speaker, this space is the heart of the community and will serve the ever-growing population we see right here in Regina. This modern learning environment could not be done without the success and hard work of our P3 model, which is saving the people of Saskatchewan millions of dollars. We are pleased to see the collaboration of school boards, communities, and educators to make these new, innovative schools a success as the builds finish on time and of course on budget. The schools have also a new 90-space child care centre available.

Mr. Speaker, all the new schools that have opened this past fall are for the students, the staff, and communities as this government will continue to make education a priority in this province. Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to please join me in congratulating École Wascana Plains and École St. Elizabeth schools on a successful build and wish the students and staff the very best in their new schools. Thank you.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Accountability and Privacy

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, while they’re busy changing and rechanging the definition of privatization, it seems the Sask Party have also secretly changed the definition of accountability. Yesterday we asked 12 questions, and the minister responsible for the topic we raised only stood four times to speak. That’s 4 out of 12, Mr. Speaker.

It’s normal for the Deputy Premier or the Premier to, from time to time, answer for some ministers, but while the Deputy Premier answered three questions for other ministers, he answered neither of the two questions we asked him. The refusal to accept accountability is a growing pattern in that tired and arrogant government.

Mr. Speaker, the RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police] saw fit to question the Premier about the Sask Party’s GTH [Global

Transportation Hub] scandal, and yet he scoffs at our questions on the very same topic. They refuse to come clean about what they know. They make getting public documents as difficult as possible, and they blocked key players like Laurie Pushor and Bill Boyd from testifying at all.

Mr. Speaker, that Premier and that party promised to be the most accountable ever, but now they won't even answer simple questions. So, Mr. Speaker, what is the Premier's new definition of accountability, and will he table it in the House?

[14:00]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, thank you. Normally I try to pick out a few parts in the preamble if the question is not clear and try to answer those, but that's hard to discern any questions there too, Mr. Speaker.

But I heard the words accountability and transparency, and fair enough, Mr. Speaker. A lot of Saskatchewan people are talking about those issues and privacy issues today after we have learned that the NDP [New Democratic Party] have sent out, have spammed possibly thousands of Saskatchewan people, a text message, Mr. Speaker. Their text asks people to sign an NDP petition. The problem of course is that this is likely illegal, Mr. Speaker. Canada has anti-spam . . . Well the Deputy Leader is mocking the fact that this might not be within the bounds of the anti-spam legislation in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, that legislation says you must have written or implied consent from anyone before you send them, spam them a text message. You can't . . . And the NDP have said, well we've generated these text numbers randomly, Mr. Speaker. Well that's the definition of spamming. Now I understand, Mr. Speaker, I understand the NDP have walked this back, but it looks very much like they've broke the law. Question number one for the members opposite would be, how did they get the list, private citizens' cellphone numbers? How did they get them, and what are they doing with that list right now, Mr. Speaker?

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, big shocker, no answers on the GTH. Mr. Speaker, with the GTH, they say they gave everything to the auditor but now we're finding out that Highways doesn't always try that hard to find emails or documents, and they don't always release the ones that they're supposed to. That's why it's a problem that the Premier is using a partisan server or even Gmail for government emails, and why it's a problem that his office said his email was broken when it wasn't.

We know the Finance minister used her private emails to skirt the rules, and now her government emails are literally disintegrating. But we know how she feels about it: "Blah . . . blah . . . blah." Mr. Speaker, this is another Sask Party scandal in the making, but the minister responsible for all government emails says she doesn't even care. She even refused to answer the journalists' questions. Her DM [deputy minister] was sent to the rotunda to do her job for her.

Mr. Speaker, as the Premier prepares to leave, how does he feel about breaking their commitment to be the most accountable? Is this why he's refusing to fire the Minister of Education even as she continues to make excuses instead of sincere apologies?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, there is some questions that have presented themselves today in the province of Saskatchewan. The Leader of the Opposition just had the chance to answer them. For weeks now, she's been asking questions, her colleagues have, and in the spring session as well, the former leader, the member for Rosemont, was asking questions about privacy and transparency.

We've learned that the NDP have somehow obtained the private cellphone numbers of potentially thousands of Saskatchewan residents and they're sending out what, by definition of the anti-spam legislation in Canada, is spam, Mr. Speaker, in contravention of the law. Mr. Speaker, I think if the member is interested in transparency and privacy issues, she ought to explain to those Saskatchewan people . . . One, I understand, has already made a complaint to the CRTC [Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission]. She'll need to explain, the NDP will need to explain, why they have those private cellphone numbers.

She might also want to explain why, when you click the link on this particular text, it takes you to the member for Regina Rosemont, only one of the leadership candidates. That's interesting, Mr. Speaker. Is he running to be the NDP leader, or perhaps a Nigerian prince?

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

Support for Indigenous Education and Employment

Mr. Meili: — Mr. Speaker, it's been three weeks and the Minister of Education still refuses to accept responsibility for her words. This weekend, Prince Albert Grand Council Chief Brian Hardlotte added his voice to all those across the province who are wondering what exactly the minister meant when she denigrated treaty education and even compared it, of all things, to communist Russia.

Chief Hardlotte asked the minister to reaffirm her support for the indigenous education protocol. Mr. Speaker, she's restated the government's position but not her own. And after watching her performance when she scrapped NORTEP [northern teacher education program] and then how she's spoken about treaty education, it's no wonder that Chief Hardlotte and many others would like some clarity.

Will the minister take the opportunity now to apologize directly for her comments, not for any confusion or misinterpretation she may blame others for, but for her own damaging comments? And will she clarify what her personal position is on treaty education and the indigenous education protocol?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there

are elements in that preamble that simply are not true. And saying something enough times and imputing motive enough times simply doesn't make something so, Mr. Speaker.

I reiterate again my apology, my commitment, our commitment to ongoing mandated treaty education. That commitment is clear. We were the first province in Canada to mandate treaty education in the curriculum. We established the First Nations and Métis adviser position who reports directly to the deputy minister of Education. We partnered with the STF [Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation] to coordinate a learning resource evaluation program to identify materials that address First Nations and Métis content and perspectives, treaty education, and residential school experience. And we developed an online resource for teachers to access learning materials about TRC [Truth and Reconciliation Commission].

Mr. Speaker, there's more work to be done but we will move forward.

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

Mr. Meili: — Mr. Speaker, that minister and by association the whole caucus has broken trust with Saskatchewan. And the Saskatchewan Party has a lot to do to rebuild trust, to show true commitment to reconciliation and to indigenous education.

Last year the Premier was good enough to join us in our ongoing call for equal funding for all students in Saskatchewan, both on- and off-reserve. Now the federal government has still refused to keep their promise to close that education gap. This premier likes to pick fights. He likes to pick fights with mayors, with the Prime Minister. Well we're losing a billion dollars each year because of the Aboriginal education gap, not to mention the harm it does to kids growing up on-reserve.

Mr. Speaker, will the Premier pick the right fight? Will he put his words on commitment to indigenous education into action? Will he ensure that all students are equally funded and send the bill to Ottawa, take the fight to where it belongs?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there are important numbers that relate to this question — 45,900 First Nations living off-reserve were employed in September. That's over 30 per cent since 2007 and this relates, of course, very directly to education and results of education, Mr. Speaker. Under the NDP, Aboriginal unemployment rates peaked when 19.4 per cent of Aboriginal people were unemployed as of March 2006. Twenty per cent of all adult basic education funding is for on-reserve training, Mr. Speaker. That's \$5 million. For 2017-18 our government's providing 61.7 million in funding for First Nations and Métis education and employment initiatives; 486 million since 2007.

And the numbers roll on: 17 million estimated funding targeted this year to First Nations and Métis initiatives and institutions, 5.1 million for the joint task force on improving education and employment outcomes, 3.8 million for First Nations and Métis achievement fund, 600,000 for summer literacy camps targeted primarily at remote northern communities — all in an effort,

Mr. Speaker, to close that gap.

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

Drainage at Global Transportation Hub

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party's mismanagement, scandal, and waste seems to know no bounds. Since 2009, drainage problems caused by a lack of maintenance at the GTH are causing headaches for local landowners. James Farley is one of those landowners, Mr. Speaker, and he's here today because he's run out of options. Because of mismanagement at the GTH, he has had 40 acres flooded and the government is offering no help or answers.

Mr. Speaker, the GTH's drainage system was supposed to prevent flooding from happening on the neighbouring land. But while the GTH's finances have been going down the drain, the lack of maintenance at the GTH means that the water is not. Mr. Speaker, the flooding is getting worse and the Sask Party government is doing nothing while the GTH's drainage system falls further into disrepair. Why has this government allowed this serious problem to get so bad, and why have they failed to do anything to help the neighbouring landowners?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of the Environment, the GTH, SaskPower, and SaskWater.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much. I want to thank the member for the question. I'm not familiar with the issue that she's raised on behalf of Mr. Farley. I believe she mentioned that he is in the House, so we'd be very much interested in getting some more information and trying to address this problem as directly as we can.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, from the beginning, local landowners like Mr. Farley have been hearing the government promise to maintain their drainage channel. But like the facts and the witnesses and the documents at the centre of the GTH scandal, the Sask Party have done nothing to help the water flow. There has been no maintenance since the year 2009, and every year local landowners are losing more and more acres to flooding.

Mr. Speaker, I can understand that the GTH is busy dealing with the fallout of the Sask Party's scandal and mismanagement, and they're desperately looking for people to move in. And we're still all waiting to find out what the company called Brad will bring to the table. Because failing to maintain infrastructure is actually making everything worse, and it will cost us all more in the long run.

When will the minister work with the GTH to make sure this issue is resolved once and for all?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of the Global Transportation Hub.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I

want to thank the member for her question. As I said in my first answer, we'll follow up directly, not only with Mr. Farley to hear his concerns first-hand but also follow up with Global Transportation Hub to find the answers that Mr. Farley is looking for and that the member has raised.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, this problem is eight years old and the minister is offering now to look into it? The Sask Party hasn't made good on their promises at all, and the landowners need more than just promises, especially since his government has a habit of mismanaging or causing a major scandal with almost everything they touch at the GTH.

Now I can understand if the Environment minister might be reluctant to weigh in on the drainage issue because the government has failed to properly address drainage concerns raised by farmers and municipalities across the province. But if this is the government's own land, and like everywhere else across the province no action is taken, the problem is only going to get worse.

Mr. Speaker, I ask again: exactly when will the minister work with landowners, the Water Security Agency and the GTH and the city of Regina and Highways to solve the drainage issues causing problems for nearby landowners?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of the Global Transportation Hub.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, with respect to Mr. Farley's specific issue, I've already committed twice that we'll follow up immediately with the Global Transportation Hub to get to the bottom of the questions that she's asked on his behalf.

Mr. Speaker, but I will, while I'm on my feet, take a moment to remind the member that there are two former Environment ministers sitting on that side of the House. And she will know that drainage has been an issue that has not been addressed — up until this government introduced new legislation and regulations — for 35 years in this province. This a long-standing, ongoing issue for this province, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it was action on this side of the House that is beginning to rectify situations, to work with drainage networks across the province, and frankly to address an issue that had been ignored for over 30 years in this province. And she knows that.

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

Funding for Municipalities

Ms. Rancourt: — Mr. Speaker, across the province Saskatchewan people were hit this year with the hike to their property tax bills. The Sask Party knew the property assessments were coming. They knew before their budget came through.

Communities like Estevan contributed a lot during the boom,

but are now feeling the pain from the economic downturn, and the Sask Party isn't making that any easier. In fact they cut their funding and raised the percentage of their house and property that is taxable from 70 to 80 per cent. Now the people of Estevan are forced to pay even more taxes, and they're based on the value of their home at the peak of the oil boom.

Mr. Speaker, since the government continues to refuse to provide any assistance to these communities, will they at least consider moving to a one- or two-year assessment cycle, like other provinces have, to help lessen the impact on communities like Estevan?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Government Relations.

Hon. Mr. Doke: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When we first formed government, we committed to reducing the EPT [education property tax] so that education funding would be 60 per cent from the GRF [General Revenue Fund] and 40 per cent from the EPT. We actually went beyond that and the split was 65 per cent GRF and 35 per cent EPT. We have returned EPT funding to a level to meet our campaign commitment of a 60/40 split. I would also add that residents of Saskatchewan have saved \$1.3 billion in property tax.

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

[14:15]

Ms. Rancourt: — Mr. Speaker, across the province people are struggling to make ends meet, and the Sask Party's tax hikes are making it worse. Municipalities are doing their best but they're struggling after the cuts and the PST [provincial sales tax] hike too.

Last night I had the opportunity to meet with Estevan's mayor and council. They had to make the difficult decision to close their arena because they can't afford to fix it enough to keep it open. Mr. Speaker, they're trying to help the people in their community with the Sask Party tax hike, and they're trying to plan for the future. But when they asked, the government told them they would not know the status of their grants-in-lieu until the next premier is selected in January.

Mr. Speaker, when will the minister pay attention? Cities, towns, villages, all of Saskatchewan's municipalities are trying to deal with the Sask Party cuts and start their budget process for next year. So why can't the minister provide them certainty now and commit to no more cuts?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister . . . Whoa. I recognize the Minister of Government Relations.

Hon. Mr. Doke: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I really don't know where to start with that, or whether there was a question there. I'm not sure. But as I said, we've moved back to a 60/40 split on the EPT and the GRF. And as I said when I met with city mayors, we are reviewing the grants-in-lieu and we will have answers for them shortly.

So, Mr. Speaker, we do care about the municipalities, even

Prince Albert for that matter. We include all municipalities. Thank you.

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

Support for Treaty Education

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, yesterday I asked the minister a number of questions that she refused to answer. She's accused of calling treaty education into question and drawing equivalencies between the experience of Western Europeans and indigenous people. She needs to accept responsibility for her words. Instead, Mr. Speaker, she has said that she is sorry that other people misinterpreted her and that she is sorry that we are confused. Mr. Speaker, that is simply not an apology, and it's a further insult to those who were offended and to all those who heard or read what she said.

So, Mr. Speaker, I ask again: if the minister can't stand in her place and take full responsibility for her own words, why does she think that she deserves to be the minister in charge of our kids' education?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have said there is no equivalency. And I repeat: there is no equivalency. Mr. Speaker, the apologies I have offered were intended and continue to be intended unequivocally and comprehensively. If anyone was in doubt that this government is committed, that I am committed to ongoing treaty education, which was never in doubt, let them rest assured it will continue, Mr. Speaker. I refer back to the gracious assessment by Chief Bobby Cameron when we spoke two weeks ago that I remain committed to teaching treaty, that we remain committed to teaching treaty, and we do, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, I'm afraid that there is a great deal of doubt, and that doubt remains. And it's in no small part due to the minister's inability to actually apologize for the words that she said. I will take her at her word that she has apologized for the false equivalency between indigenous people and her ancestors. But will she apologize for comparing treaty education to Bolshevism? And will she finally apologize to the teacher that she so publicly attacked? And will she affirm her personal commitment to treaty education in this province?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Absolutely, Mr. Speaker. The commitment to treaty education remains, as we have said now and as I have said and will continue to say, Mr. Speaker. And I can only say again that what was intended was a respectful submission in this House on a range of topics covered in the Throne Speech, including math and coding and French. And no parallel was ever intended — the words that have been put in my mouth otherwise — because those words were simply never uttered, Mr. Speaker. As I say, saying something enough times and imputing motive enough times doesn't make something the

case, Mr. Speaker. Again our commitment, my apology, to ongoing, mandated, treaty curriculum in this province, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, the minister's record is simply much different than the one that she proclaims. Yesterday she laid out a couple of programs that show the government's commitment to indigenous education. But, Mr. Speaker, she forgot to mention that they cut \$1.2 million from indigenous advanced education programs, cut \$3 million from job training for indigenous people, and dismantled NORTEP, an education program that was run successfully for and by people of the North for decades.

Mr. Speaker, she's bragging about a 1 per cent increase in graduation rates — 1 per cent. Again that happened despite, not because of, any action of that minister or this government. Mr. Speaker, will the minister acknowledge the government's and her own record? And if she can't see it, will she just resign?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Mr. Speaker, we take the improvement in graduation rates very seriously. It is progress. It is a start, Mr. Speaker, and we are proud of that. And that is something that has been overseen by this government. And as I say, proud of the commitment.

Mr. Speaker, the member opposite mentioned the North. And a major priority is that we of course begin to heal following the terrible tragedy of January 2016. Last week I met with the director and members of Northern Lights School Division and we informed them, Mr. Speaker, that we are moving ahead with the Dene High School renovation project in La Loche. That is an important step in the healing process, Mr. Speaker, under this government.

Otherwise, since '07 we've increased funding to northern school divisions by 28.5 per cent. The operating grant to Northern Lights alone has increased by almost 30 per cent. The number of teachers has increased by almost 10, EAs [educational assistant] by 19 per cent, social workers by more than a hundred. Clear commitment, Mr. Speaker.

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

Information Technology Services

Mr. Forbes: — Mr. Speaker, first we had a Premier who told the House his email wasn't working for two weeks. Then we found out there was no record of any kind of that. Now we have a minister who said she didn't care whether it happened or not. So much for ministerial accountability, Mr. Speaker. Neither the minister nor the Premier seem to be at all concerned with their government technology supposedly stops working. Yesterday, instead of answering my first question, the minister gave a terrible answer to an entirely different question. Then the Deputy Premier ranted for her. Then the minister declined to speak to reporters altogether.

So I'll ask her again: can the Minister of Central Services update the people of Saskatchewan on what work her ministry has done to fix the problems with the Premier's government account?

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

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Mr. Speaker, you know, the members go on and on over there with respect to, you know, that I said I didn't care. Mr. Speaker. You know, it has nothing to do with the subject matter. It has to do with their disingenuous comments that occurred afterwards, Mr. Speaker.

We are very proud of the service and reliability provided by ITO [information technology office]. I'm certain that the members opposite, because they were, or some of them were, in government with the quality of service that we actually receive, Mr. Speaker.

However temporary service disruptions do occur, even in the very best of systems, Mr. Speaker. There are a number of things that could cause such glitches. Some recent examples of service requests to the IT [information technology] desk include issues with a McAfee update, customers receiving bounce-back messages due to a misconfiguration on a spam blocker, Mr. Speaker.

We're very proud of the service delivered to 12,000 customers in the Government of Saskatchewan with a 99.8 per cent success rate.

The Speaker: — Why is the member from Saskatoon Centre on his feet?

Mr. Forbes: — Question? Question period?

The Speaker: — No more questions.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

**Bill No. 99 — *The Interpretation Amendment Act, 2017*
(No. 2)/Loi modificative n°2 de 2017 sur l'interprétation**

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

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 99, *The Interpretation Amendment Act, 2017 (No. 2)* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice and Attorney General that Bill No. 99 be now introduced and read a first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — First reading of this bill.

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

recognize the minister.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, the member next to me said it should be at the next standing of the Assembly, but it should be the next sitting of the Assembly.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

Bill No. 103 — *The Land Contracts (Actions) Act, 2017*

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

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I wish to break tradition by moving that Bill No. 103, *The Land Contracts (Actions) Act* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Justice and Attorney General has moved first reading on Bill 103 . . . be now introduced and read a first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Agreed. Carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — First reading of this bill.

The Speaker: — When shall this bill be read a second time? I recognize the minister.

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

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

**Bill No. 104 — *The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code, 2017*
*Code des droits de la personne de la Saskatchewan de 2017***

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

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 104, *The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code, 2017* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved the Minister of Justice and Attorney General that Bill No. 104 be now introduced and read the first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — First reading of this bill.

The Speaker: — And when shall this bill be read a second time? I recognize the minister.

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

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

Bill No. 105 — *The Saskatchewan Human Rights Consequential Amendment Act, 2017*

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

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 105, *The Saskatchewan Human Rights Consequential Amendment Act, 2017* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice and Attorney General that Bill No. 105 be now introduced and read the first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — Item no. 8, the Hon. Mr. Morgan. Oh, I'm sorry. First reading of this bill.

The Speaker: — When shall this bill be read a second time? I recognize the minister.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — In spite of the overeagerness of the Clerk, Mr. Speaker, next sitting.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

Bill No. 106 — *The Missing Persons and Presumption of Death Amendment Act, 2017*

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

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — I move that Bill No. 106, *The Missing Persons and Presumption of Death Amendment Act, 2017* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice and Attorney General that Bill No. 106 be now introduced and read a first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — First reading of this bill.

The Speaker: — When shall the bill be read a second time? I recognize the minister.

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

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

[14:30]

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

Mr. McCall: — Just very quickly, Mr. Speaker, a point of order.

The Speaker: — We'll hear your point of order. I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. During question period, the member from Saskatoon Stonebridge-Dakota, in reference to comments by the member from Saskatoon Meewasin, stated that he was using statements that "simply were not true." Mr. Speaker, that's language that is plainly unparliamentary, and I'd ask you to call on that member to withdraw that comment and to call her to apologize to this House. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I withdraw the comments and apologize.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Lawrence: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the answers to questions 44 through 53.

The Speaker: — The Whip has tabled responses to questions 44 to 53. I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I'm going to request of the House to move a number of motions of condolence.

The Speaker: — Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. I recognize the Premier.

CONDOLENCE MOTIONS

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's my expectation, as it has been I think, members of the House, for whenever we've been occasioned with these motions of condolence, that we will provide those motions individually for each member and give other members the opportunity to speak to the specific motions.

Gordon Gray Currie

Hon. Mr. Wall: — The first motion of condolence is in memory of Gordon Currie. Mr. Speaker, Gord Currie passed away at the age of 93 earlier this year and is well known, not only in our capital city here in Regina where he made his home. He was very well known across the province for his coaching

exploits. Mr. Speaker, I would offer as well to members of the House that he was well known right across our country and beyond the borders of Canada for his contribution to sport and education.

Mr. Speaker, he was also well known for a great sense of humility that he had about him. He was a football legend in our capital, to be sure. But as Rob Vanstone who is a well-known sports columnist for the *Leader-Post* said, he didn't act like he was a legend or that he knew he was, that rather he acted with genuine humility. Vanstone interviewed Gordon Currie in 2012, and this is what Mr. Currie had to say of the concept of legacy:

Legacy is very important. It's important for a family, a community and a nation. It's especially important for a sports team.

A legacy gives a foundation from which you can build and grow. A legacy adds stability and a sense of purpose. It stimulates a special kind of pride and it makes you feel fortunate to belong — a pride enriched with that all-important, appropriate degree of humility.

Mr. Speaker, it's a wonderful quote from a pretty amazing man who managed to describe better than I could ever, though I've tried in the past, to explain how you can have a pride of place and you can have a pride of team and yet you can still be humble about that. Those two things perhaps seem to conflict on the face of the matter but Gordon Currie actually proved . . . If you ever have had a chance to speak with him, and I had the honour to chat with him a little bit, he proved that those two things not just co-existed but were really meshed if the context was right, if the consideration by the individual is right.

Mr. Speaker, Shelly Riffel is a former student at Campbell Collegiate and she wrote the *Leader-Post* when Mr. Currie passed away. She recalled her time in grade 9 when she was a relative newcomer to Campbell. Shelly didn't feel comfortable attending one class. She had recently moved from Ontario and she was unfamiliar with the subject matter and so she would escape, she said, to the washroom and she would stand on a toilet so that no one could see her feet. Well Gord Currie figured out what was going on, and he knocked on the door of the bathroom stall and asked Shelly to come out. Shelly thought she was in really big trouble, but as she recounts in her letter, Principal Gord Currie smiled, introduced himself, and took her on a tour of the school, noting that Campbell has so much more to offer than that bathroom cubicle. Mr. Speaker, there are many, many anecdotes. There are many stories of teachers and students and players about the kind of man that Mr. Currie was.

I was a summer student working in this very building when I had the chance to first meet him. He was a minister of the Crown at the time, in the PC [Progressive Conservative] government. He served as an MLA, as members will know, from 1982 to 1987. He had a good and kind word for everyone. No wonder players responded to him the way they did. His winning record is legendary in junior football, Mr. Speaker, and I would dare say that the success of the University of Regina Rams program today would trace its foundation to the record of Gord Currie.

He served in a number of different files in cabinet, Mr. Speaker,

but I can only imagine what it was like for the leader of his party at the time to realize that someone of the character and stature of Gord Currie was prepared to run for that party. Mr. Speaker, we all seek to attract people to run who are dedicated to service, who have that right balance of pride in place and humility, who have accomplishments to look, to reflect upon and for others to reflect upon, and who are just trustworthy. And he was given a number of cabinet duties on account of the trust that he had earned from his colleagues and from the then premier.

Mr. Speaker, other members will want to chat about, say a few words about Gordon Currie. And so, Mr. Speaker, I am going to move this motion and then give way to those members who wish to enter this condolence motion discussion:

That this Assembly records with sorrow and regret the passing of a former member of this Assembly and expresses its grateful appreciation of the contribution he made to his community, his constituency, and to the province.

Gordon Gray Currie, who passed away on 22 February, 2017 at the age of 93, was a member of this Legislative Assembly from 1982 to 1987, representing the constituency of Regina Wascana for the Progressive Conservative Party. Mr. Currie served on Executive Council in several capacities, including as the minister of Education, the minister of Continuing Education, the minister of Advanced Education and Manpower, the minister of Science and Technology, and the minister of Telephones.

Mr. Currie was born in Semans, Saskatchewan. He attended Notre Dame College and received a Bachelor of Education degree at Mount Allison College in New Brunswick. He was also a lieutenant in the Royal Canadian Navy in World War II. Upon his return to Regina, he was hired at Balfour Technical School to teach history and promote sports.

He continued his coaching career with the Balfour Redmen, the Regina Red Sox, and of course the Regina Rams. His contribution to sport have been formally recognized in a variety of ways. Currie Field, the home of the Regina Red Sox, was named in his honour. He was inducted into the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame in 1978 and the Canadian Football Hall of Fame as a mentor in 2005, and he became a member of the Order of Canada in 1979.

Mr. Currie is survived and sadly missed by his three sons, Bob, Doug, and Jim, and their families.

In recording its own deep sense of loss and bereavement, this Assembly expresses its most sincere sympathy to members of the bereaved family.

The Speaker: — We'll take the motion as read. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to

enter into this condolence motion and to pay tribute and thanks and condolence with respect to Mr. Gordon Currie.

Gordon, as has been mentioned by the Premier, is survived by his sons, Bob, Doug, and Jim, a granddaughter, and many other extended family members.

Gordon was born in Semans, Saskatchewan and went to Notre Dame Collegiate in Wilcox and later received his education degree at Mount Allison University. Gordon was also a World War II veteran, serving as lieutenant in the Royal Canadian Navy.

Gordon was a well-known and respected member of the community right here in Regina. Everyone who knew Gord knew his passion for teaching, as evident by the many years he spent at Balfour, and of course, Gord's passion for sports as a coach for the Balfour hockey and football teams and the Regina Rams. It was as football coach at Balfour where Gordon led the team to eight provincial championships in 13 years. As coach, even more impressively, the team once won 40 straight games in a row. Later he coached the Regina Rams from 1965 to 1976, earning the team six national titles.

Gord also had a passion for baseball and the Regina Red Sox, where their home diamond of Currie Field is named in his honour. Gordon was well recognized for his achievements in coaching and his ability to mentor and encourage young people. Before he was elected as an MLA he was inducted into the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame in 1978, received the Order of Canada as well in 1979. Later he was inducted into the CFL [Canadian Football League] Hall of Fame as a mentor.

After receiving the award for Amateur Coach of the Year in 1976, Gord spoke of his passion for coaching, saying, "I wouldn't trade a minute of it for anything in the world. You don't put a value on the things I've gained: the friendships, the fun, the involvement with young people."

Gordon was elected to represent the constituents of Regina Wascana in this House in 1982. He was able to use his passion for education as the minister for Advanced Education; Education; Science and Technology; and later, minister responsible for SaskTel.

He was a mentor to many in this community and this province and left a legacy in this city that will be felt for decades to come.

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Indian Head-Milestone.

Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege too to join in on this condolence motion. I want to thank the member from Regina Wascana Plains, who would normally join in, but she yielded the floor to me to say a few words regarding Gordon Currie.

I didn't know Gordon real well, but I can tell you that I knew him well enough that I wanted to stand in my place today and talk a little bit about his impact, I guess maybe a little bit in my life, but also talk about some of the stories that I've heard regarding Gord Currie from a couple of different levels, through

family members. We have a mutual friend that knew Gordon very well that I also knew quite well, and some of the stories came from her as well as a couple of former football players that played under Gordon Currie when he was the coach of the Rams.

I quickly looked up the name and checked on Google as Gordon Currie and looking at all the accomplishments. But it's funny when you look at those accomplishments, and there are many — whether it's national titles, whether it's the Order of Canada, whether it's his, you know, his influence in teaching — it really doesn't tell you a whole lot about the person. And the person is far more impressive than the accomplishments even though he accomplished so much.

And he was really about relationships, and he built relationships with people. Anybody that ever came into contact with Gordon, I believe all said the same thing: what a gentleman. What a kind and caring gentleman. And it didn't matter whether it was on the football field, which could be a very aggressive setting, to the classroom, depending . . .

You know, one of the things that Gordon did, was instrumental in, was the development of Cochrane High School. He was the principal in Balfour and also Campbell, but he also was instrumental in the development of Cochrane High School. And Cochrane High School was really a high school that was set up maybe a little bit before its time. It often brought in students that weren't fitting into the normal day-to-day routine or curriculums of the mainstream schools. And he welcomed those . . . He developed that because he could see a need for that.

He was the main developer of Cochrane, and he could see the need because he made those relationships with kids that weren't maybe necessarily always the stars on the football team or baseball team that he dealt with, but were maybe struggling in school a little bit, as the story as the Premier just mentioned. He was able to see that and build those relationships and then see that there was a need for perhaps a different education setting; still, you know, making sure that they were able to receive the education they needed, but perhaps in a little different setting than the mainstream that most were going through. So he was instrumental in that.

I think a lot of that stems from . . . And I didn't certainly know him in his early years but, you know, I always think any person that attended — some would say survived — Notre Dame in the early years . . . You know, he was a Hound. He was a Hound from Notre Dame, and those early years in Notre Dame or in Wilcox, Saskatchewan aren't quite what you see if you go to Wilcox, Saskatchewan now.

Those early days were tough days under Père Athol Murray. And no doubt, you know, some of his character that was built, that was demonstrated in years to come were developed in those early days of going to Notre Dame high school at Wilcox, where their dorms were literally granaries that weren't being used on a farm and hauled into Wilcox. And that's where they stayed through the winter. You can imagine on a day like today or yesterday with the wind howling and at 20 below, there wasn't a whole lot of firewood that was going to keep that granary warm where they stayed.

[14:45]

But it was that character that was built in him. And then to think of him moving on from there — going to university of course, getting his degree, but serving in the navy — and some of the conditions that he would have gone through in those settings, those really built, I think, the character that so many got to see in later years through Gord's coaching and through his education, through the education system.

And then as well, I also know that through his political years — although it wasn't as long as perhaps some like the member from Cannington, thank heavens — but through his political years and, you know, the respect that I think, you know, the civil service had for the minister, that the education system had because he had been a teacher and now as an Education minister. But you know, just talking to people that knew him well through those times, he was so well respected. And he didn't do it by being forceful, and he didn't do it by being intimidating, and he didn't do it by being aggressive. He did it by being Gord Currie. And that is just a really unique trait that he had.

You know, and it's amazing, as I said, the accomplishments. Some were touched on, but eight Manitoba-Saskatchewan junior league championships. He coached for 11 years. That's not a bad record. Eight Saskatchewan-Manitoba championships, seven Western Canadian championships under the Rams, and six national titles. Pretty darn impressive.

And as I said, one of the fellows that I know fairly well played football for him. He came from Milestone. There's a few, a number have come from Milestone, but you know, not a real, known as a football program. They were big guys. So they came in and they started playing with the Rams, and they will all talk about how Gordon Currie welcomed them and made them feel comfortable.

I mean, it's not always the most comfortable, probably a little intimidating coming from a six-man program to then to be playing with the Regina Rams, and how it would be pretty easy to go to that first practice and say, this is not for me; I'm moving on. But he had that welcoming attitude that made people want to stay and probably achieve more than they ever would have achieved had they walked away. And it was that type of relationship that he built, you know. As was mentioned, Sports Hall of Fame here in Saskatchewan in 1978, the Order of Canada in 1979, and the Canadian Football Hall of Fame in 2005 — pretty major accomplishments for Gordon Currie.

And the one quote that I just want to read because I think if you look at so many of the accomplishments, they are impressive, but it's about the relationships that I think Gordon would want to be remembered for. And this one quote here, this bit of a paragraph, talks about his success in the coaching:

There really are some great memories. Sure, you remember the cups, but it's the relationships that count. Why would anyone coach year after year — and most of it is volunteer work — if all there is . . . [at the end] is a cup? It's just a pot. If you don't walk away with more than just a cup, it has been a hollow, shallow activity. Because of the relationships, you walk away with a life experience that

never leaves you.

That was Gordon Currie. Thank you.

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

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And I stand today to join with the Premier, and the Leader of the Opposition, the member from Indian Head-Milestone, entering into this motion of condolence regarding the passing of the former member for Regina Wascana. He was predeceased by his wife of 57 years, Shirley, and as has already been noted, he leaves to cherish his memory his sons Bob, Doug, and Jim and their families.

In the notice of his passing, the family wrote, "It is with profound sadness, but deep gratitude for a life well lived, that we announce the passing of Gordon Currie . . ." And certainly we've heard much evidence of that to this point today. He was the son of a Pool elevator agent and, as has been mentioned, was born near Semans and, as son of an elevator agent, did a fair amount of moving around southern Saskatchewan and other parts of Saskatchewan. He later attended, as has been noted, Notre Dame in the era of Père Murray and went on to become a celebrated educator.

Gordon Currie also, as has been mentioned, served as a lieutenant in the navy during World War II. But as we've heard today, he is perhaps best remembered as an exceptional coach and exceptional mentor, one of those who dedicated a good part of his life and his career to the promotion of sport and the betterment of children. He enjoyed success as a hockey coach, a football coach, and a baseball coach. And of course the Currie Field, the home diamond of the Regina Red Sox, bears his name.

Elected in 1982, Mr. Currie filled several roles, including as the minister of Education, and his list of accomplishments is very long. A member of the Order of Canada, inducted to the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame, the Saskatchewan football hall of fame. And upon his induction to the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame this was noted: although his record as a coach is impressive — he was at one time noted to be the most successful amateur coach in all of Canada — his success was more than just his win-loss record, a win-loss record as we've already established was almost unparalleled. But his real legacy is that those who played under him learned what desire, courage, ambition, and fair play can accomplish.

That was a life well lived indeed, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and I'd like to offer our thanks for his service to the people of Regina and the people of this province, and express our sincere condolences to his family.

The Deputy Speaker: — The item before the Assembly is a motion of condolence for Gordon Currie, moved by the Premier. Will the members take the motion as read?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Jack Charles Klein

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to move a motion of condolence in respect of Jack Klein who also passed away earlier this year. Mr. Deputy Speaker, before I move the motion though, I have some personal reflections, again based on my time working here in this building as a summer student and then a little bit later on in another capacity.

Mr. Speaker, as someone who is keenly interested in politics, I tried to learn as much as I could from a distance about ministers of the government of the day and frankly, members on the opposition side as well, and perhaps how they went about their affairs and what they might be best known for. And, Mr. Speaker, I can tell you that in the case of Jack Klein, at least as regards the discussions that some of the younger people working in the building would have had, it was thought that his physical stature did not match his standing in this place, in this House, or possibly in the cabinet although we wouldn't have been privy to anything there obviously, Mr. Speaker.

I can remember Mr. Klein's very, very effective efforts in this House. I think, if I'm remembering right, when I would have been first in this Legislative Assembly, he would have just sat a few chairs over and was very, very effective, I would say, in defending the program of the government of the day and perhaps turning the attack sometimes to the other side of the House.

He was pretty passionate, is certainly my recollection, and that should surprise no one when you consider his bio and the things that he achieved prior ever to running and coming into this place. He was a well-regarded, highly regarded business person who found success in some difficult forms of business, a seasonal business for example. As we're about to hear in the motion, he ran the Sunset Amusement Park as an owner/operator. And, Mr. Speaker, if you're running a seasonal business in this province — it's dependent on the summer months — there's a certain amount of courage that would be required and stamina that would be required and business skill, I would say, in addition to the other business ventures that he was involved in. And here again I can understand why a leader of the party of the day would seek someone like Jack Klein out to be a candidate to run for their party because of their obvious involvement in the community, because of, in the case of Mr. Klein, his success in the insurance and real estate business and some of the other commercial ventures.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, while he was in this place, and I would say after that as he pursued other related businesses, he was a strong advocate for Saskatchewan's tourism industry. And, Mr. Speaker, I think all of us in the province understand the great potential that remains, that exists even today, unmet potential yet in terms of our tourism assets, even though we've been about the business of developing those opportunities now for some time. Back when Mr. Klein would have been here in this Legislative Assembly, there would have been even more work to do, and I want to acknowledge the fact that here was a man that was very passionate about what this province had to offer

not just other Canadians but the rest of the world in terms of a tourism destination.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, it's worth noting on a day like today that notwithstanding his fiery efforts that I witnessed first hand in this place and his willingness to turn back partisan attacks with maybe some partisan attacks of his own, he had a reputation for reaching across party lines. He had a solid reputation for having close friends in other parties. He delivered the eulogy at the late Liberal Senator Davey Stuart's funeral. That's worth noting, Mr. Deputy Speaker, here and it speaks to that kind of bipartisan or non-partisan approach he took when he was outside of this room and when he was outside of this Chamber, Mr. Speaker. And his character and conduct in that regard is something that perhaps should be an example for all of us.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I am going to move the following motion and give way to other members that may want to offer a few remembrances, some tributes of Jack Klein. I move the following:

That this Assembly records with sorrow and regret the passing of a former member of this Assembly and expresses its grateful appreciation of the contribution he made to his community, his constituency, and his province.

Jack Charles Klein, who passed away 8 June 2017 at the age of 81 was a member of the Legislative Assembly from 1982 until 1991, representing the constituencies of Regina North and Regina South for the Progressive Conservative Party. Mr. Klein served on Executive Council in several capacities including as the minister of Tourism and Small Business, the minister of Urban Affairs, minister of Trade and Investment, minister of Consumer and Commercial Affairs, and minister of Human Resources, Labour and Employment.

Mr. Klein was an enthusiastic businessman with vast professional experience. He purchased his first restaurant in 1957. He operated the Sunset Amusement Park from 1964 to 1978, was a real estate broker from 1969 to 1980, and operated Leisure World from 1977 to 1982. After serving in the Legislative Assembly, Mr. Klein moved to Mesa, Arizona and operated an automotive lubricant shop. He retired in 1999 to Kelowna, British Columbia.

Mr. Klein is survived and sadly missed by his wife of 60 years, Shirley, and their five children, Mark, Cathy, Brad, Luke, and Michael and their families.

In recording its own deep sense of loss and bereavement, the Assembly expresses its most sincere sympathy to members of the bereaved family.

I so move.

The Speaker: — I'll take the motion as read. The Premier has moved the motion. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to enter into this condolence motion and to pay tribute and thanks and condolence with respect to Mr. Jack Klein. Jack is survived

by his wife of 60 years, Shirley; children, Mark, Cathy, Brad, Luke, and Michael; and seven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Jack was born in 1935 in Weyburn. Before his time as an MLA, Jack was well known in Regina as a businessman owning many small businesses from a restaurant to an amusement park and a small chain of hobby stores in the city. He was also a real estate broker in the city and was president of the Regina real estate board and served on the board of the Saskatchewan Real Estate Association.

Jack was elected to the legislature in 1982 and was an MLA until 1991, first as the member for Regina North, then later as the member for Regina South. He served Saskatchewan as a minister in many different roles including as minister of Tourism and Small Business, minister of Urban Affairs, minister of Trade and Investment, minister of Consumer and Commercial Affairs, and minister of Human Resources, Labour and Employment.

[15:00]

Referred as the feisty MLA for Regina South by one reporter, Jack was well known for being a hard worker and for his frank speaking style, both inside and out of the legislature. One example of this was when, as minister responsible for Tourism, he was asked why someone would choose to visit Saskatchewan over BC [British Columbia]. Jack bluntly replied, "Once you've seen one mountain, you've seen them all. The mountains just get in the way of a good view." Somewhat ironically, Jack did retire in Kelowna where he lived until his death, surrounded by mountain views.

Jack enjoyed curling and golfing and he and his wife enjoyed many golfing vacations throughout his retirement. They enjoyed spending winters in Arizona and Hawaii and later retired to Kelowna where he loved spending time with his children and his grandchildren that he loved dearly. We know he will be missed. Thank you.

The Speaker: — Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion? Sorry. I recognize the member from Regina Coronation Park.

Mr. Docherty: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to enter into this motion of condolence. I must speak about Jack Klein. I didn't know Jack very well. I met him once and we were at a dinner together. We sat at the same table. And I remember trying to figure out exactly . . . I was probably just at the end of high school, trying to figure out exactly what he did for a living and what an MLA was. And he told me that, you know, at some point maybe you'll be interested in this type of career as well. And I went, no, I don't think so, Jack. But here we are.

There is a piece about Jack and his service. I think that . . . And his service has been immense for this province in regards to serving both Regina South and Regina North. And I was talking to some of my colleagues and going, what would the divisions of Regina North and where does Coronation Park sit in the grand scheme of this? And there is some overlap and I think Rochdale is a piece of this as well.

But also Regina South — we had Regina Pasqua, I believe, as part of that and Regina University. So that's where the divisions were. I was interested in the fact that he had a number of portfolios in Executive Council and as minister of Tourism and Small Business, minister of Urban Affairs, minister of Trade and Investment, minister of Consumer and Commercial Affairs, minister of Human Resources, Labour and Employment. And that in and of itself, Mr. Speaker, speaks to his commitment and service to this province.

Out of particular interest though, some of his ventures I ended up going to and frequenting on a number of occasions. One was the Sunset Amusement Park. And I'm not sure if everybody remembers that in the city, but it was a place for young people, for teenagers to go and enjoy, and I did enjoy it. It was an awful lot of fun, and some of the other amusement pieces.

But Leisure World hobby stores is where I got my first kite and flew it until I got it tangled in the power lines. But other than that, I remember going back to his store and saying, my kite got caught in the power lines, and he ended up cutting me a pretty darn good deal on my second kite because he just seemed like that type of guy.

But again it is my pleasure to have an opportunity to talk about an MLA that served this province. And it is a deep sense of loss and bereavement and my condolences to his wife, Shirley, of 60 years, and his children. And with that, Mr. Speaker, I'll leave it there. But I again thank you, Mr. Klein.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. I recognize the Premier.

Robert Wayne Mitchell

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Just over a year ago now, Bob Mitchell passed away. Mr. Speaker, I have been . . . occasion to chat with a few now retired politicians and some current politicians of all different stripes, about Mr. Mitchell. And there seems to be almost an urgency on the part of those folks when they talk about Mr. Mitchell, an enthusiasm and an urgency to get out as much as they can about their positive impressions of Mr. Mitchell. As I've mentioned, it's true of New Democrats that I've asked, that I've talked to about him or I've had occasion to discuss his time here, and it's true of those who did not share his party affiliation.

We've already talked a little bit about the gentleman, Gord Currie. It's that descriptor, "gentleman," I've heard readily and often used in respect of the former attorney general, Mr. Mitchell.

I think there is also a geniality there that others have remarked to me that also transcended any partisan divide that might have existed between Mr. Mitchell and others in the Assembly, a good sense of humour.

Mr. Speaker, I have been told, and I think the record will show, that he had a very effective way of dealing with question period

in the House. He would perhaps be as disarming as any who've ever been in the place because of his consistent approach, his penchant for complimenting — and pretty effusively from what I have read — complimenting those that are questioning him no matter, no matter how angry or outraged the critic might have been or how upset with the government of the day was. And you know, Mr. Speaker, we know that that's not always the easiest thing to do. Sometimes it's a lot easier to meet the tone of the question for the answer . . . for the tone of the answer to meet that of the question.

And I also think that ability to hear past what might be the rhetorical attack from the other side to the question that was asked, and then to compliment the individual asking the question notwithstanding how upset they might have been, I think that tells us a little bit about the person. I think that does speak to the fact that there is a geniality about an individual like that, a gentlemanly quality in the case of Mr. Mitchell.

Mr. Speaker, we know from the record, from his time in government and prior and after government, he had a passion for First Nations people in this province, for their interests, for their well-being, and for their education, and for justice issues concerning Aboriginal people in our province. And that shone through I think in his work, in his actions, and in his spoken word.

I'm told he was an avid golfer, Mr. Speaker. I've been told that by some of his former colleagues, including former Premier Romanow and others. But it never got in the way of the work that needed to be done, Mr. Speaker.

I hope it is the experience for our families, of all the members that are gathered, that they might hear of us what we have all heard, what I've heard, about Mr. Mitchell in a very non-partisan sense: that much like Mr. Currie, who he was as a person transcended any roles he had in this building for the Government of Saskatchewan, any answers he may have given, any speeches he may have given in this place; that the person that was Mr. Mitchell came before any of that and is front of mind still today for those who worked with him and were, on occasion, opposed to his efforts sitting on the opposite side of the legislature.

And so I move:

That this Assembly records with sorrow and regret the passing of a former member of this Assembly, and expresses its grateful appreciation of the contribution he made to his community, his constituency, and to the province.

Robert Wayne Mitchell, who passed away on 18 November, 2016 at the age of 80, was a Member of the Legislative Assembly from 1986 to 1999, representing the constituency of Saskatoon Fairview for the New Democratic Party. Mr. Mitchell served on Executive Council in several capacities, including as the minister of Justice and Attorney General, the minister of Labour, the minister of Post-Secondary Education and Skills Training, and Provincial Secretary.

Mr. Mitchell was born in Preeceville. He graduated from

the University of Saskatchewan with degrees in law and economics. Prior to becoming a Member of the Legislative Assembly, Mr. Mitchell served as the director of legal services for the federal Department of Labour and the Department of Regional Economic Expansion in Ottawa, and as a labour relations expert for the International Labour Organization of the United Nations in the Caribbean. On returning to Saskatchewan, Mr. Mitchell served as deputy minister for the provincial Department of Labour from 1974 to 1979 before co-founding the Mitchell-Ching law firm in Saskatoon. After leaving politics, Mr. Mitchell went on to work as head negotiator for the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, as it was named at the time, and to chair the Saskatchewan Public Complaints Commission.

Mr. Mitchell is survived and sadly missed by his wife, Sandra, and their six daughters: Janet, Roberta, Stephanie, Shannon, Donna, and Alison, and their families. In recording its own deep sense of loss and bereavement, this Assembly expresses its most sincere sympathy to members of the bereaved family.

The Speaker: — We'll take the motion as read. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to enter into this condolence motion and to pay tribute and thanks and condolence with respect to Mr. Bob Mitchell. Bob is survived by his wife, Sandra, his daughters, Janet, Roberta, Stephanie, Shannon, Donna, and Alison, 17 grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. Bob Mitchell was born in Preeceville in 1936, and was raised on a farm near Sturgis. He graduated from the University of Saskatchewan with degrees in law and economics and spent many years as a lawyer in Regina and Saskatoon.

He had a long and successful career before politics, working in Ottawa for the Department of Labour and in the Caribbean as a labour relations expert under the United Nations. He was a deputy minister of Labour in Saskatchewan in the 1970s where he was proud of the progress he helped make towards helping working people in this province. He later founded the Mitchell-Ching law firm in Saskatoon with his partner Don Ching, and chaired the Key Lake inquiry, and was also appointed as chief federal negotiator for the Nunavut land claims.

It was Bob's time as Chair for the Key Lake inquiry that opened his eyes to the poor living conditions of northern communities and caused him to want to strive to do better. He had the opportunity to visit many northern communities and said it was an experience that he would never forget.

Bob's passion to help others and to make a difference was what led him to being elected as the MLA for Saskatoon Fairview. And he was very proud to serve as their MLA in opposition from 1986 to 1989, and in government from 1991 until he retired from politics in 1999. During his time in government Bob served as minister of Human Resources Labour and Employment, provincial secretary, minister of Justice and Attorney General, minister of Labour, and minister of

Post-Secondary Education and Skills Training. Bob was immensely proud of his work as a politician. In his 1986 maiden speech shortly after he was first elected Bob noted that the main reason he got into politics was for his children. He wrote:

I am also here, Mr. Speaker, because my six children are going to live in this world for a long time after you and I are gone, and their children are going to live after them. And it would be irresponsible of me not to do what I could in order to make things better for them and help ensure that they have a good . . . [fortune].

Bob was a proud feminist, a champion for women's rights and human rights. He was a strong believer in equality and believed in everyone's right to be treated with respect. One of Bob's most proud achievements was amending the Human Rights Code to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation, a move that has made this province a more fair and equitable place for many.

He continued to serve the province after his retirement as Chair of the Public Complaints Commission from 2006 until 2014. Bob died this year after a short illness at age 80 and will be missed dearly by his friends, family, and former colleagues as well as his party. Thank you.

[15:15]

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

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my privilege to join in this condolence motion. Mr. Speaker, I knew Bob Mitchell as an MLA, as a Justice minister, and a cabinet minister with a number of portfolios that I have held since that time. But mostly I knew him as an individual. He was a man of honour and integrity. He practised law in Saskatoon. I had files with him. No doubt he was somebody whose word was his bond. You did not have to wait for the confirming letter or the confirmation to come back. If he told you that's the way it was, that's the way it in fact was.

He served as Justice minister for nearly five years. He was well known across Canada and had huge respect at federal-provincial-territorial meetings. After his retirement from provincial politics, the NDP government appointed him to chair the Saskatchewan Public Complaints Commission, which is the body that deals with complaints against municipal police officers.

When the Saskatchewan Party formed government in 2007, Bob had the expectation that he wouldn't be renewed, or asked to leave. His term was running out about the same time as the election. He came to see me early on after the 2007 election and asked if we were amenable to granting him a personal favour and leaving him in place for a few months so that he could chair a complaints committee meeting that was being hosted in Saskatchewan a few months later on. We agreed, but the fact of it was I actually had no intention of replacing him because I had a huge amount of respect and support for his competence in his role as Chair of the Saskatchewan Public Complaints Commission. He stayed there for the rest of my time as Justice

minister and for several years thereafter under my successor, who was the member for Saskatoon Northwest.

He truly was, Mr. Speaker, somebody that rose above partisan politics. He chose to retire from that role in 2014 of his own volition, not as a result of having been nudged, and gave us a significant amount of notice so a successor could be found. I want to take this opportunity to thank him for his service in that role. I was unable to attend his funeral but would like to use this opportunity to express my condolences to his entire family, but especially I want to mention his daughter, Janet Mitchell, who I worked with during my time at the Ministry of Education where she's employed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I too want to join in certainly paying tribute to a man that served not only this Assembly very well but the people of Saskatchewan, and served the people of Saskatchewan very well, I might reiterate, in the sense that I've had the opportunity to serve with Mr. Mitchell in this Assembly and certainly from my vantage point — I sat across from him — he was always very respectful. He was always very calm, and he was also very, very focused in what he did.

And, Mr. Speaker, as one sits in this Assembly often through time you grow to admire many people, people that have graced this great Assembly of debate and democracy. And one such person that I grew to admire a great amount and in great significance in the role that he played in my future was none other than Bob Mitchell.

I remember when he retired from politics and he was asked by FSIN [Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations] to help them in some of his abilities to work for them on some of their fronts. And I remember him telling me that he was very, very excited to go to work with the First Nations communities and that he was absolutely thrilled that they would see him in that light and that they would actually hire him to work for them. And I can tell from that that this is a genuine person that really cared about people and really cared in a sense of showing utmost respect to as many people as you possibly can.

Now I was kind of taken aback by that notion, Mr. Speaker, because Mr. Mitchell was a man of many accomplishments. As I said in the Assembly, I certainly admired him from my vantage point while in opposition. And often he'd make very kind comments — things like, I think you should come home, and things to the extent of, we need you over here. That kind of language and words, Mr. Speaker, does have an effect on somebody that first of all admires you, and I think he also had the effect of reaching out, as many people have indicated, across political lines to talk to people as human beings.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I think one of the points that I would raise earlier is that it was not his ability nor his kindness that were his strengths, but I think his humility. And like I mentioned, when he was asked to work for the First Nations, he was really, really proud to be given that opportunity. He was very humble in saying that from the perspective of being employed by them that he would . . . Like I said, he told me that he couldn't believe that they would hire him. Well, Mr. Speaker, not only

was he a great legal . . . he had a great legal mind, but he certainly had the respect of many Aboriginal people throughout the province, Métis and First Nations alike.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I obviously benefited from watching him in the Assembly. I also benefited from watching how kind yet calculating he was in this particular place. I also watched him show a great degree of humility and humour and kindness, but as well making sure that there was progress made on some of the things that he fundamentally believed in.

And the fact that some of the accomplishments named in this Assembly earlier, Mr. Speaker, those are things that he didn't count on for the rest of his life, but he used as experience. And being a former cabinet minister and accomplished politician were just simply tools to him that he would use to help others. And that is a great tribute to who Bob Mitchell was as a man.

In my closing comments, I offer my sincere sympathy to his family and tell them that from the northern perspective, from the Ile-a-la-Crosse perspective, I thank you for Bob Mitchell's service to the public because it touched many people's hearts and minds, and I was one of those individuals that were impacted by his life.

And my last recollection of seeing Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Speaker, was on the lawn of this Assembly when there was a tribute to Blakeney, a statue or a tribute of Blakeney's service to Saskatchewan, and I saw this man walking up. His steps were short, although hurried, and you can tell that this older person was bound to come and go to that site and pay tribute to this individual. So I stopped him and I said, excuse me, sir. Where are you off to in a rush? What I didn't know, Mr. Speaker, was that was Bob Mitchell that was in a hurry to get to the ceremony in which they were going to honour Blakeney. And the ceremony didn't happen that day, but there's a number of people that made their own trek and I think he was part of that older group, the wiser group that wanted to, in their own way, travel to the site where Premier Blakeney was honoured.

And for him I can tell, Mr. Speaker, that he was very happy to be able to go there, walk the distance to pay tribute to his former boss. He didn't recognize me because of his age, but I recognized him after I stopped to say hello. And, Mr. Speaker, you can see the twinkle in his eye and the happiness in his voice that he made this journey to pay tribute to his former colleague, and some may call him his boss, Mr. Blakeney. But, Mr. Speaker, this is something that I think Bob Mitchell did for himself, for his own peace, for his own country.

To his dying days, his last few days . . . and I believe it may have been his last visit to the Assembly. It was shortly after that I heard he had passed. But right from the day he started till the day he struggled to walk to pay tribute to his former colleague, Mr. Blakeney, he was a great human being. And, Mr. Speaker, I'll always remember it, not only the first time I met him, but his kindness to me in the Assembly and his last trip that I met him on his way to pay tribute to the former Premier Blakeney. So on that note, I offer our sincere sympathy to the entire family of such a great man. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's often said that it's a privilege or an honour to participate in different debates, and it couldn't be more true in this case, Mr. Speaker. And you think about the rights and privileges that we enjoy as members of this Assembly and one of them is, I think, one of them that's right up there in terms of the importance, Mr. Speaker, is the ability to participate as an Assembly to come together as legislators here and to offer up a few remarks of remembrance and condolence to those who have gone before and whose work that we benefit from, whose shoulders we stand upon, Mr. Speaker.

And certainly when I think of Bob Mitchell, he was a guy that brought a lot of talent to bear, as has been reported. A gentleman, was as congenial as they come, almost had one of those countenances that sort of beamed in terms of that smile, and did a lot with that for the people of Saskatchewan. And had, you know, a lot of great things happening out in labour law, human rights law, federally, internationally, but his biggest impact of course was here in the province of Saskatchewan.

And if you think about the times during which Mr. Mitchell served, having been elected in 1986 and then I believe having stepped out of partisan politics, I believe it was the summer of 1999, Mr. Speaker, perhaps '98 — anyway, the 12 years that he served — went through some pretty significant chapters in the history of this province. And through that he had some incredibly heavy responsibilities and throughout all of that . . . I had occasion to talk to someone that served each and every one of those years with him earlier today. I'm speaking of the former member from Nutana, Pat Atkinson. And she said that for all those years and through all those highs and lows on the trail, Mr. Speaker, that she can recall precisely one time that she'd seen Bob lose his temper. And she couldn't remember precisely whether or not it was at her, but the mind will continue to wonder on that point, Mr. Speaker.

But I certainly had the pleasure of knowing Mr. Mitchell when I was in the youth wing of the Saskatchewan New Democrats when I was a long-haired young know-nothing. But of course . . . I think I was 22 at the time, Mr. Speaker. Of course at that stage of your life, you know everything. You've got the answers ready and in vigorous supply. And there was an issue of the day where I and some of my friends — you know, fellow young New Democrats from the University of Regina campus club — had an opinion on an issue of the day and we demanded a meeting with the minister of Justice. We got that meeting, Mr. Speaker, and of course we came in there guns ablazing, making our points forcefully, emphatically. And as the Premier was reporting earlier, it wasn't just a tactic in question period. It was some of the most agreeable disagreements I've ever been party to, Mr. Speaker. We stated our opinion. He thanked us for the time, and it was a great exchange. We didn't change his mind one darned bit, but we certainly felt like we'd had a fair hearing. And we had. Because Bob Mitchell was, as has been said and can't be said enough, was a gentleman, had a sense of honour, had a sense of decency that we can't get enough of in this public life, Mr. Speaker.

[15:30]

So it was last year at this time that many of us gathered to send Bob Mitchell on and, you know, it was a packed house at the

funeral home. And it's always something to see those kinds of gatherings, Mr. Speaker, because it's like the clan comes in. And I use that in the Highland sense of the word, Mr. Speaker, in terms of everybody gathering in to mourn the loss of a good one gone on. And again to see that family there, to see Sandy and the girls. And you know, I've had the privilege of serving as Janet's Member of the Legislative Assembly in past, and again someone that's quite forceful on public affairs. But to see all those families and his grandkids. There's the one grandson that, you know, has earned his red serge as a Mountie, and just the pride, the love, the no doubt many great talks around that kitchen table, Mr. Speaker, that was so readily on display.

And again it bears comment, Mr. Speaker. Pat Atkinson was telling me that not only was Bob in a household with Sandy and six girls, but even the dog and the cat, they were female as well, Mr. Speaker. It certainly, I think, bears some explanation for the feminism of Mr. Mitchell and the well-informed position that he took on many of these issues again through a lot of different passes in the history of this province.

So, Mr. Speaker, again it's a real honour and a privilege to participate in this debate to say a few words of the importance of an individual like Bob Mitchell to all of the people of Saskatchewan. As has been well stated around, you know, either side of this partisan divide, or First Nations, non-First Nations, Mr. Speaker, indigenous people, north, south, Bob Mitchell was a gentleman, had a sense of honour, and we are better for the participation in public life of Bob Mitchell.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I too would like to join in with my colleagues from both sides of the House here and pay my condolences to the Mitchell family on the passing of Bob Mitchell and, as has been noted, a true gentleman and a real strong contributor to Saskatchewan.

I want to base my remarks, though, on my own experience as a minister of Labour and now the critic of Labour, and the contribution he made to the lives of working men and women here in Saskatchewan. And I base my research on my comments really on the book that I kind of use as my reference for all things labour here in Saskatchewan. In fact I've often told Labour ministers, you should read this book. It's *On the Side of the People*. It's a labour history of Saskatchewan. It goes back to the first organized labour in Cumberland House in the fur trading days and right up to the 1990s. And of course it's very interesting. Bob Mitchell had no fewer than 10 references in that book because he was such a strong force for change for working men and women here in this province, and he really truly was on the side of people. He was in their corner.

It talks about his early inspiration, the famous labour lawyer, George Taylor. Bob would go down to the Court of Appeal and watch George Taylor do his presentation to the Court of Appeal, and he was inspired by that. As was noted, that he went to . . . And this must have been in his early 30s that he was the director of legal services for the federal Department of Labour and then went on to work for the International Labour Organization in the Caribbean.

I had the good fortune of going to some meetings in Geneva around the ILO [International Labour Organization], and of course many of us will remember the work around the ILO as it's been presented here in Saskatchewan. But what an inspiration it must have been for him as a young person in his 30s to bring that back, that knowledge back to work in the Allan Blakeney government under Gordon Snyder, which would have been one of the . . . if not the best Labour minister we've ever had in this province, and the work that he's done around trade unions, the work that he's done around labour standards, the work that department did around occupational health and safety. And I think about bringing Bob Sass up from New York and the work that he did, and how Bob Mitchell may have played some role in that — I am not sure — as well as being a true gentleman, very, very humble.

But Gordon Snyder talked about Bob Mitchell in saying when Gord would get the compliments, well deserved, about the work that he did, it was because of his staff and that he had the best staff in the public service. But he said that . . . He called Bob outstanding, and that really that was the reason he was able to do so much. Gord Snyder was the Labour minister for all the years of Allan Blakeney, and Bob was his deputy minister for half that time, for five years from 1974 to '79. But Bob was talking about Gord Snyder and said he was the best cabinet minister he ever knew, because he had a strong sense of mission and did his homework and made sure he got it done.

And I can think, when you look back and I look back as a critic and as a former minister, the four pieces of legislation that we have, or the three that are really the big ones — *The Trade Union Act*, *The Labour Standards Act*, and *The Occupational Health and Safety Act* — the steps forward we took in this province to lead the country and lead North America really was because of the good work that Bob did in his inspiration. Because he had a much bigger world view of social justice and what was right, what was fair, and how workers would be safe in their workplace.

So it was no surprise in '91, when the NDP were to come back, that he was first choice of so many in Saskatchewan that he should be the Labour minister, and he did for a few short years. And there were challenges of course, as we have noted, in those years. But I have to say that he really was on the side of people and he was in their corner, and people across this province are so thankful for Bob Mitchell. Thank you.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is an honour to speak to a truly honourable person that served our province and served many within our province, someone who is truly decent, and someone whose work advanced and expanded and protected the rights of many within our province.

You know, I offer condolences as well to his wife, Sandra, at this time, as well as the entire family. Of course, he passed a little more than a year ago, and that family came together at the funeral that was noted by the member for Regina Elphinstone, and it really was a beautiful display of love and care and kinship. A big, large family, many friends, many past colleagues that came together to celebrate a life that deserved

celebration — a life that bettered our province and a life that bettered the lives of many within our province.

It's fair to say that Sandra herself is a brilliant person and an engaged citizen in every sense of the word, and a great political mind, and that they were a tremendous team. And so we offer our best to Sandra at this time.

Certainly I knew the legacy and the accomplishments and the service of Bob Mitchell in a formal sense within this province, but we also knew the family. They lived just up the street from my in-laws and were family friends. And right to the late days of Bob Mitchell's life, he was engaged in the discussions of this legislature and the issues of the people of this province in a sharp, caring, and compassionate way.

Certainly Bob Mitchell was someone that served our province with incredible distinction, someone who was a principled leader both within this legislature but within the community as well — both before he served in the Assembly and his life afterwards as well working with the FSIN and as an engaged person on so many fronts.

You know, as an MLA, as a cabinet minister, as a lawyer, as a feminist, as a champion for human rights, for indigenous rights, and for working people, he left his mark. He left his mark on legislation and the province that we all love. Certainly he was an incredibly honourable minister of numerous portfolios; certainly Justice and Labour stand out. And he continued to serve after he departed this Assembly, as I mentioned, serving the FSIN and doing some very meaningful work together on that front.

He also loved sports — he loved golf; he loved hockey; he loved football; he loved baseball — and built many relationships and friendships on those fronts as well and was known to, you know, to hit the sports page first but read the . . . of course the entire paper front to back and be engaged in all aspects of life within our community.

But above all else, Bob was known as somebody who was honest, who was earnest, who was ethical, and a bridge builder in his roles as minister and also in his roles in building our party. And I know it was clear, when you watched the celebration of a life at a funeral like Bob's, that you have somebody that built some incredible relationships province wide and across political divides. So I offer my sincerest condolences to the family, to loved ones, and to friends. And you know, it's my honour here today to briefly express thanks and recognize the exceptional life of Bob Mitchell, a life that left a mark on our province and certainly one that bettered the lives of many, and certainly leaving a legacy that continues to live on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to enter into this condolence motion. I did not know Bob Mitchell personally but I wanted to express my condolences as the current sitting member of Saskatoon Fairview. In preparing my remarks, I reached out to Linda Zemluk who worked as Bob's constituency assistant from 1996 until he retired, and remains a

constituent in Saskatoon Fairview. I wanted to get more of a sense of who he was as a person.

Bob had already been an MLA for 10 years when she started working as the CA [constituency assistant], but Linda describes him as being very committed and caring. Linda described Bob as being great to work for, always there for constituents, being compassionate, and having a big heart. She told me that when a constituent came into the office with a problem she would call Bob and he would immediately know what to do and let her know how she should take care of the issue. Linda described Bob as the best boss she ever had. She also told me that Bob loved to golf.

I would like to thank Bob for his hard work for the people of Saskatoon Fairview. Bob served the constituency of Saskatoon Fairview for 13 years as a New Democrat. Former premier and now chancellor of the U of S [University of Saskatchewan], Roy Romanow, described Bob as follows — I'm quoting the *StarPhoenix*, Mr. Speaker — “He was a very humane, very decent, very honest, very fair-minded partisan politician.” Roy Romanow also talked about how Bob was an integral part of the small cabinet appointed to shepherd the province through hard financial times.

Pat Atkinson was elected alongside Bob in 1986 and she also spoke in the *StarPhoenix* earlier this year about Bob being a very kind person who found ways to help people across the province despite a period of severe austerity, and helped set the stage for Saskatchewan's economic recovery. I also spoke with Pat in preparing my remarks for today. She said to me, “He was such a kind gentleman, and always kind to people. I will remember his kindness always. He didn't have a mean bone in his body and he was smart, smart, smart.” And she applauded Bob's work to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation in *The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code*.

I consider it a great honour to be part of this tradition of service in working for the good people of Fairview. Mr. Speaker, I read through Bob's maiden speech in this Assembly. In 1986 Bob described the constituency of Saskatoon Fairview having a great number of working people, retired and elderly people, indigenous peoples, and new Canadians. The diversity he described, Mr. Speaker, resonates with me today, nearly 31 years later.

And I can see his heart and passion as I read his words. He spoke of his family, and I quote:

I am also here because, Mr. Speaker, my six children are going to live in this world for a long time after you and I are gone, and their children are going to live after them. And it would be irresponsible of me not to do what I could in order to make things better for them and help ensure that they do have a good future.

He goes on to say in his closing remarks:

And all I hope is that we in this Assembly, and in other Assemblies across the country, are able to do everything we can to ensure that my daughter, and all of our daughters and all of our sons, have the life that it is possible for them to have if we bring enough wisdom to the tasks that are

before us.

[15:45]

I think Bob's passing is a strong reminder to all of us of what our focus can and should be in this Assembly. I would like to thank Bob's wife, Sandra, and his six daughters, Janet, Roberta, Stephanie, Shannon, Donna, and Alison, as well as his friends and extended family for their patience in allowing him to exercise such an active political life. He will not be forgotten.

The Speaker: — Take the motion as read. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. I recognize the Premier.

Roger Parent

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, I think it is . . . It will be a year ago next Wednesday that I stood in my place, and other members stood in theirs, to pay tribute to Roger Parent who we lost on the 29th of November of last year. I can hardly believe that it's been a year already since we lost Roger. It's underscored or made even more surreal perhaps by the fact that we were at a funeral yesterday in Melfort to say goodbye to Kevin Phillips.

And I want to, on the record, thank the Leader of the Opposition and the member for Lakeview and the member from Saskatoon Centre for attending . . . driving all of that way to attend that funeral. That I know meant a lot to not just Kevin's family, but also to your colleagues on this side of the House.

We had a similar gathering just over a year ago at a church in Saskatoon. Again it was surreal for all of us on this side of the House to say goodbye to Roger, who had only weeks before complained about this chronic back pain that he had and how he couldn't find any relief from that, until finally, after several visits, it was determined that he was battling something much more serious. And then, even then we on this side of the House thought we would have more time. I thought I would have more time, based on the information I had, to maybe visit him in the hospital. And then he was gone, and we had a call similar to the one that we had last Tuesday morning.

And so though it's already been a year, it's very fresh. And members on both sides of the House have taken to their feet to express condolences and tributes to Roger and the kind of individual he was. Mr. Speaker, what I tried to reflect on in my wholly inadequate remarks on that day in this House was the fact that Roger, in addition to everything that commended him to all of us on a personal level — the family man that he was and the friend that he was and his interest in outdoor sports and hockey and all the things that we enjoyed visiting about — in addition to all of that, which frankly is far more important than any of the work that we do here or prior to our time here, he was a constituency man.

He was one of those people who was more than happy, who was honoured in fact — his words, not mine — to serve, to be the MLA for Saskatoon Meewasin. He ran four times. We knew

he had a passion for it. He was successful on two of those occasions but ran four times in a seat that's always hotly contested. For a while there when Roger was running, it was basically a three-way split. It was a very challenging constituency to win.

And so as I think all members in the House understand, whether it's a difficult seat, a more challenging seat, or perhaps that's one that's considered "safe," the formula's the same — you door knock. And when you're tired of door knocking, you door knock some more. And you hear from people directly. And it takes a special kind of person to want to do that repeatedly, four times in the case of Roger, twice successfully, but in between elections to go out with a group and door knock some more. And members on this side of the House would have door knocked with Roger and his team.

And you know, there's something that's pretty instructive as well about the people, the volunteers that surround a Member of the Legislative Assembly, that would want to go out in all manner of weather, in between elections, and door knock. Consider that they are volunteers, Mr. Speaker. Consider how they must have felt about that man, about Roger. They felt that his place was here. They felt they wanted his voice for their area, for their neighbourhood, for their constituency, in this place. And they were prepared to put their money where their mouth was and door knock and volunteer in any way they could. And I think Roger is well known to all of us to have had an amazing group around him, which tells us a lot about the kind of individual that he was.

And there are passions that he had, especially with respect to economic development, that leave a footprint still today on the government, on our growth plan that we have for the province, something that he felt very, very strongly about. I think I remember his maiden speech in the legislature that I referenced when we lost Roger, when we first met that day after Roger's passing. He laid out some pretty specific plans and they were related to the economy.

Roger was one who believed strongly that that's the prime objective of government, is to create the right environment, the right climate so that an economy can grow because all the other stuff that we might want to do in health care and education and infrastructure and social services and taking care of those who are most vulnerable, every other activity, is dependent on the ability of a government to afford it. And the ability of a government to afford it is dependent on a tax base, and the tax base is dependent on the economy. And so that was the issue, in a general sense, that he championed the most, especially around the issue of procurement.

Roger's passion, especially in the last few years, was about ensuring that Saskatchewan businesses actually had a level playing field so they could compete for procurement opportunities. He was particularly concerned about the policies in other provinces and some advantage, either intended or inadvertent, that were conferred upon companies in those other provinces when they would compete for work in Saskatchewan. And I think Roger appreciated the importance of trade and open procurement across the country, but he wanted it to be fair.

And you know, I remember meeting with Roger and we would

talk about these things, and I'd go back to officials and say, well here's a concern. And officials would report back and say, well there's just not a lot of clear evidence about these kind of practices or policies in other jurisdictions that would create the situation that Roger was concerned about. And I would share that information back with Roger and he would just be all the more determined. He would go out and talk to the companies and demonstrate, find the proof that there was something that we needed to be dealing with in the interests of fairness.

So he was a big picture . . . Roger had the big picture in mind when it came to the economy, but he remembered as well the importance of working with current employers, small businesses in the province, and he was a champion for their efforts.

And so over this last year, I know members have talked about him. We've been nostalgic about Roger because of how quickly he passed and how sudden it was and premature obviously — the same age as Kevin, 63 years of age. So we miss him still and we will always miss him. As has been noted here, I think by members on every side, on both sides, you can't help but the collegiality of this place, in a caucus, turn into something more familial, something like a family. And so we still mourn the loss of Roger, our colleague and family member.

Mr. Speaker, I know that we have all said some things about Roger here relatively recently, within the last year, but I know some other members want to offer a few more thoughts on this, a day of condolences, and so I'll give way to them and I'll do so by reading the following motion:

That this Assembly records with sorrow and regret the passing of a former member of this Assembly and expresses its grateful appreciation of the contribution he made to his community, his constituency, and to the province.

Roger Parent, who passed away on November 29, 2016 at the age of 63, was a Member of the Legislative Assembly from 2011 until his passing. He represented the constituency of Saskatoon Meewasin for the Saskatchewan Party.

Mr. Parent held a certificate in mechanical engineering technology from the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology and a certificate in business administration from the University of Saskatchewan. Prior to becoming a Member of the Legislative Assembly, Mr. Parent was a business consultant that worked with a variety of organizations developing Aboriginal businesses around the province. He was also involved with a number of organizations, including the Saskatchewan Economic Development Association, the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation, and the Saskatoon homelessness initiatives partnership.

Mr. Parent is survived and sadly missed by his wife, Sheila, and their four daughters.

May I just interrupt the reading of the motion to say, Mr. Speaker, that it was at our most recent Saskatchewan Party convention in Saskatoon was the first time I'd seen Sheila in a

very, very, long time. And it was wonderful that she was there. It was for the luncheon that was held on the Saturday of the Saskatchewan Party convention. She was looking great, and I told her that. She seemed well but I asked how she was doing and she said that it was still very hard.

And it's a reminder for all of us, I think, a reminder in the case of Kevin's widow, April, and their family that . . . And I need to remind myself of this, that as the months go by, it's very important that we continue to reach out to those who have lost because their pain lasts and lasts longer perhaps than it is front of mind for all of us. And so a day like this in the legislature I think at least serves to remind me and maybe others that if there is someone who has lost as these friends have, like Sheila has, and their kids have, their daughters, then we should make a practice of reaching out to them more regularly and on into the future.

Mr. Parent is survived and sadly missed by his wife, Sheila, and their four daughters, Shanaya, Melissa, Jennifer, and Rebecca, and their families.

In recording its own deep sense of loss and bereavement, this Assembly expresses its most sincere sympathy to members of the bereaved family.

The Speaker: — Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for allowing me to enter into this condolence motion and to pay tribute and thanks and condolence with respect to Mr. Roger Parent. Members on both sides of this House were saddened by the death of Roger Parent nearly a year ago today. Roger is survived by his wife, Sheila, children Shanaya, Melissa, Jennifer, and Rebecca, and four grandchildren.

He attended the University of Saskatchewan and SIAST [Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology]. He also was a business consultant and a board member of the Saskatchewan Economic Development Association, the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation, and was involved in the Saskatoon homelessness initiative partnership.

Roger was elected as an MLA for Saskatoon Meewasin in 2011, and he was re-elected again in 2016. During his time in the legislature, Roger served as the Vice-Chair on the Human Services Committee and sat on the Private Bills House committee as well as the Special Committee on Traffic Safety.

Roger was a strong advocate for his community. He loved living in his constituency of Meewasin. He was also a strong advocate for improving the lives of young people and for eliminating homelessness. He dedicated much of his time, Mr. Speaker, to volunteer work, working on homelessness initiatives with the provincial government and Aboriginal organizations. Roger's work helped lead to the creation of Infinity House, which helps single mothers escape the sex trade. Roger's advocacy and volunteer work earned him the Commemorative Medal for the Centennial of Saskatchewan in 2005.

Roger's diagnosis of cancer and his death last fall was a shock

to all of us in the House. His diagnosis was unexpected as Roger had been conducting his legislative duties throughout most of last fall's session.

The Premier has noted before that Roger was a constituency man, and he preferred to advocate for his community rather than focus on personal aspirations of holding higher profile positions in government. Roger was humble, a family man who loved his children and grandchildren, and his presence in this House remains missed.

Mr. Speaker, I know he is missed by his family and his friends and members on the government side of the House, and he's missed by members of the opposition as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Buckingham: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm also honoured to say a few words about Roger Parent, who served his constituents so well in Saskatoon Meewasin. He served them from 2011 until his untimely passing.

[16:00]

Roger and I shared an office together, so in the short time that I was an MLA, I got to know Roger. And he was always a very supportive person, always offering a comment, always trying to encourage me on what to do. And the Premier spoke about door knocking. And Roger, that was one of the things that he instilled in me, that there's social media, there's a lot of different other ways to contact people, but door knocking is truly the way that you get to meet people and gain their respect. So Roger definitely implanted that on me, and so I want to say thank you for that.

When Roger and I shared our office together, his CA, Gwen . . . One of the largest concerns that Roger had when I asked him if he'd like to share an office, he wanted to make sure that she was looked after. He wanted to make sure that if the wrong person that I hired would affect his constituency and his employee . . . And you know, that's Roger. He was always concerned about the people around him, and it's important for me to say that. And of course I miss him as a friend as well.

I first met Roger while I was out door knocking in Saskatoon Westview and Roger . . . At that time I was just door knocking. I wasn't a candidate or a nominee. And Roger instilled a lot of confidence in me and made me believe that yes, I could be an MLA and yes, you know, I could learn the ropes and stand in this very honoured spot. So again I owe him thanks for that.

But my favourite memory of Roger is probably when I think about him speaking about his family. He was always . . . Family was so near and dear to Roger and, you know, whenever you would sit down for a minute, the first thing he would always bring up would be his family and what he's planning to do this weekend or what he'd done last weekend or how his grandchildren, you know, what they had done. So it was just very important to him. And he just always found time for family and always instilled the importance of family.

And on Thursdays, Roger, if you asked him, you know, do you want to stop around and have lunch, you know, when session ends, it was always absolutely not because Roger wanted to be out of this place and back with his family. I think he had one foot on the side of his desk and the moment the session end, he was out the door. And that speaks to Roger as well, is, you know, he wanted to get back to what really mattered. He got home and he would make supper by the time he got home. So you know, he wanted to be out there. That was his commitment to his family.

Roger also worked very hard for his constituents and spent a good part of his summer door knocking and making sure that he was connected with his community. And he always . . . The other passion that Roger had was hunting and fishing. And you know, if he wasn't talking about family, he was talking about hunting or fishing and all of his excursions and how everything worked out for him.

I wish I would've had more time to get to know Roger and to enjoy more of his humour and his wit. Roger had a silent wit about him that was just fun to be around. And so I want to wish Sheila and I want to thank Sheila, you know, for allowing time for Roger to be here. You know, I know she would've rather had him at home but Roger made his commitment to his province, to his family, that he would do what he could to make this a better province, and we all owe him a thanks for that.

And Roger is missed by all of us in this Legislative Assembly, I think on both sides of the House. He was an honourable man and I think everybody . . . I can speak for all of us when we say that we all miss him. But most of all, I'd like to say that I was proud to be Roger's friend. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just have a few brief comments on the condolence motion for Roger Parent. Roger and I were both part of the class of 2011, as you were yourself, Mr. Speaker. And it is really . . . When we do these condolence motions for people who have lived a full, long life and had a retirement and had a life outside after politics, that's one thing. But when we are acknowledging someone that we remember who was still here a year ago and died too soon, that is something that makes these condolence motions particularly poignant.

And I just want to share a couple of thoughts and remembrances. My first experience door knocking was actually in the riding of Meewasin when I was out with Frank Quennell just before the 2011 election. And Frank had a certain panicked look in his eye. He knew that this was going to be a really tough election. And we worked hard, Frank worked really hard. But Roger Parent wanted that seat, and Roger Parent earned that seat, Mr. Speaker. And I certainly know the amount of work that it takes to take a seat over from an incumbent, and Roger did that with a lot of hard work and determination, and I would say, with style.

Roger, you know, looking over his maiden speech and his speeches and reply to the Throne Speech, very proud of being from Meewasin, very connected to his community, to the river

itself in Saskatoon, and certainly was very proud. One of the things that struck me was his connection to the Métis community. I know that was very, very important to him. And his public service for that community was one that he really lit up when he spoke about it here in the House, Mr. Speaker.

So I appreciate the opportunity for us as a community of legislators to give these condolence motions and share our thoughts and remembrances of colleagues. As I say, when someone dies too soon and they are actually a sitting member who leaves us, that's a little harder to consider and a little more close to the heart, obviously, because these are our colleagues. We are all colleagues in this building.

And so on behalf of, you know, our official opposition, I'm very pleased to be able to just rise and give a few thoughts today about Mr. Roger Parent and sincerely send condolences to his family, his wife and his children, and his community. And we definitely lost him too soon.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Brkich: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's an honour to enter this debate. It seems like I've been standing up too many times to talk about members in this House. I have been here a long time and there has been a number of ones I've spoken to. And they're all hard — Kevin, Roger still. You know, he used to have an office just down from my office. And, you know, a year ago . . . I still look for him to be in that office as I come in because he was always there, always there before me. I was never one to get here too early.

He was a dedicated constituency man, which has been said. I mean, if we talked, it was always about the constituency. I helped him door knock, and I know that he went out, he told me, once a week to door knock in his constituency. And I thought, that is somebody that really cares, really wants to know what's happening on the doorstep. And it speaks to how he won that constituency — he worked hard at it.

He worked hard previously. I only knew him in political life. I did not know him prior to my election. I had known him prior to his because he was involved in the party. He was involved in the Meewasin constituency for a number of years. He had ran for us and was unsuccessful at first but never gave up and always trying and always wanted to make this a better place, like the Premier had said, very business-oriented. And always wanted this province to grow, and he was proud of when we reached over the 1 million mark.

You know, one of the many things I will remember him is his dedication to hockey, the Montreal Canadiens. He would tape the games, tape them all, especially in the playoffs, and not want to know the score. For me, I want to know what's happening. If we were in committee, I'd be like wanting a page to run out and like, what's the score? Or if some member would say, the score is . . . If Montreal was playing Boston, there was a certain member on the opposite side, he'd only tell me if Boston was winning. He wouldn't let me know the score if Montreal was.

But Roger would always be wanting to put his hands over his ears or look down so he wouldn't know the score. When he

watched that game, he told me he wanted not to know the score, and a lot of times he would watch it the next day. And I'm like, how can you hold that in? Like I've got to know like now what's happening. And if they lose, I definitely don't want to watch it. But he was . . . I remember that in him. We'd have that discussion many times. I'd say, you taping it? Yes, and don't tell me the score, he'd say. Do not tell me the score. So we had many discussions about hockey. He was very passionate about that.

Hunting was another one. When he came by the town of Bladworth, if he seen moose — and we have quite a few moose along kind of through that corridor — and he would, ask if he was ever drawn if he could hunt on my land and hunt deer. And I always said sure. But he'd always tell me, "I seen two moose today," as he was coming in. I'd say, "Yes, it's probably the same two that I see every day when I'm farming out there." They kind of . . . They cross the highways because I have land that borders the highways. And I know he was an avid hunter. He would talk about that quite passionately.

You know, it's hard to . . . You know, when we get up here and . . . You know, when I was younger, I always thought I was like 10 feet tall and bulletproof, but as you get older and you start losing friends, you start realizing about your mortality and what's important in life. And you know, naturally it's always family that comes first, and Roger always put his family first. He always talked about them. They were very important to him. That was the most important thing in his life.

I know when we would talk, you know, because our offices bordered one another, always talking about his wife and his family and his children, and those were the biggest joys of his life. And that's something that as members, you know, we shouldn't forget. Sometimes you'll get wrapped up into the House business here, but . . . You know it's been happening, you know, with this year and last year. It really strikes home that we've lost just recently two very close family members. I just want to express my condolences and sympathy to the family of Roger, and I miss him and still miss him.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Lawrence: — Well I'm glad the House Leader got up and spoke first because it made me smile. So hopefully this is a little easier to enter in the condolence motions. Maybe not.

I didn't know Roger before the 2000 election. And actually the first day I met him was when we sat down and were doing our training on the first day. And it was a big room. There was lots of us in there and all the new folks. And we're kind of sitting around and getting to know everybody. It was a little scary. And we made it through. And then Roger and I ended up with offices across from each other and we talked.

But Roger and I didn't talk about work a whole bunch. I knew he had a riding like mine. It was hard-fought to win; it was close. But we talked about family. We talked about family. Both of us started having grandkids about the same time and we'd sit back at the back here and we'd compare notes. We'd be talking back and forth and we'd show each other pictures of our grandkids and we'd talk about how they were doing, whether they were up walking yet, whether they were teething.

It showed me what a man he was because family was important. His job was very important to him, but he did his job for his family to make . . .

[16:15]

I'm going to skip on to his love of golf. Roger, unlike me, was a little smaller of stature. And I've golfed with a few members on this side of the House, like the member from Walsh Acres, who's a fairly large lad and the former Roughrider, Minister of Sports, Culture and Recreation, and those two can hit that ball a ton. Roger, for a little guy, could hit that ball. And I golfed with both him and the member from Walsh Acres once. He could hit that ball as far as the member from Walsh Acres. And I'm like, "How do you do that? I'm like twice your size." And he said, "Well head down, knees bent, arms straight. Watch." And over and over and over again, I remember watching that ball. It was straight 99 per cent of the time, down . . . And it was amazing how he could generate so much power. And I'd try and hit it like him and my ball would go that way, and then it'd go that way.

And we talked about family when we played golf. Family. We became family. We became friends. We became more than just guys that worked together. We talked about his love for hunting. I love to hunt as well. I'm again, like golf, I wasn't quite the shot he was and he'd been hunting a little longer than me because he might have had a hair or two that was a little more grey than me. He'd been doing it a little while longer. But he talked about hunting and hunting from tree stands and doing it from a horse when he was a kid. And we talked about our Métis heritage. We talked about the difference in growing up because he was a little older than me, just the difference how we were treated.

One thing he liked talking about a lot was he had a cabin, and he worked on that cabin quite a bit. I have no idea how he organized his time to door knock and spend time with his kids and work on his house. I'd been to his house a few times and the yard work he did and the deck he built and his dogs and all the work he did on top of all his constituency work and the work he did for the province and then the work he did on his cabin. And it was like, when do you sleep and spend time with your family and his grandkids? And it was all, it was . . . He was literally a dynamo. That man just didn't quit and right up till the end, it was, it was shocking.

I remember him calling me and he was like, "Well I'm going to drive to Saskatoon." And I'm like, "You're what?" "I'm going to drive to Saskatoon." And I said, "You can't do that." And he said, "Yes." So I said, "Phone me when you get there." He didn't make it all the way. He had to pull over and stop and rest, but he drove to Saskatoon before he went into the hospital. It just showed me his strength of character, his heart, and most of all, his love for family. He didn't want to burden them to have to come down and drive him home. So he made it home and, you know, then he was gone.

And I just want to end with, he was a very good family man. That was the most important to him. Everything he did centred around that. So I also want to end my condolences to Sheila, his daughters, and his grandkids. And thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I too would like to add a few words to this tribute to Roger, and it'll be fairly quick. But he always wanted to get home to his family, and as soon as his duties were done in here, he did leave fairly quickly from the parking lot. He'd be the first one here in the morning, but he would leave fairly quick to see his family.

And the one day it was storming in Saskatchewan, and I knew he was going to be hitting the road before I did, and I gave him a call just to see how the roads were. And he was pulling into Saskatoon, and he was like, "It's not bad, other than, you know, there's that one hill right before the valley going into Blackstrap," he said. "There's a little hill before. Just slow down and you'll be okay." And sure enough, as I made my way back to Saskatoon, that was a terrible snowdrift, for whatever reason, over the one section. I knew exactly what he was referring to. And to this day, every time I travel back to Saskatoon, I think of Roger when I go over that little hill, and Sheila.

So with that, is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. I recognize the Premier.

Duane Weiman

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, the 1982 general election in the province of Saskatchewan was obviously quite historic because of the scale of the change that occurred on that late day in April in 1982. There had been, for some time, a consistent party in government over more than a decade that preceded that general election. And of course things changed, and it wasn't necessarily a close result in the end, Mr. Speaker.

And it has been noted by people more learned than I am in terms of political science, that there would be a number of constituencies in that election that no one would have believed would have changed parties. But, Mr. Speaker, the gentleman whom we next want to honour, who passed away on the 4th of September in 2015 at the age of 69, was someone who won one of those constituencies that would have thought to have been, you know, that word, "safe." That is a dangerous word for all of us to ever utter, but still others who observe, pundits would use the word. And I'm sure Saskatoon Fairview, especially after that decade, would have been considered one of those seats safe for the incumbent government.

Duane Weiman, however, he ran hard anyway, and obviously ran hard to win. I'm not sure if the nomination was contested or not prior to 1982. I wouldn't be surprised if it wasn't, just because the seat would have been thought to be very, very difficult for the party to win, the PC Party at the time. I'm sure they had a narrower focus. I'm sure they were focused on a certain number of seats to try to earn a majority government, to earn a win in the election, and Saskatoon Fairview, I would wager, was not on that list.

And so I often wonder about that. I mean we've had experiences, I guess here on a more contemporary basis, where I can actually talk to members who may or may not have really

truly believed that they would sit here one day. But I would bet, based on those discussions, I would wager that Duane didn't much care for what the pundits would have thought about his chances in Saskatoon Fairview. He had obviously sought a nomination, contested or otherwise, and he was going to be — together with his team and his family, with his family's support — about the business of trying to win in the way that we all try to win, try to earn the support of neighbours and friends and find a seat here in this Legislative Assembly.

And often when that happens, when someone is successful even with those, perhaps, those odds stacked against that person, often they are able to serve only one term, and that was the case for Duane. He only served in the Legislative Assembly from 1982 to 1986. But I have to believe this: again, and it's not borne of a direct discussion that I've had with Mr. Weiman or even his family, but I have to believe that when you would have worked that hard to win a constituency that was probably not considered to be prime ground for your electoral prospects, I have to believe that you relished every moment you got to be here.

And I do remember, again from my time period mostly as a summer student, I remember the members that sat on this side of the House at the time, but I don't have . . . I never had a direct relationship or even, I don't believe, a direct conversation with Duane who we honour here today. But he would have come every day to work. He would have probably remembered all of the people that told him he would never sit here, that what he was doing was impossible. But he ran anyway and ran earnestly, and then would have had the chance to serve and I think would have relished every moment.

It is, we are told, how he also met the obligations, the duties, and the desires of his faith. He was a devout Roman Catholic and a dedicated teacher prior to him running in politics. Apparently he told people as a teacher — and I've heard other teachers say this — that he felt he had the best job in the world. Christian ethics and English were among the subjects that he taught and had a passion for.

And I would note that in Duane's obituary, it was noted that he ". . . lived his life with a happy heart, touching everyone he met with his humour, wit, and caring." Would that be said about all of us, that we would live with a happy heart and that we would touch others around us.

And so today we also honour Duane who passed away, as I've noted, in September of 2015. Notwithstanding what may or may not have been told to him about his chances, his name is in that roll of members. He would have signed it that day and carried out his duties, I know, with industry and with honour. And so it is the right thing for us to do then to acknowledge that on this day of condolence and to make sure that his family understands how much value that we place, the current generation of MLAs place, in all who have served before us, in what Duane was prepared to do in the way of public service.

And so, Mr. Speaker, it is an honour for me to move this motion:

That this Assembly records with sorrow and regret the passing of a former member of this Assembly and

expresses its grateful appreciation of the contribution he made to his community, his constituency, and to the province.

Duane Weiman, who passed away on September 4, 2015 at the age of 69, was a Member of the Legislative Assembly from 1982 until 1986, representing the constituency of Saskatoon Fairview for the Progressive Conservative Party. During his time as a member of the Legislative Assembly, Mr. Weiman served as Legislative Secretary to the minister of Finance and the minister of Education.

Prior to being elected, Mr. Weiman was a teacher. After serving in the Legislative Assembly, Mr. Weiman returned to the Greater Saskatoon Catholic School Board as an educator and chaplain at Bishop James Mahoney and E.D. Feehan high schools. He was active in his parish and enjoyed travelling throughout Canada, the United States, Europe, and China.

Mr. Weiman is survived and sadly missed by his wife, Delores, and their two children, Kari and Paul, and their families.

In recording its own deep sense of loss and bereavement, this Assembly expresses its most sincere sympathy to members of the bereaved family.

The Speaker: — Take the motion as read. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for allowing me to enter into this condolence motion and to pay tribute and thanks and condolence with respect to Mr. Duane Weiman.

Duane is survived by his wife, Delores; his daughter, Kari; his son, Paul; and his four grandchildren.

Duane received his education degree from the University of Saskatchewan and spent decades as a teacher with the Saskatoon Catholic School Division. And it was his passion for education that led him into politics where he served as the MLA for Saskatoon Fairview from 1982 until 1986. Duane passionately advocated for more schools in his constituency, and in particular a high school which, at that time he said, was much needed in his constituency of Saskatoon Fairview. His passion for education called him back to the classroom, and he cited that as a motivating factor for why he chose not to run for re-election in 1986.

[16:30]

He was a softball coach. He was president of the Pacific Heights Brownies and Girl Guides, and he spent over 20 years on the boards of St. Mary's and Affinity Credit Union. Duane was active in his church, serving as Chair of the St. Mary's parish council and St. Peter the Apostle parish council. And he enjoyed escaping Saskatchewan winters in Arizona.

He is greatly missed by his friends and family and, on behalf of

the official opposition, we wish to extend our condolences to the them. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Deputy Premier.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to enter into the motion of condolence today to remember Duane Weiman. Duane was an MLA for Saskatoon Fairview from 1982 to 1986. The current member has asked me to put on record his condolences to the Weiman family.

He was born in Bruno. He was a teacher with the Saskatoon Catholic school system and made the statement publicly any number of times that he thought that teaching was the best job in the world.

He was a strong member, and he was elected in the 1982 Grant Devine sweep which took at that time all of the seats in Saskatoon. Interestingly he ran against Bob Mitchell in that election, who we also spoke about earlier today. Mr. Weiman didn't run again, and Mr. Mitchell handily won the seat the next time around. So Mr. Weiman would have the privilege of saying he was the only undefeated Conservative member for Saskatoon Fairview.

He was a caring man. He had an incredible sense of humour. I met him a few times during the early days of the Devine government. There was a lot of sharing between the constituencies, joint fundraising and such like. And he was someone that was always happy and upbeat, but clearly he missed teaching and wanting to go back to it.

He was a loving husband, a father, a grandfather; no doubt going to be missed by his family and the province that he dedicated his time to. So on behalf of the government MLAs, in particular the member for Saskatoon Fairview and myself, or the member that has got part of his seat now, I want to wish our deepest condolences and sympathy to the family and wish them all the best and thank them for the support that they gave to Duane Weiman during his time as an MLA.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to enter into this condolence motion. I did not have the pleasure of knowing Duane Weiman very well, but I wanted to express my condolences as the current sitting member for Saskatoon Fairview. I appreciate the words shared here today. Even though I did not know Duane very well, and even though he belonged to a different political party, I felt a sort of kinship toward him when I was preparing my condolences for today. I think knowing that we had served the same community feels like this close bond.

But Duane also worked as a teacher and chaplain at E.D. Feehan, where I attended high school. I looked back into my high school yearbooks and confirmed that he worked at E.D. Feehan until I was in grade 11. I would like to say that although I didn't spend a lot of time in the chaplain's office, I do remember him being a fine and caring man working to create a positive atmosphere in our school.

I would like to thank Duane for his service to the fine constituents in our area, both as an MLA and in his work with Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools. I would also like to thank Duane's wife, Delores, and his children, friends, and loved ones for their support over the years. It is an honour to be part of a great tradition of service, working for the good people of Fairview.

The Speaker: — 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. Brkich: — I'd like to move a motion of transmittal.

The Speaker: — Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

TRANSMITTAL MOTION

Hon. Mr. Brkich: — I move:

That notwithstanding rule 8(2) of the *Rules and Procedures of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan*, the Speaker, on behalf of the Legislative Assembly, transmit copies of the official records of the tributes to the bereaved families in memory of the deceased members.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 94 — *The Saskatchewan Advantage Grant for Education Savings (SAGES) Amendment Act, 2017*

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

Hon. Mr. Cox: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to move second reading of Bill No. 94, *The Saskatchewan Advantage Grant for Education Savings (SAGES) Amendment Act, 2017*.

Mr. Speaker, in the 2017-18 provincial budget, the government announced the suspension of SAGES [Saskatchewan advantage

grant for education savings] grant payments as of January 1st, 2018 as part of the province's plan to address its fiscal situation. Mr. Speaker, this bill will suspend SAGES grant payments for the eligible contributions made after December 31st, 2017; disable the accumulation of the \$250 per year carry-forward of unused SAGES grant room during the suspension period. It will also be retroactive and deemed to have come into force as of January 1st, 2018. In addition, Mr. Speaker, the SAGES regulations that allow subscribers and financial institutions up to three years to apply for SAGES grants will not be active during the suspension.

Due to the connection between the SAGES program and the federal government's Canada Education Savings Grant, some features of SAGES will remain in place to reduce disruption to the Canada education savings plan trustees and subscribers. The SAGES program will continue to function for subscribers with existing SAGES grants in their RESPs [registered education savings plan]. Mr. Speaker, these amendments will allow for simplified future program reactivation.

These amendments will not affect SAGES grants already paid out. That being noted, the SAGES grants already paid out must be managed and monitored to ensure they are being used for their intended purpose. Therefore the Ministry of Advanced Education will continue to pay annual administration costs of between 400,000 to 600,000 to the Canada education savings program to cover transactions that will continue during the suspension such as the education assistance payments. Beginning in 2018-19, anticipated annual savings to the program are projected to be approximately \$7.6 million. There will be an estimated one-time cost of \$60,000 in 2017-18 to implement changes related to the suspension of SAGES grant payments.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, trustees offering SAGES were consulted by the Advanced Education officials and by the Canada education savings program at an annual meeting on June 28th, 2017. A key objective for these amendments is to minimize disruption for trustees who have invested in the system changes to offer SAGES and allow for future SAGES reactivation to occur seamlessly. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to move second reading of this bill. Thank you.

The Speaker: — The minister has moved second reading of Bill No. 94. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to give initial comments on Bill 94, and I would point out to the people of Saskatchewan that this is further evidence of how the Saskatchewan Party government have mismanaged great opportunity that the people of Saskatchewan expected from this government and have been very, very disappointed with some of these cuts to education, not only to our children, Mr. Speaker, but to some of our young, aspiring students and more so to the universities. And the list goes on as to how this government has slashed budgets left, right, and centre. And, Mr. Speaker, this is not information that the Saskatchewan Party all of a sudden came into. Mr. Speaker, they knew this two or three years ago and yet they hid all this information from the people of Saskatchewan.

And I want to point out that Bill 94, in the '17-18 budget year, 2017-2018, the Saskatchewan Party announced that the Saskatchewan advantage grant for education savings would be suspended. And this is where obviously, Mr. Speaker, the program provided a grant that matched 10 per cent of the subscriber's or the parent's RESP contributions up to a maximum of \$250 per year.

Mr. Speaker, this government has made it harder for families to save for their children's education while at the same time, as I mentioned, they made massive cuts right across the board — 5 per cent from post-secondary institutions who are now faced with cutting services for students and increasing fees.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I want to take a quick quote from a press release of the government, and this is dated March 22nd, 2017. So, Mr. Speaker, I am directly quoting from the press release by the Saskatchewan Party government. And I quote:

“Our government's focus is on students,” Advanced Education Minister Bronwyn Eyre said. “We must ensure that they continue to have access to high quality, accessible education.”

Well, Mr. Speaker, this is the same minister that has made some very discouraging comments as to her view on how treaty education's impacting not only our students, but many of the people's perception of First Nations across this province. And this is an example, Mr. Speaker, how on one hand they promise to do better and then a scant six, seven months later, they are starting to cut programs. They are starting to eliminate the opportunities for people to learn more about each other's culture and language and traditions. And this is typical of the Sask Party, Mr. Speaker.

So once again I would tell the people of Saskatchewan, you need to expect more of this kind of cost-cutting that they'll be doing because quite frankly, Mr. Speaker, they hid all the bad news in the months before the election. And as soon as the election hit, Mr. Speaker, and they got their majority, then out comes the bad news. Out comes the bad news and this is exactly the kind of bad news that parents were not expecting.

And I would say, Mr. Speaker, that many middle-class families struggle to keep their kids in school. They obviously need to have these kinds of supports in place given the rising cost of food, the rising cost of power bills thanks to the Sask Party and, Mr. Speaker, all the taxes placed on everything from children's clothing to home insurance. This is another load for middle-class families to bear, and this is all thanks to the Sask Party's scandals, mismanagement, and waste.

So we have a lot more discussion and comments on Bill 94, so I move that we adjourn the debate on Bill 94, *The Saskatchewan Advantage Grant for Education Savings (SAGES) Amendment Act, 2017*.

The Speaker: — The member from Athabasca has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 94. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 95 — *The Miscellaneous Statutes Repeal and Amendment Act, 2017*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Deputy Premier.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to move second reading of *The Miscellaneous Statutes Repeal and Amendment Act, 2017*. This bill will repeal legislation that has become outdated or obsolete. Mr. Speaker, we find that certain pieces of legislation become obsolete as laws evolve, new legislation is introduced, and new government programs are implemented.

This bill will repeal these pieces of obsolete legislation, which fits with the government's ongoing commitment to ensuring that our province's laws remain modernized and up to date. Mr. Speaker, this bill is housekeeping in nature and the proposed repeal of these pieces of legislation will not have a substantive impact for stakeholders. For example, legislation such as *The Marriage Settlement Act*, *The Parents Maintenance Act*, and *The Trading Stamp Act* have been confirmed as being very outdated and obsolete. Some of these were even before I was in law school. Other legislation such as *The Income Tax Act* have been replaced by entirely new Acts.

Mr. Speaker, in preparing this bill, Justice officials have worked closely with officials from other ministries to confirm that their proposed repeal of legislation is suitable and will not have any impacts on stakeholders. Justice officials will continue to work with other ministries to identify any other and further pieces of legislation that may become suitable for repeal in the future.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to move second reading of *The Miscellaneous Statutes Repeal and Amendment Act, 2017*.

The Speaker: — The Deputy Premier has moved second reading of Bill No. 95. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion? I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to give initial comments again on Bill 95. This is obviously, as the Deputy Premier alluded to, the fact that some of the language in some of these bills is older than his locker here, Mr. Speaker. So there is indeed an opportunity and a need to update and modernize anything of that age, Mr. Speaker.

So I think it's important that on Bill No. 5, *An Act to repeal and amend miscellaneous Statutes and make consequential amendments to certain Statutes*, Mr. Speaker, this particular bill talks about legislation that repeals several Acts and, yes, there is housekeeping amendments on others. *The Child and Family Services Amendment Act, 2003* is repealed, and obviously, the same for *The Income Tax Act* and *The Penalties and Forfeitures Act*, Mr. Speaker, as a result of *The Child and Family Services Act* that was introduced to replace those previous Acts. There's also Acts that are going to be directly repealed like *The Closing-out Sales Act*, *The Community Bonds Act*, *The Home Energy Loans Act*.

[16:45]

And also, Mr. Speaker, a section of *The Forest Resources Management Amendment Act* has a section repealed related to public disclosure and the confidentiality requirements in the Act, something our office obviously will be looking into further. There is some housekeeping to clean up a section never proclaimed in *The Enforcement of Money Judgments Act, 2010*. There's a section in *The Power Corporation Amendment Act* that relates to recourse for payments owed.

Of great interest, Mr. Speaker, is the repeal of the Enterprise Saskatchewan bill. We know the government stopped funding Enterprise Saskatchewan in 2013. It took them four years to get over their embarrassment and hope that people forget about that particular failed venture, Mr. Speaker. We all know that this is the Premier's pet project, so it must be hard to see it go, certainly from his perspective.

But, Mr. Speaker, he's still appointing members to the board, despite having no staff, no website, and no mandate. And in 2007, Bruce Johnstone wrote for the *Leader-Post*, and I quote, "Enterprise Saskatchewan Premier-elect Brad Wall's vision of how to manage the province's economic development could be the biggest achievement of his administration, or it could be his biggest flop." Mr. Speaker, it's pretty clear where we landed on this one. And we can thank the outgoing Premier for that very early mistake. And this bill, of course, tries to sweep the memory of people of Saskatchewan of the failed Enterprise Saskatchewan effort, and we will certainly have a lot more comments as it regards to this particular bill.

So on that note, Mr. Speaker, again most of the amendments are just minor and housekeeping in nature, but the two or three points that I raised earlier we do want to spend some time on that. So on that note, I move that we adjourn debate on Bill 95.

The Speaker: — The member from Athabasca has moved adjourned debate on Bill No. 95. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 96 — *The Choice of Court Agreements (Hague Convention Implementation) Act*
Loi sur les accords d'élection de for (mise en œuvre de la Convention de La Haye)

The Speaker: — I recognize the Deputy Premier.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to move second reading of *The Choice of Court Agreements (Hague Convention Implementation) Act*.

This proposed uniform bill provides for the implementation of the Hague Convention on Choice of Court Agreements. This convention establishes rules for parties to an international contract from participating nations to choose the court jurisdiction where disputes under the contract are to be determined. Mr. Speaker, supporting choice of court provisions in international contracts will help prevent litigation in multiple jurisdictions where a dispute arises in an international contract.

The key provisions of the Hague Convention are as follows:

Firstly, a choice of court agreement must be respected by the courts of a contracting state unless the contract in dispute is null and void under the laws of that contracting state. That is article no. 5.

Secondly, any court not chosen must decline to hear the case or suspend or dismiss proceedings unless limited exceptions apply, which is found in article 6.

Thirdly, any judgment made by a designated court must be recognized and enforced in other contracting states except in very limited circumstances, which is found in articles 8 and 9.

Fourthly, the parties to the contract retain contractual freedom regarding the application of the convention to their contract. The Government of Ontario has introduced similar implementation legislation and the federal government is recommending the passage of implementing legislation by the provinces to facilitate Canada's accession to the convention.

Mr. Speaker, the Hague Convention aims to save time and expense both at the outset of proceedings, when jurisdictional disputes commonly arise, and after a judgment is given, when parties seek to enforce a judgment abroad.

As an exporting province, increased certainty in what court will be chosen to determine disputes between parties to an international contract will be of significant benefit to the Saskatchewan business community.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to move second reading of *The Choice of Court Agreements (Hague Convention Implementation) Act*.

The Speaker: — The Deputy Premier has moved second reading of Bill No. 96. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Obviously as the minister has certainly alluded to in his opening comments, this particular bill makes the Hague Convention of June 2005 on Choice of Court Agreements law in Saskatchewan.

So what the Hague Convention on Choice of Court Agreements was designed for, Mr. Speaker, was to offer greater certainty for those involved in business contracts in international litigation. These rules relate to the jurisdiction agreement in civil and commercial matters and recognize the judgment given by a court of a contracting state designated in the choice of a court agreement. Ontario has a similar law from March of 2017.

And quite frankly, Mr. Speaker, what this particular bill and the choice of court agreement really dictates how parties from, say for example, Saskatchewan, if they enter into agreement with a country like Germany, some business person or some company decided to go into these particular agreements and form different companies and joint venture opportunities, there's always a place and time that we talk about which courts would be recognized if there was a case where a disagreement occurred or there was a lawsuit, a potential lawsuit. How would

this business move forward and which court they would recognize and choose as to how they would mitigate some of their concerns, or certainly if there was a matter where there was a lawsuit involved or the partners wanted to go separate ways.

We have to make sure that in these ventures that companies have that opportunity to determine which court, which jurisdiction that they would go to in the event that their company got into some kind of legal trouble or they wanted to break up their partnership. Which court would you go to? Would you go to the Saskatchewan court? Would you go to the Canadian court? Would you go to that country's court? This bill obviously is designed to try and figure out which choice of court that would be identified through these agreements, in agreement with the two parties, Mr. Speaker.

And that's something that's new obviously to Saskatchewan. As I said at the outset, Ontario has a similar law from this past spring. And this is something that we have to certainly pay a lot of attention to because, Mr. Speaker, it's something that we obviously want, Saskatchewan people to succeed. And part of our success is that we open up markets; we open up new opportunities. And that not only goes within the country of Canada but also goes to North America and also goes right across the world because, as we all know, the world is certainly a much smaller place when you talk about international trade, and a lot of international trade talks about partnership.

So it's important to determine these rules off the start, to tell the parties that you must both agree to which court that you wish to go in the event that you have a dispute in your business relationship. Which court will you recognize? As the example I used, is it the German court, or is it the Canadian court? Is there some overlying Saskatchewan court that would be of an appeal to both parties? These are the questions the bill would hopefully answer. This has a lot of international law and certainly international agreements that will come into effect, so this has a lot of repercussions, Mr. Speaker.

And I would certainly bring reference to the fact that as we move down this path, be very, very careful. Because if you look at NAFTA [North American Free Trade Agreement] and how President Trump wants to redesign NAFTA, Mr. Speaker, we do have a court. It's called the World Trade Organization, in which we have these processes where we can appeal certain trade laws that are being contravened by the US [United States]. Well, Mr. Speaker, that process takes a long time. So we hope that these bills do not mimic what's going on with NAFTA and President Trump because obviously it's hurting our economy, especially the export market communities such as Saskatchewan.

So we've got to be very, very careful, Mr. Speaker, that when we sign these kind of agreements and talk about a court process, that it's well defined, well understood, agreed to from the outset. And, Mr. Speaker, we hope it's not onerous like the World Trade Organization when they'd hear Canada's appeal when countries such as the US try and place unfair penalties against our trade as a country.

So I think it's important that we pay very close attention to this bill. So on that note, I move that we adjourn debate on Bill 96,

The Choice of Court Agreements (Hague Convention Implementation) Act of 2017.

The Speaker: — The member from Athabasca has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 96. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 97 — *The Arbitration (Family Dispute Resolution) Amendment Act, 2017*

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to . . .

The Speaker: — I recognize the Deputy Premier.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — I'll start again, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to move second reading of *The Arbitration (Family Dispute Resolution) Amendment Act, 2017*. This bill accompanies the bilingual *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Family Dispute Resolution) Amendment Act, 2017* to make amendments to this English-only bill.

Mr. Speaker, arbitration may be a viable option for the resolution of some family disputes. However the current Act does not expressly permit arbitration in family disputes, nor does it include revisions to facilitate arbitration in family disputes.

In order to offer arbitration as a possible avenue for resolution, the bill establishes a framework for the arbitration of family disputes. The bill defines family arbitrator to ensure that any individual acting as an arbitrator in a family dispute has experience not just with arbitration but specifically in the family law realm.

The bill expressly considers how an arbitrated award will be varied or updated when there has been a change in circumstances and includes appeal provisions. Where these new provisions do not address a specific issue, the general arbitration revisions in the Act will apply.

Mr. Speaker, I move second reading of *The Arbitration (Family Dispute Resolution) Amendment Act, 2017*.

The Speaker: — The Deputy Premier has moved second reading of Bill No. 97. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Again Bill 97, as the minister explained, the arbitration amendment Act, 2017, what it does, Mr. Speaker, it sets out a definition for a family arbitrator to deal with a family law dispute. It's very important that people understand the definition of arbitrator and arbitration agreement remain the same. And there's section that is added that allows for arbitration on family disputes.

Now, Mr. Speaker, a family dispute can involve parts of *The Children's Law Act*, *The Family Maintenance Act*, *The Family Property Act*, or the *Divorce Act*. There's a trend to divert human disputes to arbitration, which can be a more beneficial

process to those involved. We will have some questions about the access to arbitrators and arbitration, and we'll certainly have some questions to the minister about the implementation of this process at committee.

Now, Mr. Speaker, obviously one of the things we want to point out is that if there are ways and means in which the government can help and assist and to cushion the blow in the event that there is a family dispute or there is a family law dispute, Mr. Speaker, it's important that we understand that this is a very traumatic time for not only the couple, but certainly if there's children involved, this can become a very difficult time in their lives. So it's important to be able to put processes into place in which, Mr. Speaker, that there's perhaps a more timely option for people to go through an arbitrator, as opposed to courts, to provide some solution. And perhaps, Mr. Speaker, that process could provide a lot of the legwork necessary to make the court proceedings a lot less traumatic and long. Mr. Speaker, I might add, this may be obviously a benefit to families, and we have to determine that, and the best way to determine that is to study this very well, look at it very closely, and ask the questions of the minister at the appropriate committee stage because I'm certain many of my colleagues will have a lot of questions on this.

The only point I would point out, Mr. Speaker, is we need to talk about the social services aspect as it pertains to children and custody of those children. Although it may be in a different Act, this certainly has some impact on this Act. So we need to have those discussions and see how it could certainly . . . how it could be connected as well.

So again, we're very pleased to have the information on Bill 97. We have a lot of questions on this matter. So on that note, I move that we adjourn debate on Bill No. 97, the arbitration amendment Act, 2017.

The Speaker: — The member from Athabasca has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 98. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

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

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