



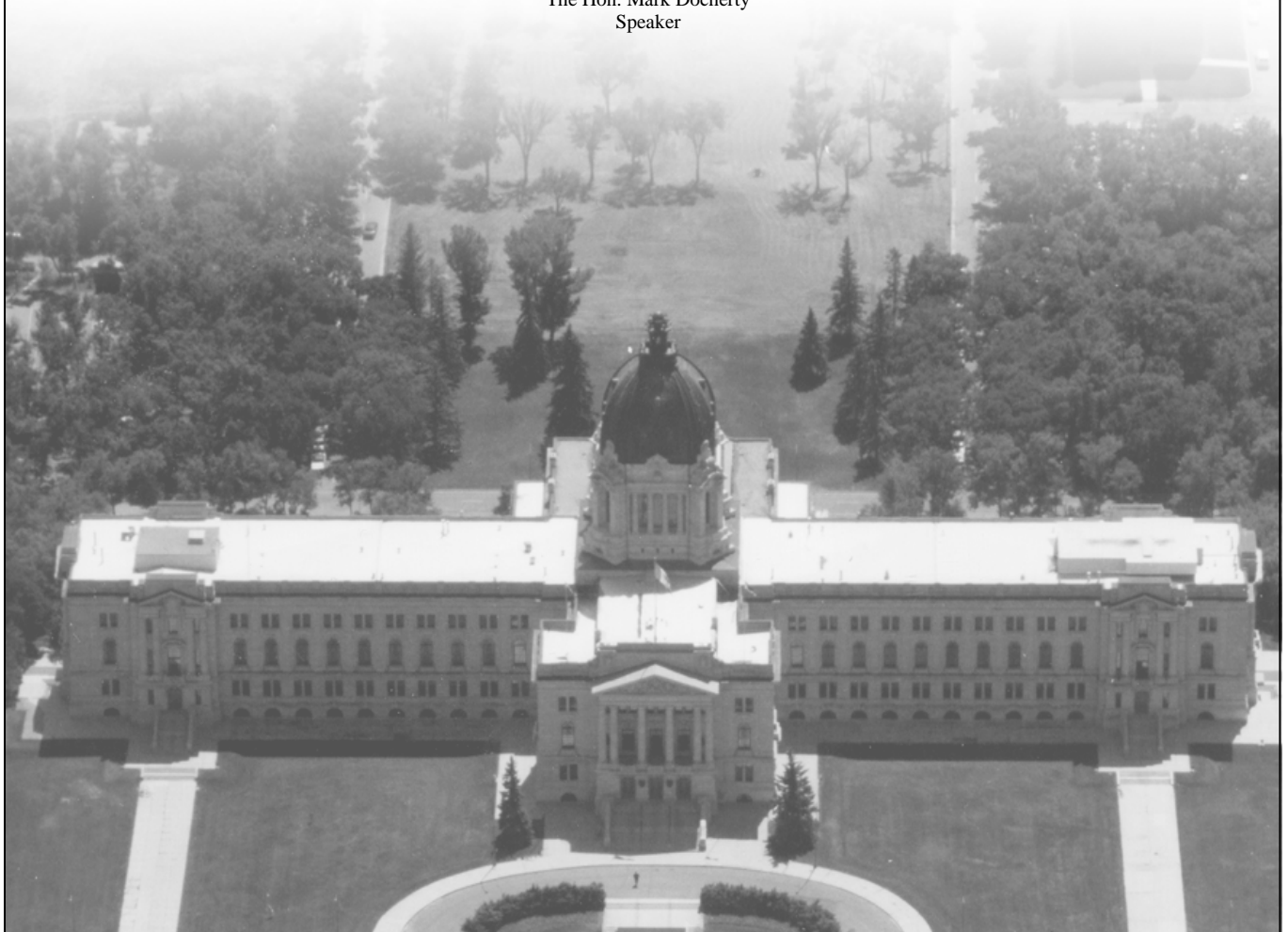
SECOND SESSION - TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

(HANSARD)
Published under the
authority of
The Hon. Mark Docherty
Speaker



MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN
2nd Session — 28th Legislature

Speaker — Hon. Mark Docherty
Premier — Hon. Scott Moe
Leader of the Opposition — Ryan Meili

Beaudry-Mellor , Hon. Tina — Regina University (SP)	Lawrence , Greg — Moose Jaw Wakamow (SP)
Beck , Carla — Regina Lakeview (NDP)	Makowsky , Hon. Gene — Regina Gardiner Park (SP)
Belanger , Buckley — Athabasca (NDP)	Marit , Hon. David — Wood River (SP)
Bonk , Steven — Moosomin (SP)	McCall , Warren — Regina Elphinstone-Centre (NDP)
Bradshaw , Fred — Carrot River Valley (SP)	McMorris , Don — Indian Head-Milestone (SP)
Brkich , Hon. Greg — Arm River (SP)	Meili , Ryan — Saskatoon Meewasin (NDP)
Buckingham , David — Saskatoon Westview (SP)	Merriman , Hon. Paul — Saskatoon Silverspring-Sutherland (SP)
Carr , Lori — Estevan (SP)	Michelson , Warren — Moose Jaw North (SP)
Chartier , Danielle — Saskatoon Riversdale (NDP)	Moe , Hon. Scott — Rosthern-Shellbrook (SP)
Cheveldayoff , Hon. Ken — Saskatoon Willowgrove (SP)	Morgan , Hon. Don — Saskatoon Southeast (SP)
Cox , Herb — The Battlefords (SP)	Mowat , Vicki — Saskatoon Fairview (NDP)
D'Autremont , Dan — Cannington (SP)	Nerlien , Hugh — Kelvington-Wadena (SP)
Dennis , Terry — Canora-Pelly (SP)	Olauson , Eric — Saskatoon University (SP)
Docherty , Hon. Mark — Regina Coronation Park (SP)	Ottenbreit , Hon. Greg — Yorkton (SP)
Doke , Larry — Cut Knife-Turtleford (SP)	Rancourt , Nicole — Prince Albert Northcote (NDP)
Duncan , Hon. Dustin — Weyburn-Big Muddy (SP)	Reiter , Hon. Jim — Rosetown-Elrose (SP)
Eyre , Hon. Bronwyn — Saskatoon Stonebridge-Dakota (SP)	Ross , Laura — Regina Rochdale (SP)
Fiaz , Muhammad — Regina Pasqua (SP)	Sarauer , Nicole — Regina Douglas Park (NDP)
Forbes , David — Saskatoon Centre (NDP)	Sproule , Cathy — Saskatoon Nutana (NDP)
Francis , Ken — Kindersley (SP)	Steele , Doug — Cypress Hills (SP)
Goudy , Todd — Melfort (SP)	Steinley , Warren — Regina Walsh Acres (SP)
Hargrave , Hon. Joe — Prince Albert Carlton (SP)	Stewart , Hon. Lyle — Lumsden-Morse (SP)
Harpauer , Hon. Donna — Humboldt-Watrous (SP)	Tell , Hon. Christine — Regina Wascana Plains (SP)
Harrison , Hon. Jeremy — Meadow Lake (SP)	Tochor , Corey — Saskatoon Eastview (SP)
Hart , Glen — Last Mountain-Touchwood (SP)	Vermette , Doyle — Cumberland (NDP)
Heppner , Nancy — Martensville-Warman (SP)	Weekes , Randy — Biggar-Sask Valley (SP)
Hindley , Everett — Swift Current (SP)	Wilson , Hon. Nadine — Saskatchewan Rivers (SP)
Kaeding , Hon. Warren — Melville-Saltcoats (SP)	Wotherspoon , Trent — Regina Rosemont (NDP)
Kirsch , Delbert — Batoche (SP)	Wyant , Hon. Gordon — Saskatoon Northwest (SP)
Lambert , Lisa — Saskatoon Churchill-Wildwood (SP)	Young , Colleen — Lloydminster (SP)

Vacant — Regina Northeast

Party Standings: Saskatchewan Party (SP) — 48; New Democratic Party (NDP) — 12; Vacant — 1

Clerks-at-the-Table

Clerk — Gregory A. Putz

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

Principal Clerk — Iris Lang

Clerk Assistant — Kathy Burianyak

Sergeant-at-Arms — Terry Quinn

Hansard on the Internet

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

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

[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, I have a few guests down here . . . I say down here, from the constituency of Rosthern-Shellbrook, from various communities across the constituency.

I have Bevra Fee, who is the managing director of the Northern Lakes Economic Development Corporation from the community of Spiritwood, lives out at Fur Lake near Shell Lake, Mr. Speaker. With her I have Terry Wingerter, the owner and manager of TNK Trucking Ltd., also of Spiritwood. And we have Darin Stene, the general manager of Triple S Transport from the community of Shellbrook. He's the general manager. I think the owner is his wife, Tina, who works alongside him, or Darin works for her, in that company in the community where I reside.

So, Mr. Speaker, to you and through you, I ask all members of this Assembly to welcome these three individuals to their Assembly.

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

Mr. Steele: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a couple of guests in your gallery I'd like to introduce. We have the reeve of the RM [rural municipality] of Enterprise, Wayne Freitag, and a councillor, William Gergely from the RM of Enterprise. I'd like to welcome you to the legislature. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Swift Current.

Mr. Hindley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all members of the Legislative Assembly here today, I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome some guests seated in the west gallery. We've got a group there from my hometown of Swift Current. It's the Maverick School class there. We've got eight grade 10 to 12 students, part of the social studies 30 class. They are joined today by their teacher, Mr. Scott Hunter, and their educational assistant, Krista Erickson.

I had a chance earlier today, Mr. Speaker, to meet with the group, and Mr. Hunter informed me that they had some questions prepared, and there were no softball questions there either. And they stayed true to that. They had questions, great questions, for me and I was hoping that I was able to answer them to the best of my abilities. So I just hope the group has had a great visit here today, and I'd ask all members to welcome the class from Maverick School to their Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cannington.

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to the Assembly, I would like to introduce nine

grade 11 and 12 students from the Arcola School. They are the law 30 class, and accompanying them today is their teacher Ron Wardrope and chaperone Jackie Hughes. And I look forward to meeting them later for photographs and a discussion. So I ask everyone to welcome them here today . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . And there will be no ice cream as it's not necessarily good for all. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my pleasure to welcome three guests to your gallery, long-time friends and important people in this city. I will be delivering a member's statement soon, but I wanted to single out for introduction the publisher of the *Prairie Dog*, Terry Morash; the editor, Stephen Whitworth; and long-time supporter, probably plays a lot of roles, Ms. Tammi Morash. I welcome each of you, and I ask all members to join me in welcoming these special guests to your gallery.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thanks, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present petitions on behalf of concerned citizens as it relates to the cuts to post-secondary education. The prayer reads as follows:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Government of Saskatchewan immediately restore funding to Saskatchewan's post-secondary institutions and stop the damaging cuts to our students.

These petitions are signed by concerned residents from Moose Jaw and Humboldt. I so submit.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Regina Pasqua.

Mr. Fiaz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to rise today to present a petition from citizens who are opposed to the federal government's decisions to impose a carbon tax on the province of Saskatchewan.

I do 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 the province.

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by citizens of Fillmore and citizens of Regina. I do so present.

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

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, I rise to present a petition calling on the government to stop the cuts to our kids' classrooms. Those who signed this petition wish to draw our attention to the following: to the fact that the Sask Party has cut at least \$674 in

government funding for each student across the province; that the Sask Party hiked education property taxes by 67 million, while at the same time cutting \$54 million from our classrooms. And, Mr. Speaker, of course this has had dramatic and detrimental effects to classrooms all across this province, has meant such things as loss of classroom supports, funding for buses for kindergarten children, and programs to help children with special needs.

I'll read the prayer:

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

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

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to raise a petition today to get big money out of Saskatchewan politics. We know that in Saskatchewan we have an outdated election Act that allows corporations, unions, and individuals, even those from outside the province, to make unlimited donations to our province's political parties. And we know that the people of Saskatchewan deserve to live in a fair province where all voices are equal and money can't influence politics.

We know, Mr. Speaker, that over the past 10 years the Saskatchewan Party has received \$12.61 million in corporate donations and of that, 2.87 million come from companies outside this province. And we know that Saskatchewan politics should belong to Saskatchewan people, and that the federal government, the provinces of Alberta, Manitoba, Quebec, and Nova Scotia, and even BC [British Columbia] now have moved to limit this influence and level the playing field by banning corporate and union donations to political parties.

Mr. Speaker, I'd read the prayer now:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Government of Saskatchewan call on the Saskatchewan Party to overhaul Saskatchewan's 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.

Mr. Speaker, the people signing this petition come from Regina. I do so present. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present a petition calling for a seniors' advocate to be established in the province of Saskatchewan. The petitioners point out a number of things, but certainly they talk about the beneficial effect that the senior advocate has had in several other provinces throughout the Dominion of Canada. And they point out that the advocate successfully works with seniors to

ensure that the supports that are needed and deserved by seniors are there and able to be drawn upon.

So in the prayer that follows, Mr. Speaker:

The petitioners respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Sask Party government to immediately appoint a seniors' advocate to ensure the rights of seniors are upheld and that all seniors across the province have the supports they need and deserve.

Mr. Speaker, this particular petition is signed by citizens in the good city of Saskatoon. I so present.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Prairie Dog Celebrates Its 25th Anniversary

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last month *Prairie Dog* turned 25. Since its arrival on Groundhog Day in 1993, the Queen City's feisty, free paper has informed and amused and occasionally even enraged Regina with its unique take on news, politics, arts, and entertainment stories of the day.

To last 25 years as an independent newspaper, especially in this era of layoffs, bankruptcies, and shutdowns, really is a rare achievement. *Prairie Dog's* longevity is a credit to the dedication and spirit of the paper's staff, contributors, volunteers past and present. Thanks to them and this little newspaper that could, it's still around today making city life a little more interesting.

Mr. Speaker, the *Prairie Dog* is also a worker co-operative. Thanks to its democratic ownership model, the *Dog* has been able to avoid the pitfalls faced by media monopolies. While Canada's corporate news giants struggle, the *Prairie Dog* survives. In 1999 the paper more than doubled its frequency, going from monthly to biweekly, and in 2003 *Prairie Dog* expanded into Saskatoon with a sister newspaper, *Planet S*, which thrives to this day.

For a quarter century through good times, bad times, booms, and busts, *Prairie Dog* has been here to tell Saskatchewan stories with its one-of-a-kind voice. In a time when truth and facts have somehow become alternative, I invite all members to celebrate this original, made-in-Saskatchewan newspaper. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Thank you to Stephen and Terry and Tammi for joining us today. I want to have a shout out to Mitch Diamantopoulos and April Bourgeois who were there in the beginning. And to the *Dog*, here's to the next 25 years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Canada 150 Medal and Senate 150th Anniversary Medal Recipients

Mr. Nerlien: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to have

the opportunity to stand today and talk about some of my constituents that received the Senate 150th Anniversary Medal. This medal celebrates the 150th anniversary of the Senate's first sitting. They were awarded to Canadians or permanent residents who have been actively involved in their communities through their generosity, dedication, volunteerism, and hard work.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to say that two of my constituents and a local business were awarded the 150th Anniversary Medal. The recipients were former MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] for Kelvington-Wadena, June Draude, for her work with children, high-risk individuals, and people with disabilities; Major General Wayne Eyre, who served his country with the Canadian Armed Forces and continues to mentor recruits and serve veterans in need; and the *Wadena News*, which has kept people informed and connected for more than a century. Publisher Alison Squires and former co-owner Marge Headington accepted this award.

I would also like to mention that Harvey Weber from my constituency was awarded with the Canada 150 Medal for his contribution to teaching, coaching, and volunteering with youth. This medal was presented by Randy Hoback, MP [Member of Parliament] for Prince Albert.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate all the award recipients and thank them for all the work they have done to make our communities the best places to live. Thank you.

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

Nutrition Month and Dietitians Day

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today in recognition of Nutrition Month. The Nutrition Month 2018 public campaign is dedicated to Unlock the Potential of Food. Dietitians help Canadians realize the potential of food to fuel, discover, prevent, heal, and bring us together. They believe in the power of food to enhance lives and improve health.

[13:45]

March 14th is also recognized as Dietitians Day in Canada. It spotlights the profession and reminds us that dietitians are the trusted choice for reliable life-changing food and nutrition advice. Today we celebrate dietitians as regulated health care professionals committed to using their specialized knowledge and skills to translate the science of nutrition into terms everyone can understand to support healthy living for all Canadians.

For many people, it's a lot more complicated than just eating more fruits and veggies. Registered dietitians have the specialized knowledge and training to help ensure people with complex conditions like diabetes, celiac disease, and kidney disorders get all the vitamins and nutrients they need. Registered dietitians also have important knowledge to share with people who have specialized diets for health, religious, or moral reasons.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in recognizing national Nutrition Month and thanking all of our

province's registered dietitians for the work they do to help build a healthier Saskatchewan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Moose Jaw North.

Moose Jaw Women Honoured at Awards Event

Mr. Michelson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate the influential women that were honoured at the PRISM [perseverance, role model, influential, successful, mentor] Awards in Moose Jaw earlier this month. The recipients were recognized for their efforts in business, highlighting their accomplishments and their contributions to the community.

Mr. Speaker, seven women were honoured in a variety of categories. Laura Hamilton was the recipient of the Perseverance Award, and Maryse Carmichael was given the Role Model Award. Carla O'Reilly was recognized in the Influential category, and Johanne Spencer was given the award for Mentorship. Rebeca Johnstone won the Successful Award, and the Lifetime Achievement went to Geri Hall. Mr. Speaker, all were very humbled at this recognition and were thankful for the collaboration and support from their fellow colleagues throughout their careers.

On a special note, Mr. Speaker, Olivia Arndt, the winner of the Youth Achievement Award, had suffered a stroke when she was only seven years old. Ever since, she has done everything she can to overcome setbacks and persevere through hardships so that she can live her best potential.

This event gave a great sense of collaboration and community, bringing women in business together to celebrate and to pave the way for younger generations. Thank you to the organizers of this event for the very memorable evening. Mr. Speaker, I now ask all members to please join me in congratulating the 2018 PRISM Award winners in Moose Jaw. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Regina Pasqua.

Young Athlete Achieves Remarkable Success

Mr. Fiaz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to acknowledge here today a young constituent of mine who has achieved some remarkable success in her young athletic career: Jordan Kos. At just 17 years old, Jordan is the youngest national team member from Saskatchewan for lawn bowling. Jordan has been playing the sport since she was seven and has been working hard over the past 10 years to continually improve and compete on bigger stages.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to her success across the provincial and national tournaments, lawn bowling has taken Jordan all across the world. She has represented Saskatchewan and Canada in tournaments in Australia, England, China, and in United States, and she has plans to compete in more major competitions in Australia and New Zealand. Mr. Speaker, Jordan's success has even transcended her own sport; she has also been nominated for the Saskatchewan Sport Awards 2017 Youth Female Athlete of the Year.

This year, the 2018 national championship will be held at Jordan's home club, the Regina Lawn Bowling Club. I hope members of this Assembly can attend to support some of our provincial top athletes. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of this entire Assembly, I want to congratulate Jordan on all her success and wish her the best moving forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Lloydminster.

Rural Municipality and Towns Combine Fire Services

Ms. Young: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan Municipal Awards were announced late last year, and I am proud to say that the RM of Wilton, town of Lashburn, and town of Marshall in my constituency were awarded the Regional Cooperation Award. This award was given for the towns' and RM's joint work with Legacy Protective Services, which provides new equipment to fight fires, train firefighters, and provide other emergency support and assistance in the event it is ever needed.

Mr. Speaker, this service is a combination of multiple fire service agreements in the area that in essence combines the fire services programs from these RMs and towns into one service. This allows the combined service to do a number of things, including building more efficient response time models, having a more consistent idea of available equipment and backup, and reducing red tape.

Ultimately the costs are spread over multiple areas, allowing high tech equipment purchases and training no one community could ever afford. Mr. Speaker, this service is an example of how governments at any level can save taxpayer money by reducing red tape and innovating.

On behalf of everyone in this Assembly, I'd like to congratulate the RM of Wilton, the town of Lashburn, the town of Marshall, and everyone involved with Legacy Regional Protective Services on all of their innovative work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Quinn Stevenson Memorial Rink

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, with spring fast approaching, people all over the province are trying to squeeze in as much time enjoying community rinks as they can. Residents of Erindale/Arbor Creek are no different, but their local rink has special meaning to the people of the community. Their local rink is the Quinn Stevenson Memorial Rink, named after Quinn Stevenson who tragically lost his life after his car was struck by a drunk driver in 2013.

Mr. Speaker, the roots for naming this rink began in 2014 when the Quinn Stevenson Memorial Spirit and Athletic Trust donated money to purchase and equip a mobile warm-up trailer for the rink. They wanted to be involved in this purchase as Quinn had spent many hours at the rink.

Then in 2015, Troy Carbo, a volunteer at the rink and friend of the Stevenson family, came up with the idea to name the rink in

Quinn's honour. Mr. Speaker, the renaming of the rink is a beautiful tribute to Quinn. I knew Quinn personally as a young man, so involved in sports and community activities. It is the perfect way to honour his memory.

On behalf of all members in this Assembly I would like to thank his parents, Bonny and Craig Stevenson, for all the work they do with the Quinn Stevenson Memorial Spirit and Athletic Trust, and all the volunteers who operate our community rink. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

QUESTION PERIOD

The Speaker: — All right, let's have a good and spirited debate today. I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Delays in Rail Transportation of Grain

Mr. Meili: — Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan is once again faced with a severe backlog of our province's grain, and we're growing more and more at risk of losing money that's essential to our local economy and causing ongoing stress and uncertainty for Saskatchewan farmers. It may not be billions and billions, Mr. Speaker, but these massive delays are keeping tens of thousands of bushels of grain stuck in our province, weeks behind on filled orders. Mr. Speaker, the last time there was a backlog of this magnitude it cost the Western Canadian economy almost \$8 billion and left millions of tonnes of grain undelivered for months.

I know the Premier shares my concern on this issue, Mr. Speaker. So my question to him is, can the Premier tell us what specific measures he's taking to pressure the federal government to clear the backlog and avoid future bottlenecks?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Absolutely, Mr. Speaker. And I thank the Leader of the Opposition for this question that is of dire importance to the economy of this province, and the question with respect to ensuring that we are able to get our products to port. And most particularly in this province, one of those most important products are our agricultural products — our grain, our canola oil, all of the products that come from the agricultural sector.

I raised this with the Prime Minister when he was in town last Friday. We talked about the potential, and I encouraged him that if CN [Canadian National] isn't able to come back with some volume-based deliveries that are acceptable to the industry, that he entertain the thought of passing an order in council mandating volume-based deliveries to the port, Mr. Speaker.

I also encouraged him to look at an order in council with respect to interswitching, so that if one transportation company is not going to move that product, that another one can actually come in on those tracks and retrieve the product and get it to market, Mr. Speaker. I also encouraged him to move as swiftly as possible with the passage through the Senate of Bill C-49, Mr. Speaker.

I've also engaged with the interim CEO [chief executive

officer] of CN, Mr. Speaker, on a phone call last week. And they have assured me that they will have their plan by March the 15th full with in excess of, I believe it was, 5,000 cars a week. And I mentioned to them under no uncertain terms that I would be encouraging the Prime Minister that, if they're not able to meet those delivery targets that are acceptable to the industry, that I will be encouraging the Prime Minister to pass these order in councils to ensure that we can get our product to port, Mr. Speaker. So I thank again the member opposite for the question of utmost importance to this province.

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

Funding for Special Dietary Needs

Mr. Meili: — Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party has made the laudable commitment to make Saskatchewan the very best place in Canada to live for those with disabilities. We share this commitment, Mr. Speaker, but unfortunately the government continues to fall short.

One significant step backwards occurred last summer, when the government announced changes to the special diet benefit. Every day as a doctor in my family practice, I filled out the forms for special diet funding. This small amount of extra money helped patients with chronic medical conditions like HIV [human immunodeficiency virus], diabetes, and heart disease to afford a little bit more nutritious food. It was nowhere near adequate and in fact needed to be raised, as 72 per cent of people living on social assistance in Saskatchewan are food-insecure. Instead it was cut, Mr. Speaker, forcing people with disabilities to choose between paying the rent, paying for medications, and paying for food.

So my question is, Mr. Speaker, does the Premier's commitment to making Saskatchewan the very best place in Canada to live for those with disabilities include a recognition that living well in Saskatchewan means being able to afford enough nutritious food to stay healthy?

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

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member for the question. The only change that we made to our programs, Mr. Speaker, was to make sure that it was a diagnose-based recommendation from the doctor, Mr. Speaker. We haven't changed any of our programs. We want to make sure that the right programs are going to the right people at the right time, Mr. Speaker.

And in regards to what we've done for people with disabilities in our province, I'm very proud of our record, Mr. Speaker. We have taken 112,000 people off the tax rolls. We increased child care spaces, Mr. Speaker. We have increased our programs for income assistance up \$287 million, Mr. Speaker. I'm very proud of the record that we've done for the people with disabilities and those on income assistance, Mr. Speaker. Is there more work to be done? Absolutely, Mr. Speaker. We look forward to working with our stakeholders to be able to get that work done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Meili: — Mr. Speaker, I'm reluctant to say so but that, I don't believe, is an adequate description of the changes that were made. We always required a diagnosis. What now has been done is an elimination of the top tier, the calorie-based funding, and a requirement for anybody who is suggested by a doctor to need that funding to go through the process of seeing a dietitian. And that's resulting in making this an inadequate system and a very complicated system for patients.

We have today in the gallery Charmaine Hart from Regina. She's a former federal government employee now on disability after two significant vehicle accidents. She's on SAID [Saskatchewan assured income for disability] and was diagnosed with a gluten sensitivity, and her doctor said she was eligible for a special diet. But those changes meant that she had to go see a dietitian, which took her two months. And then when she saw that dietitian, the dietitian said her needs are over \$200 but she was told she could only have \$150 a month.

This is one of thousands of stories across the province of patients who are being forced to navigate a more complicated and increasingly inadequate system. Mr. Speaker, will the Premier commit to raising special diet allowance and fixing this program so it's not difficult for patients to navigate and it's sufficient to cover their nutrition needs?

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

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you again, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member for the question. We want to make sure that first of all that the member opposite has a consent form to be able to bring up this specific case. I can't comment about any specific cases, Mr. Speaker, but what I can do, Mr. Speaker, is tell you about some of the programs that we have done within Social Services to be able to make sure that we meet our clients' needs.

If there is somebody particular that would like to meet after session, Mr. Speaker, I'd be more than happy to meet with that individual after question period to be able to discuss this, Mr. Speaker. But again, without the presence of a consent form, I can't talk about a specific case. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Meili: — Charmaine was good enough to join us today and she is here in the west gallery, and I'm sure she'd be happy to speak to you. What you failed to clarify however . . . Pardon me. Mr. Speaker, what the minister failed to clarify was that that process that he described isn't really how things work. It's not sufficient to have a diagnosis. We've always been required to provide a diagnosis for special diet funding. It's been inadequate for years, and now it's been made even less adequate and more complicated, more difficult for patients to assess.

[14:00]

And what I'm asking the Premier to commit to is to fixing this system, making sure that the patients who need that extra funding have enough to be able to afford food, and that it's not so complicated that it's causing them the great levels of stress that Charmaine has described.

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

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thanks again, Mr. Speaker, and what came out of what the Leader of the Opposition is specifically talking about came out about the SAID program, Mr. Speaker. That was a program that we created to be able to work with people with dietary needs, Mr. Speaker. We've looked at all of these.

What we're trying to do again, Mr. Speaker, is what I've said is, we're trying to direct our funds in the most efficient way in Social Services. We're trying to direct them to the individuals that need it in the time that they need it, Mr. Speaker. And again, if there's an individual that's in the Chamber today, Mr. Speaker, I'd be more than happy to talk with that person after, to be able to find out exactly what their case is. But right now, Mr. Speaker, I can't comment on that because I don't have all of the facts with me right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tariffs on Steel Exports to the United States

Ms. Mowat: — Yesterday, along with the Leader of the Opposition and caucus colleagues, I met with members of United Steelworkers Local 5890 from Evraz Steel here in Regina. As we're all aware, there are 1,400 good-paying jobs there, and Evraz is key to our province's economy. The threat of an end to tariff exemptions from the Trump administration is putting our economy and these jobs at risk.

We stand ready to continue to work with the workers, the company, the members opposite, and both levels of government. Can the minister responsible please update this House on what efforts are being made to protect Canada and the Evraz jobs here in Regina from American steel tariffs?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Export and Trade Development.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for the question from the opposition. We have been very engaged on this file. This is something that is obviously very, very important for those that are employed at Evraz. It's important for our economy in a general context. We were pleased that there was an exemption granted for Canada and Mexico with regard to the tariffs in the immediate term.

We need to continue to be engaged and will be engaged with our national government to ensure that in the course of the NAFTA [North American Free Trade Agreement] negotiations — which we understand that there's a connection with from the point of view of the administration on the tariff issue — that we continue to be engaged. We've had officials at all eight rounds of negotiations thus far. The ninth round of course will be happening soon in Washington, DC [District of Columbia]. We'll be represented as a province at that round as well.

But we will continue to be engaged. We know this is vitally important. We've raised this issue repeatedly with our counterparts at the national level and we are pleased to see that at least in the short to medium term that we won't be subject to

these tariffs which we believe are unjustified and unfair.

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

Investment in Prince Albert and Hospitals

Ms. Rancourt: — Mr. Speaker, for far too long the Sask Party forgot about the things that matter to Prince Albert. And I am proud to be here on behalf of the people of Prince Albert Northcote, but also all of Prince Albert, to remind them the people in my hometown want to keep our Crowns public. They want a new bridge over the North Saskatchewan River. And they want the provincial government to step up to the plate and fully fund a new hospital. Instead, all they've gotten from the Sask Party are broken promises, cuts to funding, and tax hikes.

Mr. Speaker, the Premier should be no stranger to the issues affecting the Prince Albert area. What's the Premier's plan to reverse his government's record of abandoning Prince Albert and instead make life better for the people of Prince Albert?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Crown Investments.

Hon. Mr. Hargrave: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member opposite for that question. As she knows, Mr. Speaker, Prince Albert is very near and dear to my heart because it is my home community.

This government is doing amazing things for Prince Albert, Mr. Speaker. The bridge, the current bridge, Mr. Speaker, we've invested over \$5 million in repairs to that bridge, Mr. Speaker, which I might remind the members opposite that they never spent a dime on repairs of the bridge. The city had to cover all of that, Mr. Speaker.

So, Mr. Speaker, and currently, Mr. Speaker, we had . . . Currently, Mr. Speaker, we've had the university, we've had experts in to analyze the current bridge, Mr. Speaker, and they've actually analyzed it. They've installed monitoring equipment, state-of-the-art monitoring equipment, Mr. Speaker, that will tell them if there is an issue with it. But they forecast that it's good for another 70 years, Mr. Speaker. That's what we've been doing with the current bridge, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Ms. Rancourt: — Lots of talk, Mr. Speaker, but no answers of what the Premier would do, and who represents the Prince Albert area, is going to do for the people of Prince Albert.

The Premier may have forgotten about the promises he made during the Sask Party leadership race, but he made them all the same. Allow me to remind him of one clear promise. He told the *Prince Albert Daily Herald* that when it came to a new hospital for Prince Albert, “. . . the provincial government would fund 100 per cent of that facility here in Prince Albert.” Mr. Speaker, when can the people of Prince Albert expect the Premier to deliver on that promise?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And I thank the member from Prince Albert Northcote, the current member from Prince Albert Northcote, for her question with respect to the major centre near the community where I live, Mr. Speaker, and the opportunity to speak about some of the investment over the last number of years that has come into that area and some of the engagement that has come into that area, Mr. Speaker, in ensuring that there's First Nations engagement in the forestry industry, Mr. Speaker. And I point to agreements with Agency Chiefs Tribal Council, with a number of First Nations in the area, Mr. Speaker, and some successful engagement in that great economic opportunity that continues to move forward.

Mr. Speaker, I would also point to the investment in twinning the highway between Saskatoon and Prince Albert, Mr. Speaker, opening up the community to the southern portion of the province, Mr. Speaker, and ensuring that that community is accessible and accessible in a safe manner, Mr. Speaker, as tourism is one of the major opportunities as we move forward to some of the lakes in the northern area.

We have great engagement with the businesses in that particular area, Mr. Speaker, and the surrounding area, Mr. Speaker, as well as the council, as the member from Prince Albert Carlton and myself and Sask Rivers and Batoche have met with the council a number of times, as long with the mayor, Mr. Speaker.

And she is correct that when our finances return to balance and we work our way through some of our capital infrastructure, Mr. Speaker, we will fund a hospital in Prince Albert. The understanding that it's a use to the North, Mr. Speaker, and the people that come from the North come there in a much more comfortable fashion so that they can get back to their home community, Mr. Speaker, and receive the services that they so rightfully deserve.

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

Ms. Rancourt: — Mr. Speaker, that question was pretty clear and precise, but there's lots of promises and big talk by the Premier. But the reality is, is this hospital is desperately needed and we need immediate action. Prince Albert residents deserve a timeline and they need a guarantee that the Premier will commit to this hospital. So when can the people of Prince Albert expect the Premier to deliver on this promise?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we've been very clear on this issue. Prince Albert, the new hospital to come, will be fully funded as financial conditions allow, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to the member's insinuation that somehow Prince Albert has been left out in Saskatchewan is just completely wrong, Mr. Speaker. Prince Albert, by the way, Mr. Speaker, does have outstanding representation on this side of the House, Mr. Speaker. That will continue.

Mr. Speaker, health care is a priority in this province. It's

benefited not only the rest of the province, but Prince Albert as well. We have 750 more doctors. We have 3,400 more nurses. We have hundreds more long-term care workers, Mr. Speaker. We're very proud of our record in health care, Mr. Speaker. It's a priority now. It will continue to be a priority. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Meili: — Mr. Speaker, we heard a very long reply to the member's question from the Premier, but we didn't hear an answer. We didn't hear anything about when that promise, that promise that he made in that very recent leadership race . . . That leadership race was to be the Premier. These were not for future considerations. This is a job that he was starting the day after that leadership race ended. When will we see an answer? When will the people of Prince Albert know when that hospital will be built? And will it continue to be built, as promised in that leadership race, with 100 per cent provincial funding?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Yes, Mr. Speaker. Yes, it will, Mr. Speaker, and it will be as finances allow.

Mr. Speaker, we have built, Mr. Speaker, under a Saskatchewan Party government, we have built 13 long-term care facilities across this province, Mr. Speaker. A number of them also have acute care facilities attached, one in the Prince Albert area . . . two in the Prince Albert area actually, one right in Prince Albert and one in the community of Shellbrook, just outside Prince Albert, the same health region, Mr. Speaker, as well as a number across the province.

I see a hospital built and open in Moose Jaw, which I also saw during the leadership campaign, Mr. Speaker. I see a children's hospital being built and coming on stream in the community of Saskatoon, and I see a Saskatchewan Hospital, Mr. Speaker. I see a Humboldt hospital that was promised, I think seven announcements actually, by the members opposite, was built by a Saskatchewan Party government, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we have additional work to do in a hospital in the community of Weyburn, Mr. Speaker. And when we get to a financial position to get ourselves through these capital infrastructure that we're committed to, Mr. Speaker, we will build the hospital in Prince Albert, and we will fund it 100 per cent because of its importance to northern communities, Mr. Speaker. It is an important piece of Saskatchewan infrastructure, and we will be there, Mr. Speaker, as soon as we're able.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Consultations Regarding Cannabis Distribution and Regulation

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, it was nearly three years ago that the federal Liberals formed government. Front and centre in their platform was a commitment to legalize and regulate cannabis. This wasn't a secret, so it shouldn't have come as a shock to the Sask Party. Still, it took way too long for the Sask Party to move on any kind of a plan. One point they have made

clear was, even though they will use SLGA [Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority] for licensing, they are refusing to follow what every other province is doing and use our Crown's extensive wholesale network.

Mr. Speaker, why did they take such a strong stance against this approach that would have not only strengthened one of our Crowns and made money, but would have improved public confidence as well?

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

Hon. Mr. Makowsky: — Mr. Speaker, I don't necessarily agree with the member opposite. The private sector can provide services in our province. I think they . . . in several other retail opportunities, they do a great job. And so, Mr. Speaker, I think this is a good plan that we have, Mr. Speaker. The members opposite definitely have an adversarial relationship I know with the private sector but, Mr. Speaker, I think that's an insult to say that the private sector can't handle that entity, Mr. Speaker.

I'll also point to our friends in Ontario, Mr. Speaker. They're using the public sector. They're spending . . . The LCBO [Liquor Control Board of Ontario] is the regulator, but also they're retailing and they're wholesaling . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Yes, I understand that. They spent \$650,000 on marketing for a government monopoly, Mr. Speaker. So that's the kind of expenditures we see out there from government monopolies, Mr. Speaker. We'll let the private sector, we'll let the market work here in Saskatchewan. That's the best use of SLGA's expertise. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I am having a difficult time hearing the answers, so if we could tone it down a little bit, both sides please. Thank you.

I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, it's clearly a day when the ministers don't seem to know their files. And I think the minister has forgotten that he's privatizing both the retail and the wholesale part of the cannabis business, and that's what the question was about — using the Crown corporation, Mr. Speaker. It was supported by Saskatchewan people in the Sask Party's very own survey, but the Sask Party and this minister are ignoring it altogether.

They also refuse to properly consult with municipalities and First Nations. Municipal and band leaders, Mr. Speaker, have a lot to consider as legalization approaches including drafting and passing very important bylaws. They will also be forced to take on many of the costs associated with it.

But far from being transparent about how they'll spend any money received from the sale of cannabis, the Sask Party aren't even including any revenues or expenses in the budget. Mr. Speaker, how can the minister justify showing so little respect to the leaders and communities across the province with so little consultation?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Deputy Premier.

[14:15]

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, we won't have another cabinet shuffle. But I do enjoy the wandering preambles from the members across the street. It makes it a lot of work over here to figure out who's going to answer the questions. But, Mr. Speaker, we always are ready to answer their questions that they ask on behalf of the good citizens of this province . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . And, Mr. Speaker, I always appreciate the rhetoric from the member for Saskatoon Centre, good soul that he is. I'm glad that he's putting things forward.

Mr. Speaker, I want people in this province to know that we spent a lot of time, did a lot of consultation, over 30,000 replies to the online questionnaire that was put forward. Mr. Speaker, we looked at that. We listened to that. We consulted with experts. We consulted with the study that was done at the University of Regina. We looked at what was taking place in other jurisdictions.

And we want to come up with a model that may not necessarily be the same as other provinces but that will work well and serve the province's people as effectively as it can and protect the safety and security of our young people, the safety and security of people that are on our roads. And, Mr. Speaker, we'll look forward to some support from the people across as we go through the process.

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

Global Transportation Hub

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party's mismanagement at the GTH [Global Transportation Hub] is costing Saskatchewan people more and more every day. The GTH's debt continues to grow and now the GTH can't even pay the interest on the debt it already owes. Every land acquisition at the GTH has ended up in court, costing taxpayers millions, except of course for the one where Sask Party-connected landowners made off with millions.

Although there's no civil case in that sale, we know that a criminal one is currently under investigation. So with millions of dollars already wasted, with all of those lawsuits, what is the Premier's plan to fix the GTH mess?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I'd be glad to go for a drive with the member opposite sometime in the next few days and drive through the GTH so she can have a look at the number of businesses that are there, the number of vehicles that come and go through that business each and every day, the number of semi-trailers that are backed up and unloaded at the Loblaw facility.

Mr. Speaker, we're pleased and proud of the number of jobs that exist in that facility and we're going to continue to work so that we've got consistent growth and that that facility continues to do what it's intended to do. It has rail access, Mr. Speaker. It has road access. And there are literally hundreds and hundreds of jobs that are in place there now and, Mr. Speaker, there will

be more jobs to come as more businesses move in. Mr. Speaker, this is a project that's necessary for the growth and economic development of our province, and we stand behind it and want to see it continue to prosper.

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

Mr. Steele: — Ask for leave to make an introduction.

The Speaker: — Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mr. Steele: — Through you and to you, Mr. Speaker, in your gallery I'd like to introduce some more councillors and reeves from the Southwest. They're in for the SARM [Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities] convention this week in Regina.

We have from the RM of Happyland the reeve, Tim Geiger. Give a wave there, Tim. Oh, that's a big one. Thanks, Tim. They're running a little late. Basil Dietrich. Basil. Tony Wagner. Oh, there you go. Late night. Darcy Ausmus. There he is. And also from the RM of Deer Forks we have Reeve Doug Smith — good one, Doug — and Russell Job. Welcome to your legislature.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 121 — *The Cannabis Control (Saskatchewan) Act*

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 121, *The Cannabis Control (Saskatchewan) Act* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 121, *The Cannabis Control (Saskatchewan) Act* 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?

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I have an overwhelming desire to say with leave, immediately, but I will say next sitting, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

Bill No. 122 — *The Cannabis Control (Saskatchewan) Consequential Amendments Act, 2018/Loi de 2018 corrélative de la loi intitulée The Cannabis Control (Saskatchewan) Act*

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 122, *The Cannabis Control (Saskatchewan) Consequential Amendments Act, 2018/Loi de 2018 corrélative de la loi intitulée The Cannabis Control (Saskatchewan) Act* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 122, *The Cannabis Control (Saskatchewan) Consequential Amendments Act, 2018* 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. Première lecture du projet de loi.

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

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

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

STATEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

Question of Privilege

The Speaker: — Yesterday, March 13th, 2018, the Opposition House Leader raised a question of privilege concerning comments made by the Minister of Highways and Infrastructure in this Assembly on December 7th, 2017.

The case of the Opposition House Leader is that the minister was aware of lawsuits against the Government of Saskatchewan resulting from land purchases for the Regina bypass project and the Global Transportation Hub, as well as details and specifics associated with the lawsuits. The minister is quoted as stating in response to a question that there were no lawsuits against the Government of Saskatchewan. The Opposition House Leader's charge is that the minister intentionally misled the Assembly and that constitutes contempt of the Legislative Assembly.

Subsequently at the beginning of routine proceedings yesterday, the minister addressed the charge by offering his apology to the Assembly for making an incorrect statement to the Assembly. The minister went on to state, and I quote:

... it never was or never is my intention to knowingly mislead any member of this House. I consider all my colleagues honourable members, and I assure you that I would never deliberately mislead this House in any way. I apologize unequivocally to all members of the Legislative Assembly.

I deferred ruling yesterday to carefully consider all matters related to the case including the minister's apology. I am now prepared to address the case.

With the apology, I don't believe there is any dispute over the facts of the matter. The question for the Speaker to decide is whether the apology, together with the explanation that there

was no intention to knowingly mislead the Assembly, is sufficient to end the case.

In the section “Proceedings against members” found on page 277 of *Erskine May Parliamentary Practice*, 24th edition, it states the following:

When a Member has made an acceptable apology for the offence, the critical motion has sometimes been withdrawn. In two instances, the House condemned the Member’s conduct as a breach of its privileges, but resolved that in consequence of the full and ample apology [the Member] had offered to the House, or that having regard to his withdrawal of the expressions complained of, it would not proceed any further in the matter.

Similarly, at page 267 of Maingot’s *Parliamentary Privilege in Canada*, Second Edition, in the section “Where a Member is the subject of a question of privilege” it is stated, “An apology by the offending Member will invariably close the matter without the necessity of putting the motion to a vote.” These are standards that have been applied in this Assembly on numerous occasions in the past.

More recently, on June 2, 2016, in consideration of a question of privilege involving the leak of budget information, Speaker Tochor cited House of Commons precedent to rule that an apology is not always sufficient to end a case. In his view, the apology made with respect to the budget leak was not sufficient and he allowed the case to proceed.

It is my belief that members come to this place with honourable intentions. When a mistake is made, the right thing to do is to apologize. There is no doubt that the consequence of a member’s action is an important consideration in determining questions of privilege. There might well be instances when an ample and genuine apology is not sufficient, but it is this Speaker’s general belief that the willingness of a member to make amends should be an important consideration in deciding cases.

It is my decision that the minister’s apology is sufficient reason this case need not proceed.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 77

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Harpauer that **Bill No. 77 — *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Superannuation Plans) Amendment Act, 2017*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I’m still

musings about things the Minister of Justice said in question period, and it sounded like he was asking me to go for a drive with him out to the GTH. I’ve been there several times so I don’t know if there’s anything there that he can show me, but if he wants to go for a drive, let’s do it. I think it would be a great opportunity to get to know him a little better and show him around the GTH, and show him all, I could show him all the land that was sold and then bought back by the GTH. I could show him the wide expanse of land that SaskPower bought they’re now trying to sell because they can’t use it anymore. It’s actually 140 acres, Mr. Speaker, and it’s two properties.

So I could certainly show the minister around, and I could show him what’s really happening out at the GTH. So I’d be happy to take him up on that opportunity.

However, what’s at hand right now of course, Mr. Speaker, is adjourned debates. And so I’m going to move into something a little more mundane, and that would be the bill before us, Bill No. 77, an Act to amend superannuation Acts. So if the minister needs to get to business here, I’ll move on to the superannuation Act.

At any rate, these bills that are before us, we have a few finance bills up today, and this again is efforts on parts of the ministry, and certainly the drafters at the Ministry of Justice, to bring forward some administrative changes that are needed to facilitate the efficiency of the various superannuation plans. In this case we’re talking about *The Liquor Board Superannuation Act*. And as you know, Mr. Speaker, superannuation plans have certainly been around this province for many, many years and, you know, even the term itself tells us that this is a bit of a dated plan because we don’t use the word “superannuation” hardly anymore. Now we call them pension plans.

But this bill is in relation to *The Liquor Board Superannuation Act* in particular. There’s two bills that are being amended, but the first one I’ll talk about is *The Liquor Board Superannuation Act*. And we know from the proud history of SLGA how important it is, to not only the people of Saskatchewan whom it serves very well, but also to the people that have the opportunities to build careers there. And the folks who have built a career at the SLGA and have had an opportunity to actually stay with it long enough to have the entitlement of a pension at the end of their work career, certainly kudos go out to them for good service.

And, I think, too often these days when we talk about service of the public, or public service, it’s almost seen as a dirty word by some people. And having been a public servant for 17 and a half years, it gave me no end of pride to say that I was in Her Majesty’s service. To me, it’s one of the noblest careers that you can seek. And unfortunately, I think the public service sometimes gets a bad rap these days, where there’s an assumption that people in the public service can’t get the job done. And we heard that even today from the Minister from Parks, Culture and Sport.

So it’s unfortunate that that attitude prevails in certain quarters when really the work that the public service do is very good and they’re very capable. And they’re very good at things like distribution and wholesaling, and certainly SLGA has demonstrated their ability to do that. And the people of

Saskatchewan wanted that and they trust the people of SLGA to do that, and yet we have a minister who just dismisses that and says it can't be done and that they're not capable.

So it's really unfortunate that that's the attitude that we see coming forward from this government at this point in time. Now the folks at the Liquor Board, it's now SLGA, but this was back when it was called *The Liquor Board Superannuation Act*. It actually, this was one of those old pension plans, and it's been closed to new members since 1977. So if my math is right, that's 40 years ago, Mr. Speaker. I was still in high school. And as of that time . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Graduated in '79. This was when the membership plan was closed, or the membership to the superannuation plan.

[14:30]

So as the minister informed us, there really now is only two active members still using that plan. And they've exceeded 35 years of service obviously, and they're eligible to retire. So the government decided in 2012 to engage and review the governance of both the Liquor Board and the public service superannuation plan because there's one for the public service as well. And because these closed plans, the membership is actively declining, and so there needs to be some adjustments made in terms of the administration and the work that's required in administering these pension plans.

So right now this particular plan, the Liquor Board superannuation plan, the only work that's required at this point in time is simply to pay the pensions. There's no more pension contributions coming in, and there hasn't been for many decades. So the review from the third party . . . And the minister didn't tell us who the third party was, but we know that they engaged a third party and the review was accepted by the former minister responsible for *The Liquor Board Superannuation Act*. Anyways, the key recommendation was to designate the minister as the sole member of the Liquor Board Superannuation Commission once the plan approached zero active members. And certainly as we get down to two, that's very close to zero active members.

Now the minister won't have to do this by himself or herself. Actually it will be supported by PEBA [Public Employees Benefits Agency], the public employees benefits organization. So they will continue to provide any necessary administrative services. So if we look specifically at the changes to *The Liquor Board Superannuation Act*, we can see that this is being done through section 3 of the current Act, which reads, it says:

This Act shall be administered by a commission to be known as The Liquor Board Superannuation Commission, which shall consist of three members to be appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council, one of whom shall be nominated as chairperson. One at least of the members shall be an employee and representative of the employees of the Liquor Board.

So as you can see, back in the day when employees were actively contributing, it was important that one of the members be an employee to ensure that the employees' needs were being met. Now that there are no more contributions coming in, the new Act, the suggestions being brought forward in Bill 77 read

as follows:

3(1) This Act shall be administered by a commission to be known as The Liquor Board Superannuation Commission.

And then it goes on to say:

(2) The minister is the sole member of the commission.

(3) The necessary salaries and expenses of administering this Act shall be a charge on and be paid out of the Liquor Board Superannuation Fund.

So that's the way it's going to happen now. I'm not sure why even a commission was retained, as of course when you have the minister being the sole member of the commission, it isn't really a commission because I think the definition of a commission is more than one person. But this is the way they've chosen to word this. It seems appropriate for the minister to be handling this now, along with the assistance from PEBA. So this seems to be an appropriate change.

The next change in the Act is an amendment to *The Children's Law Act*, and what it's basically doing is changing the name. So it used to be *The Children's Law Act* and now they're substituting *The Children's Law Act, 1997*. So it looks like some very basic changes to *The Children's Law Act* and very housekeeping in nature.

Then the third change or the final changes is a change to section 47.5(5) of *The Superannuation (Supplementary Provisions) Act*. The current provision is expiry date of 1995 and then the Lieutenant Governor in Council then has the ability to change it from year to year.

The minister indicated in her comments when this bill was introduced that this was to . . . They call it the restricted retirement option, or commonly referred to as RRO. It's ". . . a means for executive government and the Crown Investments Corporation to offer early retirement to eligible employees in corporate downsizing or restructuring." And all the amendment does is it removes the requirement for an annual extension, and now also the annual order in council. So it's basically a housekeeping change to reflect the fact that this has been going on since 1995. So 23 years later there's now being a change to remove that administrative requirement.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think we'll certainly have more questions for the minister once we're in committee, so that is the extent of my comments on Bill No. 77.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the minister that Bill No. 77 be now read a second time. Is this the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

The Speaker: — To which committee shall this bill be

committed?

Hon. Mr. Brkich: — I designate that Bill No. 77, *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Superannuation Plans) Amendment Act, 2017* be committed to the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

The Speaker: — This bill stands committed to the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

Bill No. 78

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Harpauer that **Bill No. 78 — *The Municipal Employees' Pension Amendment Act, 2017*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Certainly some engaging conversation going on today that I would really like to take part in, but I think I'm going to be stuck with addressing the bill at hand.

So I'm looking today at Bill No. 78, *The Municipal Employees' Pension Amendment Act, 2017*. When you take a look at the comments by the minister back in November when the bill was first introduced, what it's talking about here is some need for some changes brought forward by the stakeholders, the plan stakeholders themselves.

The minister indicated that there are 25,000 plan members in the municipal employees' pension plan. And when you think about that, that's a remarkable, remarkable number of people that are employed in our municipal sector — 25,000 people in Saskatchewan in the pension plan. So again, these are public servants, Mr. Speaker, that are serving the people of Saskatchewan in their capacity as a servant of the public.

And again, I want to give a shout-out to those workers and the important role that the public service plays in providing services to the people of Saskatchewan, in ensuring that our hospitals, our schools, our highways — all of those important services are being carried out to the best of their ability. And again I say this with pride as a former public servant, and certainly the service I think that we are doing even as MLAs continues, you know, to be service for the public. And I don't think we can ever underestimate the importance of that.

So the municipal employees' pension plan is a defined benefit pension plan. Again as a federal employee, I was also a participant in a defined benefit plan. I think that's one that's seen as kind of a Cadillac of pension plans, Mr. Speaker, and it provides a lot of certainty to people in their retirement years that I think defined contribution plans don't provide. And so it's certainly a very important benefit for people to be part of.

So having 25,000 plan members means this is still a very, very utilized plan and very important plan. There's also 737 employers participating in the plan. So if you think about all the urban municipalities and rural municipalities, 737 is likely a very, very large portion of those municipalities, Mr. Speaker.

Now one of the concerns that was brought forward to the ministry by the commission for the pension plan was the financial sustainability of the municipal employees' pension plan, and I'll refer to that as M-E-P-P for the *Hansard* here on. So MEPP, M-E-P-P, in consultation with their actuaries and the stakeholders, sought approval from the Legislative Assembly to remove some provisions that affect the financial stability of the plan.

So the first thing they're trying to do in the bill is "... to eliminate the portability of the pension benefit for members eligible for pension upon termination of employment." So what happens there is that you can't take out a lump sum of money. Apparently that's something you could do now. Certainly in the defined benefits plan I have that is not an option.

So it looks like that option, what it does is it puts pressures on the pension plan itself and can influence the steady stream of payments that they use to fund their members in retirement. So they're asking to remove the eligibility for a payout at the termination of employment, and then the amendment will cause the option of a temporary pension to transferring members to become redundant. Consistent with the elimination of the portability, members who have pre-1994 contributions will not be allowed to remove a portion of those on termination or retirement as a partial settlement of their benefit.

So it's basically locking in, if I understand this correctly, locking in those contributions which will be continued to be paid out by the pension plan rather than a lump sum.

Now once they're retired or terminated, anybody who has given more than 50 per cent of the contributions may use the excess funds to increase the value of their monthly pension benefit.

So under the bill, they're going to be required to remove "... their excess contributions out of the pension plan within two years of their termination date or immediately upon their retirement." So again, what this is doing for the MEPP and the commissioners that are overlooking it, it's going to ensure that there's no unforeseen liabilities coming out of these increased pensions.

Also, "Amendments of a more administrative nature are also required." So they are going to change a few things, review the composition. Currently the commission composition needs to be reviewed every five years, and this was done in 2015 and submitted to the Minister of Finance. And so the recommendations coming out of that is saying that the election of chairperson and vice-chairperson for the commission shall be extended now from one year to two years. That was the recommendation that's been accepted.

Also recommended that there be more members on the commission. And there's no reasons given here why that was seen as necessary. But obviously the plan covers a large, wide swath of employees and employers, so perhaps there was a desire for more representation on the commission. As a result, the suggestions in this bill are that one member be appointed by the employers who employ firefighters and police officers.

And we certainly know that firefighters always come here every year, Mr. Speaker, and present to us about some of the troubles

they are having with their contract negotiations at a municipal level. And that is an ongoing battle for many of those firefighters who are amongst the lowest paid in Canada. And certainly we know that municipalities aren't being given any extra funds to be able to deal with those pressures. But I think this is an opportunity for the government to maybe step in and provide some relief, not just to the firefighters but to the municipal governments that require their services.

So there's going to be a member now who represents the firefighters, and then a new representative appointed by CUPE [Canadian Union of Public Employees] that will represent the MEPP members on CUPE. So I don't know how many of MEPP members actually belong to the CUPE union, the Canadian Union of Public Employees, but I imagine it's significant, Mr. Speaker. And of course that is why they're seeking representation on the commission itself.

As I spoke in the previous bill, it's always important for the employees to have a voice at the table when decisions are being made regarding their retirements. And we see what happens to, like, the folks at Sears who weren't even able to access their pension plan because of debtors and creditors that were lined up when Sears went bankrupt. So definitely employees need to be represented and to have a voice on these commissions to ensure that their members' interests are being protected.

So the minister went on to say that this was to provide equitable representation for all stakeholders, which seems to make sense. And then there's also some changes to enhance the administration of the plan. A definition of full-time hours is being created in order to facilitate a consistent interpretation of full-time hours. And it's also simplifying reporting to the plan for the employers.

The next amendment will require all employers to remit contributions within 15 days after the end of a pay period, and this will provide a more equitable basis for the timely remittance of all contributions to all employers. This seems to me to be very straightforward, and certainly I can't see why those remittances would not be submitted for any period greater than 15 days. So those changes seem to be appropriate, and I think will help the commission do its business more efficiently, and also I think ensure that the municipalities are more tuned into the requirements of the commission and make sure that the remittances are done in a timely manner.

[14:45]

So I think at this point, Mr. Speaker, we will be able to discuss more of this with the minister while we're in committee. So at this point that's the extent of my comments on Bill No. 78, *An Act to amend The Municipal Employees' Pension Act*.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the minister that Bill No. 78, *The Municipal Employees' Pension Amendment Act, 2017* be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

The Speaker: — To which committee shall this bill be committed?

Hon. Mr. Brkich: — I designate that Bill No. 78, *The Municipal Employees' Pension Amendment Act, 2017* be committed to the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

The Speaker: — This bill stands committed to the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

Bill No. 79

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Harpauer that **Bill No. 79** — *The Public Employees Pension Plan Amendment Act, 2017* be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. This bill is also a bill in relation to pension plans. In this case it is PEPP, the public employees pension plan, which all of us are members of. And so of course it's very near and dear to the hearts of those here in the Chamber today.

And the changes that are being made are again more administrative in nature. But the minister began her comments describing the PEPP plan and, as she indicated, it was established in 1977. And I think that was the beginning of the defined contribution era for pensions here, not only in Saskatchewan, but I think across the board. That was a shift done around in the late '70s, and it was meant to provide a savings for retirement and retirement income for the employees of executive government, government agencies, Crown corporations, and other employees.

So I don't know if you have a guess, Mr. Speaker, as to how many employees are in the plan right now, in the pension plan. It is 65,000 members that are currently members of PEPP — 65,000 members of PEPP, 146 employers. So at some point all of those 65,000 members will receive a pension.

And there are six amendments being proposed in the bill. The first would provide immediate vesting and locking in of required member and employer contributions. So vesting, what it does is it entitles the member to the contributions made by the employer on the member's behalf. So as you know, our employer, the Crown, provides a contribution. And then if you terminate before the vesting, you would forfeit the employer contributions, which then would be used to defray administrative costs.

So right now the requirement for vesting is one year, and locking in means their balance must be used to provide a retirement income. Currently locking in happens at one year. The proposed amendment will mean vesting and locking in occur when the member enrolls in PEPP. So the vesting requirement is immediate now, and not one year. I think that

will have, certainly make things easier for the administrators of PEPP, as long as employees have this explained to them,

And I know when we first started employment for the government, I think, Mr. Speaker, you'd recall that day in November 2011 when all of us new MLAs were hauled in and explained all these things in great detail. And I have to admit I forgot almost all of it upon hearing it because there was . . . I know. Shock. A look of shock from the Law Clerk, Mr. Speaker. It kind of went in one ear and out a very befuddled head, and out the other ear. There was just so much going on. And often pension plans are the last thing you're thinking about when you start employment with an agency that has a pension plan.

So I think it's important for the pension plans to ensure that they continue to remind members about these types of issues — for example, the vesting in. I know that recently we all got a letter in the mail from our pension plan explaining a few changes. And I actually read it for . . . I was quite proud of myself. I can't remember right now what was in it, but I did read it, and I'm sure that PEPP appreciates if the employees do take the time to pay attention to those things. I guess I'll have to go back and look at it again just so I can remember what's in there.

There are other amendments being proposed here. First of all, spouses of PEPP members are going to be given additional rights. In the case of a member's death, there's a clarification that the spouse of a deceased member may keep any amount left to him or her in a PEPP, so that will help spouses. I know that my colleague from Centre has introduced a bill about parentage. And I'm not sure how this would help a spouse if they're same-sex, and I'm assuming that that would be eligible. But even the children, adopted children, or children from same-sex couples where the natural parent may pass away, would that child then be eligible? So I think those might be questions that we would have to look at and ask the minister in committee, and the minister's staff.

So this says the change will give the spouse the same rights as any other non-working member of the PEPP program. If it's a breakup, a spousal relationship breakup, it would permit the spouse or ex-spouse member to keep in PEPP any amount resulting from a division of the member's account balance. So when there's a breakup, there will be an allowance for leaving that money in PEPP and not having to withdraw it.

So with respect to that amount, they would have the same rights as any other non-working member to PEPP. I don't know what other non-working members in PEPP there would be, but it sounds like this is a common occurrence. So there you go.

There's also another amendment that's going to remove a 15-day waiting period for the unlocking of voluntary contributions on termination of employment. Fifteen days doesn't seem all that long, so I'm not really sure why that's a problem. But perhaps those who are terminated would like immediate access to those funds if they're eligible, so I suppose that would be one reason for that.

Also there's some changes with respect to the authority of the pension board. This board is a trustee of PEPP and the body

responsible for administering it. And the amendments here would clarify that the board can make policy to administer PEPP with respect to out-of-province members and their monies which are subject to the laws of other provinces. So that's the fifth amendment that's being proposed here. Those are all from the recommendations . . . These five changes are being recommended by the Public Employees Pension Board.

And there's an administrative final sixth amendment being proposed, and it's just reflecting a change in name from the union, Unifor. In the Act it's currently referred to as Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union, but they're now known as Unifor, so that is the administrative change that is being proposed. So, Mr. Speaker, with respect to the actual changes themselves, the change to Unifor is found in clause 3(4)(b)(ii). And if you look at that clause right now, 3(4)(b)(ii) says, one person appointed by the Canadian union . . . No, that's not the right one. Here it is: "one person appointed by the Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union of Canada."

So if you look at the board right now there are a number of unions that are represented. There's the government and general employees' union, the Saskatchewan Government and General Employees' Union, SGEU; communications, Unifor is the second one now; the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers; the Canadian Union of Public Employees; and then a chairperson who is also appointed.

So these unions are all currently represented on the pension board as well as people from the Public Service Commission. All three of the main Crowns — SaskEnergy, SaskPower, and SaskTel are the larger Crowns are in there. Also the Saskatchewan Polytechnic and the Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority, as well as Crop Insurance, Workers' Compensation Board, and the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency.

So it's an interesting collection of agencies that have representation on the board, and certainly unions are well represented, as makes sense, Mr. Speaker.

The next change is to section 5(1), and that is the powers of the board. This is being repealed, which has several powers that are described in the current, and it's being rewritten. And I think these changes, if you look at the explanatory notes for section 5, the comments that were provided there say that it states explicitly, "The amendment states explicitly that the . . . Board has the ability to make policy to administer the Plan subject to the pension standards legislation of jurisdictions outside Saskatchewan." So I think this is attempting to bring it into more of a uniform provincial application across the board — no pun intended.

The next section that's being amended is section 18, which is being repealed, and this is the vesting and locking in section that I referred to earlier. Section 18.1(1) is the place where we see the change to the 15 days after the date of termination. And then after subsection 21(7) there's a new one being added, and this is the section that deals with the spouse and the benefits that may remain in the plan to a spouse, to add that clarification.

A minor change to section 24(5), striking out "must be" and changing it to "may be." So these are things that lawyers love to look at. And I'm not sure what the Law Clerk thinks about this,

but he may like “must be;” he might like “may be.” He always has an opinion on the proper language and he’s, I would say, always right.

Section 24(6) has an addition of (6.1) and this again is where it deals with the breakup of a marriage and the eligibilities or the opportunities the former spouse may have if there’s been a division in the pension and they can leave their funds vested.

So, Mr. Speaker, we are going to have some questions for the minister about this in committee and I look forward to that opportunity. So at this point I think that will end my comments in the debate on Bill No. 79, *An Act to amend The Public Employees Pension Plan Act*.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the minister that Bill No. 79, *The Public Employees Pension Plan Amendment Act, 2017* be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

The Speaker: — To what committee shall this bill be committed?

Hon. Mr. Brkich: — I designate Bill No. 79, *The Public Employees Pension Plan Amendment Act, 2017* be committed to the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

The Speaker: — This bill stands committed to the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

Bill No. 80

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Harpauer that **Bill No. 80 — *The Municipal Financing Corporation Amendment Act, 2017*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you again, Mr. Speaker. This is another bill that the Minister of Finance introduced back in November. As the suite of bills that were introduced, the three previous ones deal with pensions, and this is now dealing with the Municipal Financing Corporation. And as you can imagine, Mr. Speaker, the municipalities and the important work that they do are always going to require access to borrowing in order to accomplish the capital needs and infrastructure needs that the municipalities face.

So there’s been a corporation around for many, many decades, the Municipal Financing Corporation of Saskatchewan. And what’s being reflected in the changes today, as the minister indicated, is that the evolution of capital markets that have happened since the 1970s and the length of terms of borrowing have changed as well. So some of the amendments are going to

be in relation to the borrowing requirements for municipalities, and I’ll get into that in a minute.

The second change that they’re going to attempt with this amendment bill is to increase the corporation’s debt limit from 350 million to 500 million. It was originally set at 250 million in the 1970s and it remained there for almost 40 years. But just eight years ago it was raised to 350 million and now it’s being raised again.

So you might ask yourself, is the borrowing increasing such that there’s that much more indebtedness from municipal corporations? And then that leads me to the question of why municipalities are being put more and more into debt, and I think it’s something that we see that is concerning. And when municipalities are facing increased pressures . . .

When I think of rural municipalities and the road infrastructure problems that they’re facing simply because of the increase in rain events that we’ve seen in the last five, six years — certainly you’ll recall the heavy floods of 2011 and 2012, 2013; the infrastructure damage that’s being done by large trucks. And, you know, you wonder whether or not new municipalities are able to access the funding that they need to adequately deal with their infrastructure needs, sewage works, waterworks. All of those are hugely expensive propositions.

[15:00]

Municipalities are dealing with landfill issues especially now when a lot of landfills are being required. And this is something I heard at SUMA [Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association] in the sessions with the ministers. I’ve gone for a few years now to the environment portion of the SUMA session. And every year there are several questions about the costs that municipalities are facing with respect to landfills and many of the concerns around inconsistencies in application of the guidelines, where municipalities aren’t really sure what they’re being asked to do and they’re getting conflicting information from the officers. Many concerns about costs and what municipalities see, the small urban municipalities see as unrealistic expectations on the part of the ministry when it comes to relocation or changing, going to a regional model for landfills.

And I’m thinking of one community in particular who had met approvals after approvals after approvals for their landfill. They had great pride in their landfill and then one day, all of a sudden, it wasn’t good enough. And they didn’t understand what had changed. They knew they had a good, solid clay base for the bottom of their landfill and they were being told they had to spend several hundred thousand dollars on an impermeable liner for what they had been told for years was already a sufficient liner of clay.

So those kinds of things are really frustrating municipalities, and you certainly hear it in the SUMA conventions when we go to the individual panels where urban municipalities bring up these concerns. And infrastructure costs don’t get cheaper, as we all know, and I think urban municipalities . . . This signals to me that the fact . . . We have to raise the borrowing limit from \$350 million to \$500 million tells me that municipalities need access to a lot more credit. And as you know, Mr. Speaker, who

pays for that credit is the taxpayers and the local residents of those communities through their property taxes.

So it's concerning and I'm not sure what it signals in the long run, but those are certainly questions that we're going to want to raise with the minister. And is there a better way for them to access that capital rather than exceeding or increasing the borrowing limit? Their debt is, like the minister indicated, their debt is a self-sustaining debt just like the debt of SaskPower, SaskEnergy, and SaskTel, and it doesn't affect the GRF [General Revenue Fund] operating debt. Now of course we know that GRF operating debt is only one small part of the total debt of the public debt of this province.

And we've seen, particularly with SaskPower, we know that their debt ratio is way higher than what is healthy and that their borrowing has also increased. We've seen bills like this for SaskPower in the last few years as well. So in a world where debt is becoming more and more commonplace . . . and I think even personal debt. We see alarming figures in Canada relating to people's level of personal debt and concerns about some sort of correction in the market which could really significantly impact thousands of people. We see that now with our Crowns and certainly our municipalities.

Local governments of course aren't able to run deficits. And we've talked about that a lot in the House, and there are petitions that are coming forward about that. So they're required to be balanced, Mr. Speaker, and if borrowing is the only way that they can deal with it, that debt becomes the burden for the municipality. So the minister acknowledged that there's demand from local governments for infrastructure funding, for increasing their debt limit, and that is the way that they're being given capacity to meet the needs of their citizens. So it's sad when you think about increasing the debt is the only way to meet needs, and it makes you wonder how that's going to work in the long run as we increase these debt levels more and more all the time.

So I'm just going to speak now just to the particulars of the changes that are being proposed to *The Municipal Financing Corporation Act*. So the first one is simply a gender change to refer . . . rather "his," it's "his or her." These are often ones you will see brought forward by the drafters to ensure that gender appropriate language is being used in the bills.

Another change that we still see cleanups happening since the — my colleague from Saskatoon Centre talked about this last night — the change from department to ministry. So we're still cleaning up that language as we go through these bills, and that happens in this bill. So Section 14(2)(a) is being amended to strike out "department" and substitute "ministry."

There's another change in here that I will want to have a discussion with the minister about, because they're changing Section 18, 19, 24, and 30 and 31 to change the reference to the Consolidated Fund and substitute the GRF. So we will have questions about why that change was needed. The minister did not talk about that in her comments in November, so we'll have a question about that.

Section 22(1) is being amended, and that's what I talked about a few minutes ago, the increase of the borrowing limit from 350

million to \$500 million. I suppose . . . And again I'll check with the ministry, but it would be, I assume, at favourable interest rates and that's why this fund is so important.

There's a change to Section 28 and I'm just going to double-check the original section to make sure we cover this properly. Section 28 currently reads, "*The Companies Act* and *The Securities Act* do not apply to the corporation." This is being amended to add *The Business Corporations Act* to the corporation. Also *The Securities Act* is being updated to reference 1988 which is the name, the new name of the bill.

So these are again questions we can ask the minister at the time of committee, why *The Business Corporations Act* is now being deemed to not apply because that is not something she covered in her comments in the second reading speech. So for people that are curious about that, you'll have to go to the committees page on the *Hansard* and hopefully that will be something we address at that point.

And finally there's some changes to the regulatory powers of the Lieutenant Governor in Council. When it comes to this, currently there are three powers of regulation that the Lieutenant Governor in Council has, particularly prescribing the rates of interest that the corporation can charge for their loans, prescribing fees and charges, and governing the manners in which the corporation gives loans. Now those are being changed a little bit, and there's always the catch-all phrase that's being added in this clause: ". . . respecting any other matter or thing that the Lieutenant Governor in Council considers necessary to carry out the intent of this Act." And then (e) is also an addition: ". . . prescribing any matter or thing required or authorized by this Act to be prescribed in the regulations."

This is again something I often like to raise in the House, is the extension of regulatory authorities being provided in many of these bills, which basically means that those regulations do not go through scrutiny in the House. When regulations are passed, they go through Executive Council, and that is something that I think should be of concern.

But as we get more complex and the regulatory world we live in gets more complex, I understand the pressure from the regulatory side to not have to have every little thing come through the House. So that's always a give-and-take and a bit of a tug-of-war, Mr. Speaker. But I think when we only see the bills that come through this House and we don't see the regulations, it is something that may escape scrutiny, and I think that is something of concern to the citizens of this province.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think as I indicated we will have questions for the minister when we are in committee on this bill, and we'll raise them at that point in time. So at this point in time, I will conclude my comments in the adjourned debate on Bill No. 80, *An Act to amend The Municipal Financing Corporation Act*.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the minister that Bill No. 80, *The Municipal Financing Corporation Amendment Act, 2017* be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

The Speaker: — To which committee shall this bill be committed?

Hon. Mr. Brkich: — I designate Bill No. 80, *The Municipal Financing Corporation Amendment Act, 2017* be committed to the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

The Speaker: — This bill stands committed to the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

Bill No. 108

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 108 — *The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2017*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to rise this afternoon to enter into the debate on Bill No. 108, *An Act to amend The Statute Law*. Mr. Speaker, I have been on my feet I think one or two times since you have been elected as Speaker, but it wasn't appropriate at the time for me to congratulate you. I think we were right in the heat of question period. But let me now take the opportunity to congratulate you on your election as Speaker. I think you will do a fine and fair job in your new role.

And since I am talking about the Speaker election I also want to take the opportunity to congratulate the member from Saskatoon Riversdale for doing such a phenomenal job running and putting her name forward as Speaker. When you're in opposition and you're an opposition of 12 votes and you decide to put your name forward as Speaker, you know that you're battling against the odds, Mr. Speaker. But I think she proved herself very effective in making it to the, I think it was the second-last round of balloting, tied for third, I suppose, place. And I think that's commendable and absolutely wonderful. And while I'm very happy to see you in the role, Mr. Speaker, I do hope that some day soon we will see a woman in that chair, Mr. Speaker, some day in the not-too-distant future, Mr. Speaker. But please don't take that as any indication of my commendation and my praise for you in this role and how well I think you will do in this role, Mr. Speaker.

It's been a while since I've entered into adjourned debates. Frankly, Mr. Speaker, I was lucky enough to — or unlucky enough — to not be in adjourned debates last session while I was filling the role as interim leader. So forgive me if I'm a little rusty, Mr. Speaker, but I do have a few comments I would like to make about this bill this afternoon and I will try my best.

This particular bill, Mr. Speaker, is essentially updating and modernizing the language in many statutes that we have in the

province. It's largely a housekeeping bill, Mr. Speaker, and that was highlighted by the Minister of Justice's remarks at the time when he tabled the bill. But it does do somewhat interesting . . . It does reflect some interesting changes that are happening in our society right now. In particular, changes to some references to Her Majesty and changing them to references to the Crown. And we've seen this in a few other bills as well, Mr. Speaker, and it's, I think, reflective, or being made in reflection of the current age of our Queen. And it's sort of a little, always a little depressing to think about the passing, or the potential future passing . . . I guess not potential, but the future passing of somebody, even if it's someone you don't particularly know well. But if you've lived your whole life, and we've all lived our whole lives with the Queen being alive, it's just strange to think that in the potentially not-too-distant future we will have, instead of a Queen, a King.

[15:15]

And I don't know too much frankly about the monarchy or the hierarchy of the monarchy or who is next in that line. I pay more attention to the antics, frankly, of Prince Harry and Prince Will. What can I say? They're more my generation and they're more interesting. They're up to a little bit more shenanigans than their more senior members of their family, Mr. Speaker. So forgive me if I forget . . . Well as far as we know, I should say. Who knows? Maybe they're just less effective at hiding what they're up to.

But I did watch *The Crown* over the course of Christmas break, and I was very fascinated to hear about, learn about a lot of the things that the monarchy has been up to and the background and the life of the Queen, which frankly I didn't know about and didn't care too much about, if I'm being perfectly honest with you, Mr. Speaker. But it seems like she's lived a pretty interesting life, interesting enough to necessitate a few seasons of a Netflix series that's actually pretty riveting and I'd recommend to anybody if they haven't watched it, Mr. Speaker. Frankly I was a Princess Margaret fan more so than the Queen. But, you know, you can't choose who gets to be Queen. She's lovely too. Well my colleague informs me that Prince William is next on the list of . . . In any event, we're going to have a King next, therefore we need to update our legislation.

And there is a long process in updating the legislation. It's a lot of things that we don't necessarily think about, and it's obviously something that wasn't thought about at the time that the legislation was drafted. But she's a pretty resilient Queen, and she's toughed it out for quite a long time. She's seen her way through a couple of world wars and a couple of other tragedies in her own life and tragedies in her country. And so I can understand why the drafters at the time, I suppose, thought she would never die, so we would never have to worry about that issue. But here we are today updating the legislation to reflect the fact and the reality of the day that some day she will end up having to pass on.

The legislation also updates some other language that used to be standard language and is no longer standard language. For example, the legislation replaces the language *ex parte* to "without notice." And that's something that's been happening throughout, I'd say, the legal world, Mr. Speaker.

The rules of court in Queen's Bench were recently updated to be more plain language so that folks who access the justice system—and more and more folks are accessing the justice system without counsel, frankly either because they choose to, but more often because they can't afford counsel—and they're able to do that and look at legislation and look at the rules of court and actually understand what is being written and be able to hopefully follow those rules accordingly.

So *ex parte* is a Latin term. Most people, myself included, don't know extensive amounts of Latin—nor should we, frankly. I know what I need to know. I know what *ex parte* meant and that's pretty much the extent of it. But it just makes sense to modernize it and to change it to “without notice” because that's what it meant in Latin. And it makes sense for us, if we want to have a more inclusive justice system, if we want to be more inclusive as legislators, if we want to have a more inclusive legislative process, that we're making the language reflect that inclusivity, Mr. Speaker.

This legislation is also replacing any phrase that's . . . or any time it says “department” with “ministry.” I know my colleague from Saskatoon Centre had a few things to say about that last night, and I was privileged to hear that fiery second reading speech. He's always good for giving a fiery speech, especially in the evening, which is nice to re-energize the room after a supper break, Mr. Speaker. And I don't think I can do justice to what he did yesterday, so I'd ask if anyone is watching or reading my remarks, check out my colleague's remarks from Saskatoon Centre because he had a few things to say about how long it's taken to update “department” to “ministry,” Mr. Speaker. But it is interesting that that's being changed. But considering I don't know when it was changed, when we used to call it department and then we called it ministry—it was a bit before my time of being elected—but it does make sense to update that as well.

Another one that's being changed is replacing outdated references to legislation that's contained without certain Acts. Sometimes you'll be looking through legislation and you'll find that it references an Act that doesn't exist anymore, which can be very frustrating when you're trying to find an answer for somebody or trying to figure out how a process is supposed to work within government or what the rules are within a certain situation and then you go and you find out that it's referencing a section of an Act that doesn't exist anymore or an entire Act that doesn't exist anymore. And then you have to try and figure out what that means and what it should be referencing even though it's not referencing it anymore, Mr. Speaker. So I'm happy to see that some work has been done to clean that up. I think it'll create some more efficiencies and hey, maybe it'll save somebody a few bucks on their next legal bill because it'll save them a little bit of time to look something up.

Another change that's happening is this bill is removing the language “as amended from time to time” which frankly is a redundant thing to say, Mr. Speaker. Bills can be amended from time to time whether or not that specific wording is in there. So it's not really necessary. So it makes sense to get rid of that reference, Mr. Speaker.

So with that, I know I've had several of my colleagues already weigh in on this particular bill, so I know I'll have some

questions at committee for the Minister of Justice. I have a lot of questions for the Minister of Justice on a lot of issues, especially around what is happening with respect to the cannabis legalization and how that whole process is rolling out. But I will also have some questions at committee for the Minister of Justice, more particularly on this bill. So as such, I will end debate, move this bill to committee.

The Speaker:— The question before the Assembly is the motion by the minister that Bill No. 108, *The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2017* be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members:— Agreed.

The Speaker:— Carried.

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

The Speaker:— To which committee shall this bill be committed?

Hon. Mr. Brkich:— I designate that Bill No. 108, *The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2017* be committed to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

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

Bill No. 109

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 109**— *The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2017 (No. 2)/Loi n° 2 de 2017 modifiant le droit législatif* be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Sarauer:— Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to rise yet again this afternoon to speak to this companion bill of the bill I was just recently speaking about, Bill 109, *The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2017*. Similarly to the last bill that I was speaking about, this bill makes several housekeeping changes to many Acts including, similar to the last bill, replacing the Latin phrase *ex parte* to “without notice,” updating some references to outdated departments. So similar to the last bill.

I'm not too sure why we had two bills that are doing a similar thing—if it was one of the statute law amendment bills was already created and ready and then some more updates were found after the fact—and why this couldn't have been rolled into one bill all together. I trust the work of the extremely qualified Justice lawyers, and I know that their work is always thoughtful and strong, so in no way am I questioning, if it was the decision of a Justice lawyer to create two separate bills. But if it wasn't, then I'm not too sure. I'm just not too sure why we have two bills that seem to be doing the same thing, but with different pieces of legislation.

But here we are with these two bills. Again, similar to the last bill that I just spoke about, it's removing some language like

“as amended from time to time,” Mr. Speaker, which makes sense like I already said, because it’s redundant. I think I’m being redundant. But then again we have two bills which are doing similar things, so I’m going to speak again about things that I spoke about in the last bill. Frankly there’s no need to put “as amended from time to time” in the legislation.

I’m really glad to see that the former minister of Justice is paying very close attention to my very riveting speech. Frankly all of my speeches are riveting, so I would hope that he pays close attention to every single one. It’s a shame, Mr. Speaker, frankly, that it’s not the former minister of Justice that I will be asking hard-hitting questions about Bill 109 to, that it’s the current Minister of Justice that will have to take the hot seat when I really get to the core of what’s going on with respect to this bill, Mr. Speaker.

And frankly the former minister of Justice should count his lucky stars that the new Premier was kind enough to get him in an easier role like Education so that he was gone from my hot seat. And now he has to face the much kinder, lovelier member from Regina Lakeview who I am sure will give him nothing but an easy time when the two of them meet in estimates or in committee, Mr. Speaker, which I’m sure is why he’s listening so closely to my speech is because he’s very, very upset over the fact that, you know, he won’t be having the opportunity to answer my questions at committee or in estimates.

But I do hope that he’s warned the new Minister of Justice that he better be really prepared, especially when he comes to committee on Bill 108 and Bill 109, *The Statute Law Amendment Act*, because it’s going to be a real, real riveting evening of discourse, Mr. Speaker. And I do quite look forward to it, and I know the former minister of Justice is quite upset over having to miss that opportunity.

But you know, you never know what could happen, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps this summer there will be a cabinet shuffle. Perhaps he’s, you know, angered the Premier in some way and he moves him out of the cushy job of Minister of Education and into the riveting job that the Minister of Justice is.

And I speak somewhat in jest, but the Minister of Justice does have a very important job, and it’s not just putting forward and remembering to actually show up for his . . . Or did he show up for his second reading speech? Or what did he mess up? Forgetting to . . . [inaudible] . . . and just continually standing and standing and not putting forward legislation.

So the Minister of Justice’s important job, not just, you know, putting forward and remembering to put forward many, many important pieces of legislation, but it’s an important file and it’s an important ministry, Mr. Speaker, where a lot of . . . We see a lot of issues in other ministries all end up coming to Justice in one way, form, or another.

So it is a very important . . . And frankly the Ministry of Justice is one of the places where you can’t, I guess you can’t drop your users. It’s not like Social Services, where someone doesn’t qualify, therefore they cannot be a client of the Ministry of Social Services. Justice is there, and Justice is supposed to be there for everyone. And Justice ends up dealing with a lot of society’s issues.

[15:30]

So it is a very, very important file. And I know the former minister of Justice took that role very seriously, and I’m sure he will do the same thing in his current role as Minister of Education. But in the meantime, the current Minister of Justice will have to answer some of my questions with respect to Bill 109.

So with that, and I don’t want to give away too much to the current Minister of Justice as to the questions I’m going to ask on Bill 109; I’m going to leave the suspense for him for that evening. But I do have many questions I do want to ask him at committee. So as such, I would like to move Bill 109 to committee.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the minister that Bill No. 109, *The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2017 (No. 2)* be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

The Speaker: — To which committee shall this bill be committed?

Hon. Mr. Brkich: — I designate that Bill No. 109, *The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2017 (No. 2)* be committed to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

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

Bill No. 72

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 72 — *The Privacy Amendment Act, 2017*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It’s a pleasure to rise this afternoon and enter into debate on Bill No. 72, *An Act to amend The Privacy Act*. I will have several thoughts on this because I’ve been following the development of this, especially since it was brought forward in the fall. And I know that many of us have been watching the media in terms of the whole issue of social media, both at the political level, whether it’s about the Russians interfering with the political situation in the United States and other countries, or whether it’s simply privacy issues that are happening on social media here in our own neighbourhoods, our communities, and what does that all mean, and particularly what that relates to — bullying and all of that.

But I think that this bill itself, in and of itself is worthy, and it’s one that we can have a good discussion on. And at the end of

the day I can't see us having a lot of problems with it, but I don't want to give away our hand too soon. But it's one that really opens the door to a much larger conversation and this is the value of our system that we have here today, Mr. Speaker. The government, through . . . whether it's consultation or whether it's through its members or whether it's through its civil service, through its public service, bring forward ideas that are important and relevant to today's society. And in this case they have, but I think in many ways — and I'll make my case, Mr. Speaker — that we're just seeing the tip of the iceberg in terms of some of these issues that are happening in Europe and in Canada. And I'll raise them so that the members at home can think more about this and what does this mean here in Saskatchewan.

You know, we look in a very interesting way what's happening to the president of the United States and the Russian situation, and we feel that hasn't had anything to do with us, that somehow that's remote. But we're curious. But the fact of the matter is that there's lessons to be learned. And I think that the Ministry of Justice, the government, and all of us should be really thinking about what it means in terms of social media, what it means in terms of privacy, what it means in terms of violation of privacy.

So today, yes, the issue before us really is around what the minister quite rightly has talked about in his opening remarks around revenge porn and that type of thing. And he talks about the bill, and I'll go through his comments and relate it back to *The Privacy Act*. And then I want to talk about what *The Privacy Act* in the 1970s, when it was brought forward under the government of Allan Blakeney, what that meant. And, you know, the issue . . . And we really need to be cognizant of the fact of what's privacy. What's privacy of information? What's privacy? What's confidentiality? All of those things are very, very important concepts but they don't all mean exactly the same. And we should be very careful about how we learn about this, so we're accurate in our terms and mean what we say and say what we mean.

But specifically Bill No. 72, *The Privacy Amendment Act, 2017* introduces some additional options for someone who has had intimate objects of themselves shared with others without consent. And as I said, this is often referred to as revenge porn. And this was an issue that was identified by the former premier, Brad Wall, in his last Throne Speech, and how this allows the victim to pursue civil action and outlines that in the legislation.

It talks about reverse onus, that this legislation is unique in that it allows the victim to press charges or action without proof. The accused must establish that they were given permission and consent to produce this image. And this is an interesting idea and I think quite appropriate. But I tell you in the world of social media, the onus of proof and who owns what information and all of those issues are becoming more and more complex. And so legislation has got to be clear and mean what it say and not have unintended consequences.

It also outlines actions against those who distribute non-consensual images ranging from awarding damages to the victim and recovering any profits that might have happened. And they do this through small claims.

So the minister of the day brought this forward November 7th, a few months ago, and there were some really key points that I want to highlight. And of course he talks about that we are aware — and he talks about the MLAs here — are “. . . aware that distributing intimate images of a person without consent has become all too common in the digital world, and revenge porn or cyberbullying with intimate images is an ongoing problem.”

And it is an ongoing problem. And I agree with the minister. And whether it's revenge or whether it's bullying, active bullying . . . And we see this in schools and we see this with people, that it's just something that is more than a problem in many ways. If it's your family that's involved, your school, it's becoming a crisis.

You know, I think of when I was in high school and university. In fact, I was going through cleaning up some of my papers. We used to write letters, and we used to . . . You know, I was thinking about that, and I saw letters I had written where I had got back from my brothers, my friends, my sister. It was not uncommon to write letters and letters to your family members, and it was private. It wasn't something posted on social media for everyone to see, and it wasn't somebody else's property. It was the property of whoever received the letter.

And so the world has really changed and here we are, the decision makers who come from that kind of a background, to now where we have these kind of things happening with Google and Facebook and others. I have to say that I'm a bit of a Luddite when it comes to all the different forms or platforms that this can take place on. But this is something that we need to take very seriously because it just doesn't stop with feeling badly, you know.

We see the range and we have seen this, whether it be in the Maritimes with suicides, right across the country I'm sure, with young people who have been forced to a very dark place in their lives because of what's been posted, either as revenge or they've been suggested to, in some ways, get into an unfortunate photograph or picture that they may think is private but is actually not, can be made very public very quickly.

So the member talks about the bill becoming an additional tool, and I quote, “. . . an additional tool for victims of this tragic practice. It will amend *The Privacy Act* to create a new tort for the non-consensual distribution of an intimate image.” And it talks about what an image is, a virtual image including photos or videos in which a picture is nude, partially nude, or engaged in explicit sexual activity, and recorded in circumstances where that person thought they had a reasonable expectation of privacy.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I just want to go on to the next comment he made because this makes the link too that the ministry is thinking about federal situations, and I'm going to talk about the federal Privacy Commissioner in a few minutes. But he talks about “In 2015 amendments were made to the Criminal Code to create a new offence to address distribution of intimate images.”

And he goes on to say that they think they can do more about this outside the criminal sphere to help victims. And fair

enough. So they're aiming to complement the federal initiatives by providing "... additional avenues for redress for victims [and] proposing additional steps to allow victims to pursue a civil action." And so this is what they're hoping to do. "Finally the amendments will remove the requirement that an action of *The Privacy Act* proceed only in Court of Queen's Bench." And so there allows more venues. So there you go.

The small claims process where the damages claimed are less or capped at \$30,000. So "... working with victim services and with technical experts in the computer field to ensure that adequate supports can be provided to victims of this tort to remove these images and use legislation in addition to criminal proceedings." So that's very straightforward, and I think that's a summary of the bill before us.

What I want to talk about though is again, and I highlighted this last night, this binary way that we're thinking. And the drafters here when they talk about this, keep talking about "his" or "her." And in this particular case, even more important I would argue, that we should be using the word "their" so that it's non-binary, so we don't have a situation of confusion here when we're trying to address a modern issue. And our modern thinking now has come to realize more and more that many people are not identifying with a "his" or "her," but they can be safely included with the pronoun "their" or "they." And I think this is an important issue.

And this may end up being a bit of a problem because this becomes very binary in the language that is used, where we talk about what an intimate image is, in which the person depicted in the image is nude or exposed in his or her genital organs or anal region or her breasts. Now interestingly, I think that we should be talking about their breasts. I mean it's sort of, we need to get out of this binary thinking that, for whatever reason, you know, I just feel we need to be more inclusive, and this is problematic where we have drafters who are thinking in a binary stereotype. Everything's related to male or female, and we need to be much more inclusive. And when somebody's in this very tragic situation, we don't want to be arguing about language. We want the language to be inclusive. And so this I think would be a friendly amendment that we might talk to the minister about. But it becomes very clear about the place that the writer of this legislation is coming from and with all best intentions, but we should be thinking more clearly about that.

So as well it talks about, you know, the "Interpretation — distribution of intimate images." And again it goes "... if he or she publishes, transmits, sells, advertises ..." I think it would just work if we could say, if they publish, transmit, sell. That works. I mean I'm a grade 8 teacher. I think that's grammatically correct. Now "they" usually refers to plural, but I think that that would be correct.

And it talks about "When expectation of privacy not lost." You know and again it goes:

- (a) if he or she:
 - (i) consented to another person recording the image; or
 - (ii) provided the image to another person.

And I appreciate that they're saying another person. It could be, if they or a person consents to another person recording an image. I mean it doesn't ... It moves away from the binary thinking.

[15:45]

The one part I wanted to make highlight here is also around the "Defence — public interest." And this is interesting what it replaces. It just is a simple statement:

It is a defence to an action for the non-consensual distribution of an intimate image if the distribution of the intimate image is in the public interest and does not extend beyond what is in the public interest.

So I'm curious to have a better definition of what is public interest in that case. So if somebody can make the case it's in the public interest that I distribute these images of my ex-partner, and my case is that it's everybody's interest to know that. And I would want to know why that is. I think that there needs to be a more specific example of that and why is that. What is the public interest?

And if we look at the old privacy Act and this was something ... And it's interesting because as we look at the time periods that these things were written in, this was 1978. And I don't have the adjourned debates on this. It would be interesting to read them actually because again, as I was saying, this is a very important, very important right that we have. Again it's different than confidentiality and it's different than privacy of information, even though it's related.

I was talking about the right for defence. And it goes on. It's quite extensive actually, Mr. Speaker. It's section 4. It talks about an act or conduct or publication is not a violation of privacy, where it goes on to describe several pieces of where it is the case that somebody could make the case that it's not a violation of privacy. And it goes on, it talks about whether:

it is consented to, either expressly or impliedly by some person entitled to consent thereto;

[that] it was incidental to the exercise of a lawful right of defence of person or property.

So incidental, that would be, you know, I mean they're talking about different reasons why you might break the privacy right:

it was authorized or required by or under a law in force in the province or by a court or any process of a court.

It was that of a peace officer attending in the course or within the scope of his or her duties, or they were engaged in investigation in the course and needed to do this, and it "... was neither disproportionate to the gravity of the matter subject to investigation nor committed in the course of trespass."

So they're really limiting ... And this is one that I find very interesting, Mr. Speaker, that you could violate the privacy of another person if it was that person was engaged in a news gathering for a newspaper or other paper containing public news, or broadcaster licensed by the CRTC [Canadian

Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission] to carry on a broadcast transmitting undertaking “and such act, conduct, or publication was reasonable in the circumstances and was necessary for or incidental to ordinary news gathering activities.”

So, Mr. Speaker, in this case, it’s very interesting that we talk about newspapers and broadcasters that are licensed by the CRTC, but we’re not talking about social media. Because social media, in many ways, are not licensed, not to the same degree, and this is something that they’re arguing about in the States and in Europe. And some ideas that are brought forward in Canada that maybe we should be taking a look at this.

We know that Google and Facebook particularly have faced heavy criticism for their work around news and whether it’s accurate or if they’re putting forward a particular point of view and it’s not balanced. But they’re not licensed. They’re not regulated by anyone, any agency, for that. But in this case, your argument, if you’re . . . You just can’t be an ordinary . . . You can’t be a free-range broadcaster in Canada. You have to be licensed by CRTC. So this is something, this is something that I think we need to really look at. We really need to examine, what does that mean? I mean we have these situations with blogs. We have these situations on Facebook where people are operating free range, and we think that this is worthwhile. It’s an expression, a freedom of expression. But I wonder if we’re paying a price for that that was worthwhile.

And then it does go on:

A publication of any matter is not a violation of privacy where:

there were reasonable grounds for belief that the matter published was of public interest or was fair comment on a matter of public interest; or

the publication was, in accordance with the . . . law relating to defamation, privileged.

So, Mr. Speaker, those were the views in 1978. And I think that’s very worthwhile to reflect on in terms of when they talk of a defence that’s only limited to a matter of public interest. I think that we need to know more about that, and I don’t think there should be very many grounds for defence when it comes to revenge porn or bullying. That’s simply unacceptable. I’m not trying to create defences. But I’m looking back at the work that was done in 1978 and wondering if it meets the same standard, the same bar of interest, and when we look back to 1978, the thoughtfulness that was going on at the time.

And so I do want to spend a minute . . . And you know, it was interesting when we talk about . . . You know, in my work as human rights critic, and I am very honoured to be that in partnership with the critic for Justice. And we work together on this, but I’ve come to understand and appreciate how important privacy is. It’s a fundamental right that we’ve had from medieval times and it goes back to the original peeping Tom. And we had that situation where you would have in villages the guy who would walk around looking in windows. And what do you do about that? Nobody liked that. The villagers didn’t like that. They thought that was creepy and it was really

inappropriate, and won’t somebody do something about it?

So the idea of privacy started to come in that your home was private, and nobody should be looking in the windows. And that was understood to be a reasonable claim, that the state or the local peeping Tom did not have the right to come look in your windows. You must go to the door and knock on the door and ask to be let in. You didn’t have the right just to come in. There was an assumption of privacy.

And so that in many ways . . . Now I’m not an expert on the history of privacy, but it was explained to me that in many ways that was where the original concepts come from. And now we have got to this place that we’re in social media and all over the world this can be happening. And at one point you might be thinking, well it is private and we’re just sharing it. We’re just sharing it digitally. But then with a touch of a button it can be shared and then we have a problem.

We have a problem because now we’re in the age of information, and now we have the issue of right to privacy. And we have these huge corporations, whether they be Google or Facebook, who think because you’ve signed on . . . Now we haven’t actually signed on, but many of us have come to the point where, if you want to partake on the platform, you have to click on the “I agree.” And how many of us have actually taken the time to read all the fine print?

And I know that there are circumstances when we have our iPhones and when I’ve had some people explain to me some of the things that I’ve agreed to, and I’m kind of surprised about where people know what I’ve been doing. I’m a little bit surprised. And it’s even when you go online and you search. This morning I was searching for a radio and I was looking where to buy one. And the thing was can so-and-so have access to your location, and you go okay because I want to know where the closest store is. But it’s a lot more complicated than that. It’s a little bit more complex than that. So we’re sharing too much.

So this privacy Act is one that I hope will give us some opportunity to really reflect on privacy in this new age. And so when we have here . . . And I just want to . . . He talked . . . And I did talk about what the definition of the images were, but it doesn’t talk about the definition of privacy. And of course I’m just going to go through the section of *The Privacy Act*, the section no. 3, examples of violation of privacy. And they have the same violation of privacy, section 2, “It is a tort, actionable without proof of damage, for a person wilfully and without claim of right, to violate the privacy of another person.”

And then further to that, it gives examples of the violation of privacy:

Without limiting the generality of section 2, proof that there has been:

(a) auditory or visual surveillance of a person by any means including eavesdropping, watching, spying, besetting or following and whether or not accomplished by trespass;

(b) listening to or recording of a conversation in which a

person participates, or listening to or recording of messages to or from that person passing by means of telecommunications, otherwise than as a lawful party . . . [to];

And I would think that might refer to, Mr. Speaker, if you remember the days of rubbering. I don't know if . . . Some of us would know that. The old days on the phone when the party line and we weren't supposed to be on the line, but you knew whose ring that was, and it wasn't yours. And so there's a little issue of privacy there.

(c) use of the name or likeness or voice of a person for the purposes of advertising or promoting the sale of, or any other trading in, any property or services, or for any other purposes of gain to the user if, in the course of the use, the person is identified or identifiable and . . . intended to exploit the name or likeness or voice of that person; or

(d) use of letters, diaries or other personal documents of a person;

without the consent, express or implied, of the person or some other person who has the lawful authority to give the consent is *prima facie* evidence of a violation of the privacy of the person first mentioned.

So that was a different era when we talked about the use of letters, diaries, or other personal documents of a person. You know, we talk about a person identified, "intended to exploit the name or the likeness or voice of that person." You know, now we've really got into the digital photography of the world and what that really means, and that's something that is very, very significant in terms of the change.

And so I think it's a time that we really do need to reflect. And as I said earlier, this is a bit of the tip of the iceberg because it has been happening around the world, the discussion about the use and abuse of collecting private information. And it's not the diaries, it's not the letters, but it's the posts and the pictures that people are gathering. And really I think we have to take a stand on this in terms of where do we stand with the individual. Is it their privacy that's being violated, or is it the corporation's right to own that data, and in fact even into death?

You know, I was reading this earlier about Facebook. When a person passes away, it's not the data belonging to the individual. Facebook says we will memorialize it. We'll keep it, but it's ours. We'll put something nice on the . . . I don't know what it looks like actually to tell you the truth. I haven't visited a Facebook page of a friend who's passed away. I've had friends who have passed away, and it's kind of a sad day when I see their birthday come up again and we know that they've actually passed away. But I don't know what that looks like. But they really don't want to give up that information. They really want to stick hard and tight to the data that they're collecting, for whatever reason. And it's interesting, because as I said, this is having a huge impact. And this is having a huge impact on these large corporations.

[16:00]

And of course I just was picking up this article today, and it's about Facebook. "Facebook unfriended. Russian meddling is only one challenge facing the social-media giant." And this came out February 22nd, 2018. And in the article it talks about, "Young Americans are using it less, costs are soaring and regulation looms." And it's something that I talked about when we talked about broadcasters earlier, where you had . . . New sources had to be licensed, broadcasters had to be licensed, but now we're seeing that this is moving outside that because of the implications.

You know, clearly I want to make sure we understand the significant risk that when you have countries that are meddling in other countries' democracy, that is a huge problem, and it's because of our free and unfettered access to motivate or cause issues to arise through social media. And this is a big problem. But young people are now seeing more and more that Facebook can be a place that you may not want to hang out in because of the challenges you have in terms of what may be shared.

And while we're constantly looking and seeing if we can gather new friends, are we being as particular as we might be? And what does that really mean? And of course . . . I just want to read this one quote here. They talked about several risks, and of course the risks are actually that . . . they talked about how there's . . . I couldn't believe this number, Mr. Speaker, when they talked about the fact that since this has started, or in the last year there's been some, I believe, 50 million hours less on social media. It showed that . . . yes, here it is:

Last month when Facebook . . . [announced its] earnings, it announced a decline in daily active users in America and Canada for the first time and estimated that, globally, users were spending around 50 million fewer hours per day on Facebook.

How do you do that? How do you get 50 million hours less per day? Like how many hours are there possibly to be on Facebook?

An Hon. Member: — Millions. Millions. Millions.

Mr. Forbes: — Millions and millions. So this is having a huge impact. So this translates into 15 per cent less over the year and this is actually . . . And it says:

In America, Facebook is steadily losing users under the age of 25. Youngsters are spending more time on other apps such as Snapchat, and Facebook-owned photo-sharing app Instagram . . .

And so on and so forth. But one of the issues that it talks about that I think that as we need to wrestle with here is this. And the third, and I quote:

A third risk, and the biggest, is new regulation. Politicians have hardened their attitudes toward Facebook. It has swallowed up smaller rivals and has few friends among the political elite. Regulators could scuttle new deals, impose new restrictions on data-sharing between Facebook's various apps . . .

And that's a big deal. And we're talking about that in another

piece of legislation where you have data sharing.

... between Facebook's various apps, or fine it for anticompetitive behaviour and privacy violations. This is especially likely in Europe, but even at home watchdogs may get fiercer.

And this is the part that I do want to talk about, that I think is very interesting and I've thought about over the last several months, and the implication here for us in Canada. But what's happening in Europe is this whole issue of the right to be forgotten. Now I have had some comments here earlier about, you know, fools shouldn't be forgotten, but this is not about that. In fact it's an extension of the right to privacy.

And I just want to take a look, a quote from the *Guardian*. And this was back in August 2017 and the headline is, "The right to be forgotten is the right to have an imperfect past." And what's happening is the EU, the European Union, is looking at a way to ensure that people have the ability to de-index anything on the Internet that refers to them. Now there are limitations to that but Facebook and Google have considered this a real invasion of their right to what they have set out as a business model. So the title is "The right to be forgotten is the right to have an imperfect past."

The data protection bill is about refusing to give ownership of our identity to the likes of Facebook and Google — because we all make mistakes when young.

Now I have to tell you it's not only when we're young that we kind of make mistakes. I don't think the young own that completely. They don't have the copyright to that. But I really feel that it's an issue that we all need to take very seriously because this is happening in Europe. This started in I think the early 2010s. They're in the middle of a major battle with Google, and of course Google is not an easy company to go to court with. I mean this is a company that has very deep pockets, very deep pockets, and of course comes with that very capable lawyers.

And you know, when governments take on some of these mega corporations, it really becomes an issue of resources where the corporations, while they do have a bottom line and they can only go so far, for governments there is a balancing of resources. There's only so far that they can go.

Some of the comments that this writer, Suzanne Moore, makes, and she describes the situation in which she was on a bus in a European city and a child was having a meltdown because she couldn't remember her password. And so the thing is, did the mother know the password, and was the mother going to give the child the password to her iPad on this public bus?

And so I'll read parts of this because I think this is very, very important:

One consequence of an increasing ease with technology over the past decade or so is that we now have young adults who've only ever known a world in which personal information and images are circulated online. A world in which an online presence is deemed a necessity. The violation of one's own privacy has been part of the deal for

this "exposure" — despite the fact that increasing numbers are learning the hard way that once something is online, it never really goes away.

And it goes on to say:

All those embarrassing Facebook/Instas of drunken antics and incessant posing with blunts, bongos and gangsta signs. Do you really want future employers looking at this? Or anyone?

But this kind of legislation goes on:

In this culture of self-surveillance, privacy has been forfeited and these changes in the law are an attempt to claw some of it back.

It is a recognition that we all make mistakes, especially when young — and that a stupid picture should not be an indelible stain. A gesture, perhaps more hopeful than workable, towards huge companies such as Facebook and Google. An attempt to answer the question: who owns personal data, them or us? It can be difficult to get a Facebook page taken down even when someone has died. Facebook instead offers to "memorialise" it.

So I think that this is an important issue we have before us, and it's one that has a lot of questions. And I think that, as I said, it's a bit of the tip of the iceberg. The minister has made the connection that they were talking to the ... and watching what's happening federally. And I think we need to do the same, the same thing. And we need to have that conversation. And I don't know how we do this, you know, in this House, whether it's a committee that looks out to this type of thing. I think that would be a good idea.

Something that ... Really we talk about privacy as a basic right and we'd be prepared in our province to have that conversation. Because as I said, the 1978 legislation, the original legislation, refers to letters and diaries. It doesn't talk, it doesn't have the idea that we're going to be dealing with online pictures, digital pictures, that type of thing.

I want to go on to another article in the *Guardian*. It talks about ... And this is the headline here, and this is from July 2017: "ECJ to rule on whether 'right to be forgotten' can stretch beyond EU: Final step in three-year legal battle between Google and France will determine whether nations get to choose whether data is removed."

And the writer, Alex Hern, talks about:

The European court of justice is set to rule on a landmark case over whether or not the so-called "right to be forgotten" can and should stretch beyond EU borders.

It will be the final step in a three-year legal battle between Google and France to determine how ... the search engine should ... guarantee the privacy of European citizens who want their pasts to be wiped from the historical record.

If Google wins, France says, then the right to be forgotten becomes meaningless. This right ... requires the search

engine to remove links to pages that “appear to be inadequate, irrelevant or no longer relevant or excessive . . . in light of the time that had elapsed.” Even accurate data which was initially legally published can be removed, the court said, since . . . “in the course of time become incompatible with the directive.”

And France goes on to say, “France’s concern is that the right is only worth anything if it applies universally.”

So this is something . . . Of course this is the issue of the Internet. It’s international. It goes around the world. So if it only happens within a country, then it’s not worth much. And we’ve seen legislation here that talks about international online contracts, that type of thing. And so the argument is it has to be universal, and I think that’s a very strong point.

[So] France’s concern is that the right is only worth anything if it applies universally. Otherwise, the country has argued, a hypothetical complainant could find their past remains easily visible to American colleagues, or even a “geeky curious neighbour” who can simply fake their IP address to a non-EU country. So the French data . . . regulator . . . has consistently fought Google’s attempts to limit the extent of the right, first to just Google.fr and other European Google domains, and then to [other] . . . Google user [across] . . . Europe.

[So now] on the other side, [it’s interesting] Google argues that the extension of the right would pose a serious risk . . . [to] other countries with more egregious limitations on freedom of speech [which] would similarly attempt to universalise their restrictions.

And so, for example . . . And this is fair enough. They use an example in Thailand. Thailand might, in their world, in their understanding of democracy, attempt to force Google to apply its laws that ban insults against its king, worldwide. So fair enough. But then this becomes a situation of defence where we talk about, is it in the public interest? And clearly when it’s a private thing, a private citizen, it’s very much different than the king of Thailand.

And so this is something that has . . . It talks about the bills. Google was fined 100,000 pounds in July 2015 for failing to comply. But this is just I think the beginning of what we come to understand over these issues here.

Now I do want to take a minute to now draw this back to Canada. And I think this is very important to understand that now we’re . . . Europe has been a pioneer in this thinking about what does it mean to be, to have the right to be forgotten in Europe.

So now we see:

. . . the Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada released a draft position on online reputation which includes a call for several measures that would help protect Canadians, including the right to ask search engines to de-index web pages and removing information at the source.

And this happened . . . This article here is from Slaw. It’s a law book in January 28th, 2018. So anyways, s-l-a-w. I’ll send this up to . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . It’s a blog. Okay.

[16:15]

And anyways, it talks about Daniel Therrien, our Privacy Commissioner at the federal level, wrote in a press release:

There is little more precious than our reputation. But protecting reputation is increasingly difficult in the digital age, where so much about us is systematically indexed, accessed and shared with just a few keystrokes. Online information about us can easily be distorted or taken out of context and it is often extremely difficult to remove.

“Canadians have told us . . .” And he goes on, and this is a quote:

Canadians have told us that they are concerned about these growing risks to their reputation. We want to provide people with greater control to protect themselves from these reputational risks. Ultimately, the objective is to create an environment where people can use the Internet to explore and develop without fear their digital traces will lead to unfair treatment.

So this is a very important concept. So we see this now being raised in Canada, and I did raise it with the Privacy Commissioner here. I hope he’s taking a look at it. I hope we’re all taking a look at it because these are the kind of challenges that we’re facing in our world. And we could say in Saskatchewan, we could say in Saskatoon or Regina, but clearly the Internet is a universal thing and it’s a very, very important issue that we have before us.

And we know that, he goes on to talk about, “The basis for de-indexing or source takedown mentioned in the draft [proposal] . . . is Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act,” and that he argues, should apply to online content and search results. And so:

This includes allowing individuals to challenge the accuracy, completeness and currency (the extent to which the information is up-to-date) of results returned for searches on their name. Such challenges should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, and decisions to remove links should take into account the right to freedom of expression and the public’s interest in the information remaining accessible.

So again, here we have that word, “public interest.” So what does that mean, public interest? Is it the right to know, the need to know, or I would just like to, I want to know? And we’ve come to a situation where that seems to be interchangeable, whether it’s the I need to know about this person or I want to know about this person. I’m curious and I have the right in this world to be satisfied, that my curiosity is satisfied.

And I think that is not right. I don’t think that matches up with our fundamental understanding over the course of centuries of right to privacy. So freedom of expression is something that we should take very seriously, we need to safeguard, but when it

intersects with the right to privacy we need to make sure we understand the public interest.

So this is something that I hope we take some time and talk about. There is another article that I think that it's important that we take a moment and think about. This is a *Globe and Mail* article that was published on January 26, 2018, and it's Michael Geist. And I believe many of us are familiar with him in terms of privacy and other issues. He's quite well known in his opinions. I'm not sure I agree totally with him, but again this is where we have these kind of opportunities to have a fulsome discussion about the pros and cons. Because once we get into this, when we talk about rights we need to make sure there are no unintended consequences.

So his argument, and the opinion is entitled, "Why a Canadian right to be forgotten creates more problems than it solves." He says, and I quote:

The right to be forgotten, which opens the door to public requests for removal of search results that are "inadequate, irrelevant or no longer relevant," has been among the world's most controversial privacy issues since it was first established in Europe in 2014. The new right responds to concerns with potential reputational harms from inaccurate or misleading information online, but faces the challenge of balancing privacy protections with the benefits of the internet for access to information and freedom of expression.

And I think that's clear that there has to be a balance. But I think he's clearly . . . and I think that this is where the problem is. When we talk about our reputation, how precious that is, how fragile that is, then he's really understating the case that it's just with potential reputational harms from inaccurate or misleading information online. I think that's really softening what might happen. It's not just reputational harm. That's a pretty soft way of saying the damage that could be done by comments that are wrong and that are not in any kind of forum that has any kind of regulation. It's not regulated. It's self-regulated but it's not regulated by any public body.

And so he thinks this is an issue, that there is something that we need to examine more closely. And I couldn't agree with him more, but it's one that we cannot ignore — we cannot ignore. And I think this is important.

So he talks about the idea of the right to de-index search results, and that may be a tricky thing to do. And again, you know, it sort of reminds me of many things when we've asked the private business world to do things. And for a variety of reasons they may have, maybe thinking this is not a good thing to do, that it will affect the bottom line. And I think about, particularly from my experience and environment, when we talk about recycling and some corporations — not all, but some — right off the bat said this is something that we cannot do, that in fact it will ruin our company. It will ruin our bottom line, and will be . . . It'll just destroy us.

And I think particularly of examples that I was involved with and that's when we talked about recycling computers and electronics. And that was a tough one because, you know, it was very different than . . . You know, we grew up recycling

beer bottles or pop cans and that type of thing, and that seemed to be a relatively straightforward thing to do. But it got a little bit more complicated when we got to paint and recycling computers. But, you know, it can be done. It can be done, and it can be done in a way that businesses can say, hey we were part of the solution; we weren't part of the problem.

And so I would really think that if we got together on this, that we understand the right to privacy, how it intersects with the right to freedom of speech, right for freedom of information. But those two, I think that because of the devastating results or impacts it has on young people, that clearly we need to do something about that. So, Mr. Speaker, I appreciate your indulgence as I've talked a little bit about this, but I have . . . I really have been thinking about this a lot over the course of the year, and I hope that in some small way that we can move this forward in a bigger way.

Of course Bill 72 speaks specifically to revenge porn and cyberbullying, which is clearly an issue that needs to be addressed. It's a big issue and it's important, but these other issues are becoming more and more prevalent, and whether it's at the national level where we see the claims of Russians meddling through Facebook in national elections in democracies, that's a big, big issue, and we're seeing issues now that are very, very important in terms of harassment.

These are issues that we need to take very seriously, and we need to make sure that we're prepared and can stand and make sure that the implications of freedom of speech, freedom of expression, don't curtail or harm the right to privacy because that has been a fundamental right, as I said, for centuries. I don't know the original . . . I don't know when it would have started, but I can tell you some of the very old ones. It just didn't happen a couple of years ago. This is a fundamental principle that we have, and we can see the devastating results when it's not taken seriously or set aside because of our demand to satisfy our curiosity. And that is something that we're becoming a society where our curiosity for whatever seems to take over, and it's an issue that we need to have the appropriate responses.

So we've come a long way from simply rubbering on party lines or the peeping Tom in the old medieval village. This is very, very different, and the writers of the legislation in 1978 clearly did not have in their minds the idea of the Internet and what the outcomes are. And so while I applaud the government for tackling the issue of cyberbullying and revenge porn — very, very important — I urge them, I truly do, that if they want to do more . . . And they seem to be interested. I do see them talking about issues around uniform law and that type of thing, and even paying attention to the United Nations and its international standards when it comes to online contracts. There's much more to be done in this kind of world. So with that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am going to move to adjourn Bill No. 72, *The Privacy Amendment Act, 2017*. Thank you.

The Speaker: — Something was happening. The member from Saskatoon Centre has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 72, *The Privacy Amendment Act, 2017*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 73

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 73 — *The Insurance Amendment Act, 2017*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker . . . Mr. Speaker. I am sorry about that. My apologies. You may not have heard my slight mistake there, so I'll repeat it. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I won't repeat my mistake though. Thank you very much. I appreciate standing up and being able to enter into the debate on Bill No. 73, *An Act to amend The Insurance Act and to make related amendments to The Saskatchewan Insurance Act*.

This one is a very important one. It's interesting how this happens because the minister actually alluded to the fact that the big piece of legislation, *The Insurance Act*, was passed in 2015 but has not been proclaimed, is not in force. So as the clock has been moving on since that time, things have been happening in the world. And things have been happening in the world that have a huge impact in terms of insurance needs for people in Canada and in Saskatchewan, and so we need to be prepared for those. We need to be on top of those. Even, in this case, we're beyond being prepared; we're responding. It's past tense for prepared. You know, the things that have happened need to be dealt with at hand.

And so it's very important that we take a look at this piece of legislation and see what we can do to satisfy the needs of those folks who have insurance and expect to be covered in an up-to-date, modern way here in Saskatchewan. Of course the big question is why hasn't that legislation been proclaimed. It took a lot of work and there's people who were expecting that that would be the case. And it needs to be the case that why are we taking time to do that.

This bill makes several changes to how insurance is provided across the province, including, as the minister said, several housekeeping amendments. But it includes a new section that addresses the medical assistance in dying. So as I understand it . . . And I'll take a minute and I'll read the minister's comments because I want to make sure this is right. Of course he said that, and I will quote:

Mr. Speaker, since *The Insurance Act* was passed in 2015, the Supreme Court of Canada issued the Carter decision [and we're very familiar with the Carter decision], and medical assistance in dying provisions were added to the Criminal Code. The amendments [referring to *The Insurance Act* amendments] will incorporate the definition of "medical assistance in dying" in the Criminal Code into *The Insurance Act* and will confirm that the section in the Act respecting suicide does not apply with respect to a death resulting from medical assistance in dying.

[16:30]

So I think that's a very important clarification. And while the Carter decision has come out and been in place, clearly there needs to be a clarification that the medical assistance in dying is not similar to suicide. And as tragic as suicide is . . . And we clearly think that's a societal issue, but that's for another debate in another place, another time. But before us today is this insurance Act amendment, and I think that's very important.

And so as the minister says, so we're supportive of that. It's important that families that are going through some very, very difficult times when the illnesses that are terminal and life-ending — and of course there are standards that needs to be met for people who have made that choice — that the last thing they need to be worried about is their insurance that they have purchased, that it would be there for them, and that they don't deal with that issue around suicide and whatever that may mean in terms of their own insurance. So this clarifies that, and that's a good thing that is relevant and, of course, is modern and very much something that we need to have.

The minister talks about that the industry has identified some minor technical wording and issues and concerns that needs to be brought up to speed with this. So this is very important. And so we'll go with that.

And also it adds two new sections. Well I talked about the medical insurance, and also ". . . recovery by innocent persons so that those provisions can be used by victims of interpersonal violence, and others, as soon as possible before the new Act comes into force." So this is important that they're recognizing there's issues, that people who are victims of interpersonal violence have needs that need to be met, and insurance could be the appropriate way for that. But because of the situation before us, that in fact may not be met because of problems with the new/old Act, the old/new Act. Or it's actually still in the bill stages, and that's a problem.

I just want to take a minute. I want to just verify, when does this piece of legislation come into effect? Because we still have that same old issue with the old piece of legislation that, when does it come into force? Because, and this is something that we'll ask in the House or in committee, is when does it come into force? Because I think people are getting curious about what's actually happening there.

And we saw yesterday, we had the Saskatchewan Young Brokers here, and it's great to see them here. It was an interesting situation. I've not really thought about it this way, but when they were introduced in the House, somebody said, well you'll have a post office, you'll have some sort of community rink or something like that, but nine out of ten you'll also have a broker. You'll have somebody in there who's looking after people's insurance needs. And it's one that we often think of. Whether they're working out of their home — they may not have a fancy office — but everybody has had those needs, and it's very important that we think about keeping our insurance needs and insurance legislation up to date.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I would be moving that we adjourn Bill No. 73, *The Insurance Amendment Act, 2017*. Thank you very much.

The Speaker: — The member from Saskatoon Centre has

moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 73, *The Insurance Amendment Act, 2017*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 74

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 74** — *The Evidence Amendment Act, 2017/Loi modificative de 2017 sur la preuve* be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Again it's nice to rise again to enter into this debate around *The Evidence Amendment Act, 2017*, Bill No. 74. And while it's relatively straightforward in terms of improving the language and making sure that it's current in the day-to-day needs that we have, it talks about housekeeping changes around the changing language, from "facility" to "mental health centre," references to "mental capacities" to "capacity," "mental disability" to "intellectual disability," which I think is very, very important.

And I remember — and I think the other side were very supportive on this — when we had the issue around the R-word and how we need to be clear in our language that we reflect good, current practices. And the R-word was one that's very offensive to the intellectual disabilities . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Yes. And I know that when I raised that issue, the former minister of Justice was very quick to make sure that any references in legislation that had that was dealt with.

Now I know we've got some puzzled looks over there wondering . . .

An Hon. Member: — Who's helping you out?

Mr. Forbes: — Yes. No, you did. You did.

An Hon. Member: — We went through every Act.

Mr. Forbes: — You did. You went through every Act. But it is one of those things that's very interesting . . .

An Hon. Member: — Those pieces of legislation were scoured for you.

Mr. Forbes: — Scoured, and I'm glad. I'm glad. Because there are people . . . And on a serious note, and I know the member opposite called me a good soul today and it was very kind of him to refer to me as . . . I didn't catch all of it though because somebody was talking at the time, so I don't know what was said . . .

An Hon. Member: — Read it in *Hansard*.

Mr. Forbes: — I'll read *Hansard* tomorrow. I'll have to catch that. But we digress, Mr. Speaker.

But I wanted to say that that was an example of how it's important to keep language current so it's not offensive, and what was once an appropriate term now has become understand to be not. And in that case when we did that work around the R-word, it was a case . . . Now I know the member opposite would say they scoured. I don't know if he personally scoured all the legislation . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Or he did, yes. I know how they scour over there. And so myself, I just did a simple Google search for the word, and so I would recommend that. That would be easier . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . I'm stopped in my tracks.

But anyways, Mr. Speaker, I think this is important that we do have that, and I encourage them though to go even further, as I've said, in terms of drafting standards and how we can be leaders in that circumstance.

So this is important, when we talk about people who are in vulnerable circumstances. And now that's a good thing. We talked about recordings are now required to be certified in a manner set out in regulations, and that routine administrative proceedings do not need to be certified.

Now again as I alluded to last night though, we need to make sure we don't go too far in making things a little too easy. Because we do have a problem if we have a situation where mishaps can occur, particularly when it comes to evidence and access to evidence. And so I think that this is a serious issue, and while we want to make sure that, especially in the arena of law, that people have access to law and that it seems to be done in an effective, efficient manner, that it's not bogged down in legalese. But at the same time there were practices put into place to ensure that we didn't move too fast, that in fact the due process has a certain place. And so when we get into moving into regulations, are we moving too far? And I know for example we had a good discussion about red tape today, and we know this government is keen on removing red tape in certain areas, but we see where in other areas they're actually creating more red tape, particularly for those in vulnerable circumstances.

And I just feel that we need to be careful about this and that we don't, we don't simplify things too much. Now maybe I'm an old Luddite and as I refer to letters and diaries and not being keen on the Internet — I am — but there's a place and a time for it. And when we move into regulations, sometimes we're moving it out of the spotlight. And you don't need to be in the spotlight all the time, but we don't need to hide it under a chair either. And so the processes of law, processes of justice, you know, it's not only that justice is done but it's seen to be done. And people have great reverence for evidence. Clearly it's something that is hugely important.

And if we get into a situation and, you know, I mean like, boy, the RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police] are in, you know, a bit of a situation over handling of evidence when it comes to the Colten Boushie case, where evidence was not handled in a way that some would expect that it should've been done. Some of the processes weren't carried out in the ways that some would expect it to have been done. And so let's be very mindful of some of these changes.

Again I think it's very appropriate that we keep our language

current, that it's respectful and inclusive, and mindful of the changes in current language, but that we don't move too fast down that road of not taking the time, as I said, for due process.

People have a lot of expectations. And my colleague today, while she was giving the former Justice minister a bit of a hard time about leaving the Ministry of Justice into something easier, I kind of winced when she said that because education is not an easier one. But I knew what she meant. I knew what she meant. She says she's defending herself by saying, "being sarcastic."

But I feel that Justice is hugely important. It affects us all. And we all, if we're not personally involved, we all have that understanding that in fact we will have that, that due process will protect us, that there are people who are qualified in the legal system, and that it's not made so easy that mistakes can be made because as we lower that bar and we are making it easier, that somehow the respect for the institution is being lost.

And I don't think that's the intention here. The intention is to make sure that we are doing the right thing. But it's just unfortunate that we have this situation before us.

[16:45]

And really when we talk about *The Evidence Act*, you know, when you look back at the records of how important evidence is, or cases that have been lost, cases that we thought were going to, the public thought were going to go one way, they go another way because of the evidence and how it was handled. So I'm thinking that we need to make sure that we remain that reverence for that.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I would like to move adjournment of Bill No. 74, *An Act to amend The Evidence Act*. Thank you very much.

The Speaker: — The member from Saskatoon Centre has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 74, *The Evidence Amendment Act, 2017*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 75

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 75** — *The Electronic Communications Convention Implementation Act/Loi de mise en œuvre de la Convention sur les communications électroniques* be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And I'm pleased to rise and enter into the debate on Bill No. 75, *An Act respecting the Application to Saskatchewan of the United Nations Convention on the Use of Electronic Communications in International Contracts*.

And again this a fairly lengthy bill and it's, you know, important. And I don't want to go into the same discussions that I had really much earlier about the situation or the state of affairs when we start talking about international implications of the Internet. But clearly this government is on this. And it talks about the *United Nations Convention on the Use of Electronic Communications in International Contracts*.

And it talks about "The States Parties to this convention reaffirming their belief that international trade on the basis of equality and mutual benefit is an important element in promoting friendly relations among States."

And so this is very important that we look at this. And we'll have questions about this and what are the implications of this. I mean, it is one that is clearly something that's important to the province because we do have a lot of international trade. And one that I had raised in the fall was Myanmar, which was having some issues in the world, particularly the issues around genocide or what many people believed to be the genocide of the Rohingya people and the implications of that.

And for us the interesting thing with Myanmar was the fact that we had, the federal government had lifted the ban on trade about four or five years ago with that country because of the way it was handling its democratic elections in the country and the fact that there was issues there and they had come a long way in doing that. So we had resolved that and so we started trade with that, and in fact we had been trading more and more with them.

So this is the kind of thing that it's important to have a standard when it comes to international contracts, if they are carried out using electronic communications. And so this is not a small piece of legislation before us but it's a critical tool in terms of our economy here in Saskatchewan as an exporting province. And it's one that we need to take very seriously.

We'll have some questions around this, I'm sure, because as I said that the implications . . . I'm just delighted to see that they're looking at United Nations conventions and how important that is. And it's good for us to be part of that. And while I know it takes some time to do this — I see that in fact this was agreed to in 2005 — but I know it does take time to work its way through the national level down to the provincial level.

So with that, there may be more questions on this, but at this point I'm going to move adjournment on Bill No. 75, *An Act respecting the Application to Saskatchewan of the United Nations Convention on the Use of Electronic Communications in International Contracts*. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — The member from Saskatoon Centre has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 75, the electronic communications implementation Act, 2017.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 101

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Stewart that **Bill No. 101 — *The Agricultural Implements Amendment Act, 2017*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise this afternoon and enter into the debate on Bill No. 101, *The Agricultural Implements Amendment Act*. Now I know a few of my colleagues have already weighed in on this debate and have put forward, I think, some very important and very strong comments and some criticism on the bill, some feedback on the bill. And I will do my best to add to that discussion this afternoon, Mr. Speaker.

The bill does some housekeeping things but also some things that are a bit more substantive. And I'm sure our critic will provide some fulsome discussion and fulsome questions to the minister responsible at committee, as I know she does very effectively, especially on this file, Mr. Speaker, and I know will continue to do so.

Some of the more mundane parts of the bill, Mr. Speaker, there's some housekeeping and language changes throughout the bill including making the bill a little bit more gender neutral in its language.

Some a bit more interesting ones, potentially, that are changes in this bill is . . . The bill repeals the definition for "repair." It removes other references to "repairs" and instead references either "parts" or "parts and service." I'm not totally sure exactly what that change will mean for those who rely on this legislation, but I know those questions will be asked by our critic at committee.

Furthermore the bill repeals the section that outlines that the minister can appoint employees for the purpose of this Act. Now based on the explanatory notes that were provided accompanying this bill, apparently this change is made because this is already covered under *The Public Service Act*, so I'm sure some work will be done just to ensure that there's nothing being left to have fallen through the cracks in terms of this change, now that it's in existence.

Another change that's a little bit interesting is the bill will allow for notices to go out through other prescribed means. So what that means, Mr. Speaker, is that it will allow for the use of digital forms of communication. So perhaps email will be used. I'm not entirely sure. Now it's possible that that's loosening some of the requirements that were originally provided in terms of how communication, with respect to provisions in this legislation, can be sent out. There's always the risk, when you're loosening those types of rules that it might be easier to provide that communication notice, but some folks frankly don't, in this day and age, still don't use digital forms of communication, either because they choose not to or they can't. And we still have locations in Saskatchewan that don't have access to Internet at all, or access to a reliable Internet, Mr. Speaker, and I think we, as legislators, need to be cognizant of

that when we are affecting any sort of change.

Furthermore the bill will allow for the minister to impose penalties on a dealer or distributor. Now this used to be the mandate of the board to impose these penalties. So now, instead of having a board determine the penalties, the minister themselves can impose those penalties. There's always some concern when more power is being given to government, when more power is being given to cabinet, and when more power is being given to a minister because it lacks that level of oversight that, as an opposition, we think is incredibly important, that government should always be subject to and governmental decisions should always be subject to. And sometimes when more minds are at the table, better decisions are made, Mr. Speaker, and perhaps there might be a loss of expertise and a loss of knowledge here, Mr. Speaker. But I'm sure that our critic will be asking some very strong questions about that as well.

Mr. Speaker, this bill proposes also to abolish the Agricultural Implements Compensation Fund and instead move all compensation or penalties that are associated with the Act will now flow directly through the General Revenue Fund, Mr. Speaker. While at the same time, the bill is increasing many of the penalties that we see in the Act, such as there's a maximum award for compensation for a farmer under section 10, which increases from \$10,000 to \$50,000. There's a maximum penalty for distributors who fail to pay an amount to the board required by section 12, which is increased from \$5,000 to \$25,000. There's penalties for distributors under section 24, which increase from \$5 a day to not more than, so a maximum of \$25,000; and penalties under section 25 for the supply of repairs by distributors increased from \$5,000 to \$50,000.

So these are pretty substantial changes to the amount of penalties that are owed, and I know our critic will be looking to see what sort of consultation was done with respect to these changes because they can, when we're talking about monetary penalties, they can have very significant impacts on those who are faced with them. And the hope is that the consultation has been done to ensure that these penalties are appropriate for these specific instances, and we do have a government right now that has failed often in terms of its consultation. So there's always a concern on this side of the House as to what level of consultation has occurred, and I know our critic will be asking questions around that.

Furthermore there's always concerns when funds are moving from what is a specifically designated fund into the General Revenue Fund. And we're seeing more and more of this happen where funds that used to be designated for a specific purpose, and therefore would specifically not flow through the GRF, are now going through the GRF. Frankly, Mr. Speaker, it makes it more difficult for us — us as taxpayers and us, the smaller us as opposition — to track what government is doing with our money. When more and more flow directly to the GRF, it makes it more difficult for us to be able to trace that money and determine exactly what's happening with that.

I know I have . . . I'm cognizant of the time, Mr. Speaker. I know there are other individuals who want to enter into this debate on this bill, so at this time I will adjourn debate on Bill No. 101.

The Speaker: — The member from Regina Douglas Park has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 101, *The Agricultural Implements Amendment Act, 2017*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. Now that we have reached the time of adjournment, this House stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

[The Assembly adjourned at 17:00.]

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Moe	3417
Steele	3417, 3425
Hindley	3417
D'Autremont	3417
Beck	3417

PRESENTING PETITIONS

Wotherspoon	3417
Fiaz	3417
Beck	3417
Forbes	3418
McCall	3418

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

Prairie Dog Celebrates Its 25th Anniversary

Beck	3418
------------	------

Canada 150 Medal and Senate 150th Anniversary Medal Recipients

Nerlien	3418
---------------	------

Nutrition Month and Dietitians Day

Mowat	3419
-------------	------

Moose Jaw Women Honoured at Awards Event

Michelson	3419
-----------------	------

Young Athlete Achieves Remarkable Success

Fiaz	3419
------------	------

Rural Municipality and Towns Combine Fire Services

Young	3420
-------------	------

Quinn Stevenson Memorial Rink

Cheveldayoff	3420
--------------------	------

QUESTION PERIOD

Delays in Rail Transportation of Grain

Meili	3420
Moe	3420

Funding for Special Dietary Needs

Meili	3421
Merriman	3421

Tariffs on Steel Exports to the United States

Mowat	3422
Harrison	3422

Investment in Prince Albert and Hospitals

Rancourt	3422
Hargrave	3422
Moe	3523
Reiter	3423
Meili	3423

Consultation Regarding Cannabis Distribution and Regulation

Sarauer	3423
Makowsky	3424
Morgan	3424

Global Transportation Hub

Sproule	3424
Morgan	3424

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 121 — *The Cannabis Control (Saskatchewan) Act*

Morgan	3425
--------------	------

Bill No. 122 — *The Cannabis Control (Saskatchewan) Consequential Amendments Act, 2018*

Loi de 2018 corrélative de la loi intitulée The Cannabis Control (Saskatchewan) Act

Morgan	3425
--------------	------

STATEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

Question of Privilege

The Speaker	3425
-------------------	------

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES**SECOND READINGS**

Bill No. 77 — <i>The Miscellaneous Statutes (Superannuation Plans) Amendment Act, 2017</i>	
Sproule.....	3426
Brkich (referral to Crown and Central Agencies Committee).....	3428
Bill No. 78 — <i>The Municipal Employees' Pension Amendment Act, 2017</i>	
Sproule.....	3428
Brkich (referral to Crown and Central Agencies Committee).....	3429
Bill No. 79 — <i>The Public Employees Pension Plan Amendment Act, 2017</i>	
Sproule.....	3429
Brkich (referral to Crown and Central Agencies Committee).....	3431
Bill No. 80 — <i>The Municipal Financing Corporation Amendment Act, 2017</i>	
Sproule.....	3431
Brkich (referral to Crown and Central Agencies Committee).....	3433
Bill No. 108 — <i>The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2017</i>	
Sarauer.....	3433
Brkich (referral to Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice Committee).....	3434
Bill No. 109 — <i>The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2017 (No. 2)</i>	
<i>Loi n° 2 de 2017 modifiant le droit législatif</i>	
Sarauer.....	3434
Brkich (referral to Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice Committee).....	3435
Bill No. 72 — <i>The Privacy Amendment Act, 2017</i>	
Forbes.....	3435
Bill No. 73 — <i>The Insurance Amendment Act, 2017</i>	
Forbes.....	3443
Bill No. 74 — <i>The Evidence Amendment Act, 2017/Loi modificative de 2017 sur la preuve</i>	
Forbes.....	3444
Bill No. 75 — <i>The Electronic Communications Convention Implementation Act</i>	
<i>Loi de mise en œuvre de la Convention sur les communications électroniques</i>	
Forbes.....	3445
Bill No. 101 — <i>The Agricultural Implements Amendment Act, 2017</i>	
Sarauer.....	3446

GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

CABINET MINISTERS

Hon. Scott Moe

Premier

President of the Executive Council

Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs

Hon. Tina Beaudry-Mellor

Minister of Advanced Education
Minister Responsible for the Status of Women
Minister Responsible for Innovation

Hon. Ken Cheveldayoff

Minister of Central Services
Minister Responsible for the Provincial
Capital Commission
Minister Responsible for Public Service Commission

Hon. Dustin Duncan

Minister of Environment
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Water
Security Agency
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Power Corporation

Hon. Bronwyn Eyre

Minister of Energy and Resources
Minister Responsible for SaskEnergy Incorporated
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Water Corporation

Hon. Joe Hargrave

Minister of Crown Investments
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Government Insurance
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Transportation Company

Hon. Donna Harpauer

Minister of Finance

Hon. Jeremy Harrison

Minister of Trade and Export Development
Minister of Immigration and Career Training

Hon. Warren Kaeding

Minister of Government Relations
Minister Responsible for First Nations, Métis
and Northern Affairs

Hon. Gene Makowsky

Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Liquor
and Gaming Authority
Minister Responsible for Tourism Saskatchewan

Hon. David Marit

Minister of Highways and Infrastructure
Minister Responsible for SaskBuilds and
Priority Saskatchewan

Hon. Paul Merriman

Minister of Social Services

Hon. Don Morgan

Minister of Justice and Attorney General
Minister of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety
Minister Responsible for the Saskatchewan
Workers' Compensation Board
Minister Responsible for The Global
Transportation Hub Authority
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Telecommunications

Hon. Greg Ottenbreit

Minister Responsible for Rural and Remote Health

Hon. Jim Reiter

Minister of Health

Hon. Lyle Stewart

Minister of Agriculture
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Crop
Insurance Corporation

Hon. Christine Tell

Minister of Corrections and Policing
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Gaming Corporation

Hon. Gordon Wyant

Deputy Premier
Minister of Education