



SECOND SESSION - TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

of the

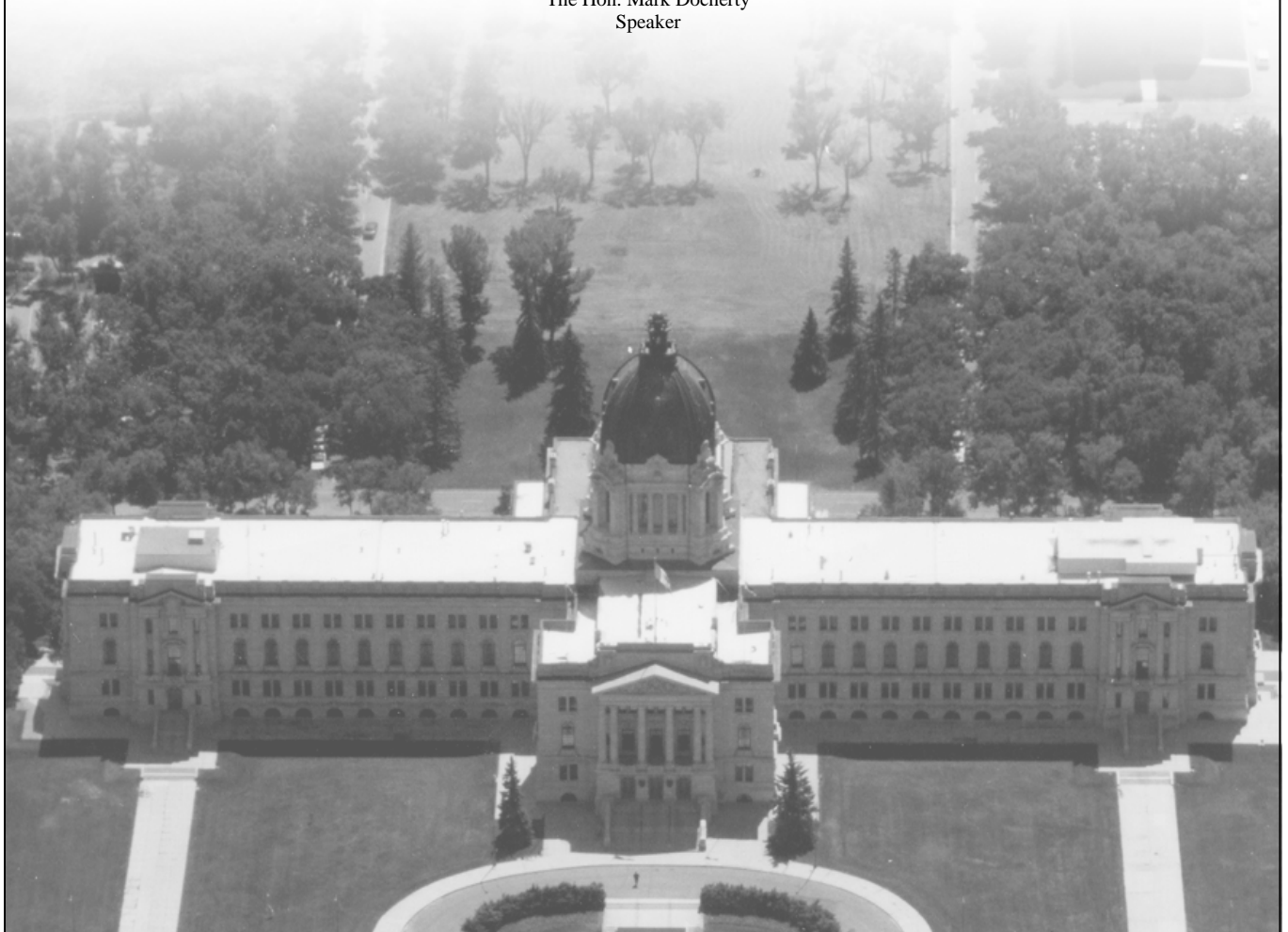
**Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

---

**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

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

**Hon. Mr. Merriman:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you and to all members of the Assembly, I have the honour of introducing three important guests who have joined us in the legislature today. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to introduce, and if you could just give us a wave: the president of the Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers, Ryan Labatt; treasurer and council member, Carole Bryant; and executive director, Karen Wasylenka.

Mr. Speaker, they are joining us here during Social Work Week in Saskatchewan. This special week is proclaimed each year to draw attention to the important role that social workers play in bringing change to people, families, and our communities. This week also gives us a wonderful opportunity to let Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers know how much we value the relationship that we have forged with their organization and their members.

The Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers was established over 50 years ago, and in that time membership in the regulatory and professional organization has grown from 100 to over 1,800 today. We are grateful that this organization, for the role that they play in upholding the aims and objectives of the professional social workers. Mr. Speaker, I would like all members to welcome them to their Assembly today.

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

**Ms. Rancourt:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the minister across and welcome our special guests to the Assembly today, Ryan Labatt and Carole Bryant and Karen Wasylenka. I'm sorry if I tortured that last name, Karen. But I know my colleague, the member from Regina Lakeview, and I met with Ryan and Karen last year and talked about the importance of the Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers and their role within the province in advocating for individuals in our province that might not have as strong a voice to advocate for themselves.

So the members on the opposition here, we want to thank you for the hard work that you do for working with all the registered social workers within the province, advocating for more registered social workers. We just heard from the minister how the association has grown through the years, which is wonderful. And I was proud to do a member's statement yesterday, talking about the good work that the Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers does for the province.

So on behalf of the official opposition, we want to welcome you to your legislature.

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

**Hon. Ms. Wilson:** — With leave for extended introduction of guests, please.

**The Speaker:** — The Provincial Secretary has requested leave for an extended introduction. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

**Hon. Ms. Wilson:** — Thank you. Merci, Mr. Speaker. In the west gallery to you and through you, it's my pleasure to introduce several groups of francophone students — one from École Monseigneur de Laval here in Regina. These students are the future of our Fransaskois community.

Also joining us today in the Speaker's gallery along with other members of the francophone community is Roger Gauthier. Mr. Gauthier is the president of the assembly of the Fransaskois organization. He works with our government to promote and strengthen our Fransaskois community.

Would all our honoured guests please stand. I'd like to recognize you in the Legislative Assembly. Thank you. Thank you, Roger.

And while I'm on my feet, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to take this opportunity to officially proclaim March 1st to 21 as Rendez-vous de la Francophonie 2018 in Saskatchewan. Rendez-vous is held annually throughout Canada in March to promote the French language and francophone culture. And it also coincides with the International Day of La Francophonie on March 20th.

Here in Saskatchewan we acknowledge the many contributions the Fransaskois have made to our province, both culturally and economically. I encourage all citizens, no matter their language or their culture, to join us in celebrating La Francophonie in Saskatchewan. Merci. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Meili:** — I ask leave for an extended introduction.

**The Speaker:** — The Leader of the Opposition has requested leave for an extended introduction. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

**Mr. Meili:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join the member opposite in welcoming the members of the francophone community to their House today. With your permission, I'll switch to French for a few moments.

J'aimerais vraiment présenter, à vous et par vous, les jeunes qui sont ici avec nous de l'École Monseigneur de Laval. Et j'étais vraiment content d'être avec eux dehors pour la levée du drapeau fransaskois. Et je veux aussi présenter et accueillir les

gens de l'ACF [l'Assemblée communautaire francoskaise], incluant le nouveau président. Félicitations à monsieur Gauthier pour son élection. Et aussi un mot à monsieur Étienne Fletcher, le musicien qui nous a parlé en bas — un vraiment bon musicien et un fier francoskaise. Et je suis très content de vous voir tous ici pour la Journée internationale de la Francophonie. Bienvenue.

[Translation: I would really like to introduce, to you and through you, the young people who are here with us from Monseigneur de Laval School. And I was really happy to be with them outside for the raising of the Francoskaise flag. And I also want to introduce and welcome the folks from the ACF, including the new president. Congratulations to Mr. Gauthier on his election. And also a word to Mr. Étienne Fletcher, the musician who spoke to us down below — a truly fine musician and a proud Francoskaise. And I am very happy to see you all here for International Francophonie Day. Welcome.]

I'd also like to extend a welcome to folks sitting in the gallery opposite, Mr. Speaker. These are medical students who are here for their lobby day, their annual lobby day. And it's always good to have friends from my alma mater, from the College of Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan.

We had a group today. We had Olivia Friesen who did a great job organizing today's lobby day. And beside her is Alison White, who you may have heard on the radio today. She's a great spokesperson for the group. It may make sense that she's so good on the radio, as her mother is Sheila Coles, our recently retired beloved host of The Morning Edition. We're also joined by Samuel Simonson, Stephanie Beckett, Shyane Wiegens, Kieran Johnson, Katherine Ludlow, Ashley Tshala, Conley Krieger — I had the pleasure of training with Ashley's Mom, who's Dr. Tshiyombo in Saskatoon — Sarah Neuberger, and Eric Yip-Lang, and Alexe Dick, who is a volunteer and worked at the SWITCH [student wellness initiative toward community health] student-run clinic.

They brought today their concerns around mental health — around the waiting lists that are faced, the needs for an upstream approach to make sure that young people have early interventions, early support in their mental health needs. And we're very pleased to have them join us with their concerns for today's lobby day. My thanks to them for coming, and welcome to your legislature.

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

**Hon. Ms. Eyre:** — Mr. Speaker, we would just like to welcome members of the French community.

Nous voudrions souhaiter un bienvenue au membres du conseil francoskaise et de la communauté, et naturellement aussi aux étudiants de Monseigneur de Laval. Nous sommes très, très contents que vous étiez tous ici, et encore un grand bienvenue.

[Translation: We would like to welcome the members of the conseil francoskaise and the community, and naturally to the students from Monseigneur de Laval. We are very, very happy that you could all be here, and again, a big welcome.]

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Health.

**Hon. Mr. Reiter:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to this Assembly, I would like to join with the Leader of the Opposition in welcoming the students that are here from the Student Medical Society of Saskatchewan, the student representative body for the College of Medicine.

Mr. Speaker, this morning I had the opportunity, along with the Minister of Rural and Remote Health, and the Deputy Premier who is the Minister of Education, to meet with three of the students. I understand there's 13, I believe, that have met with members on both sides of the House today. We had an opportunity to meet with Alison White, Alan Chan, and Olivia Friesen. We had a great conversation about the importance of mental health. I especially appreciated the fact that they weren't just suggesting more funding, but they were suggesting where that funding could be targeted to.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank them for their advocacy and the good work, and I want to wish them well in their studies and look forward to them all practising medicine in the province of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would ask all members to please give these students a warm welcome to their Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Chartier:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to join with the Minister of Health and the Leader of the Opposition in welcoming these medical students today from the Student Medical Society of Saskatchewan. We always appreciate their efforts and the work that they bring on their annual lobby. It's always incredibly informative and we're happy to amplify their voices. They always have very well-researched positions and reasons why they are bringing to the table what they are.

Mental health is, I know, near and dear to many of us, and our caucus was extra appreciative of the focus on mental health. The focus on school-based programs for intervention, education, were really important. But the thing that I was especially appreciative about their presentation is they talked about the early intervention but then connecting students to necessary services and support and treatment. And as they pointed out in our meetings this morning, that that requires resources. You have to know where the resources need to go and then you actually have to put the resources in place. And I think that that message was not lost on us, and I hope that that message was not lost on government members, Mr. Speaker.

But with that, I'd like to ask all my colleagues on both sides of the House to join again and welcome these young leaders to their Legislative Assembly.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

**Hon. Mr. Stewart:** — With leave for an extended introduction, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — The Minister of Agriculture has requested leave for an extended introduction. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister.

**Hon. Mr. Stewart:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce, in your gallery, a group of very dedicated volunteers, the Ministry of Agriculture's crop reporters. From seeding to harvest, a network of crop reporters provides valuable information that many people and institutions rely on, both locally and internationally. Having accurate and timely crop reports available each week allows international traders to better predict market trends.

Local producers are able to plan and evaluate each crop season to make the best business decisions. These decisions are crucial to strengthening our economy in Saskatchewan. This information is collected each week by a small army of dedicated volunteers. Each year, we celebrate those volunteers who have offered their time for 25, 35, and 40 years. By my calculations, the group we are honouring today has collectively contributed to a remarkable 9,000 crop reports.

I want to recognize and thank each of the volunteer crop reporters here today. As I announce their names, I ask that each crop reporter and spouse stand to be recognized by the legislature.

And for 25 years of experience we have Wayne Olson of the RM [rural municipality] of Lakeside; Diane and Marcel Perrin of the RM of Duck Lake; Aaron Koob of the RM of Viscount, who was not able to attend today.

For 35 years of service we have Keith Stacy of the RM of Moose Range; Murray Janis of the RM of Glen Bain and not able to attend today; Lawrence Beckie of the RM of McCraney, who was not able to attend today.

For 40 years of service we recognize Glen and Liz MacKenzie of the RM of Pinto Creek; Dave and Irene Ehman of the RM of Craik; Cecil and Mary Reimer of the RM of Barrier Valley. Thank you, and you may be seated.

Thank you, everyone. We really do appreciate what you do. Your dedication and volunteerism are examples of what makes Saskatchewan such a great place to live, and you make an incredible contribution to the agricultural economy in our province. Thank you.

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

**Ms. Beck:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the minister in welcoming these guests to their Legislative Assembly. I can scarcely think of two more Saskatchewan endeavours than talking about and checking in on the weather and volunteering, and to have been doing that for 25 to 40 years really is quite an accomplishment. We all here in this Assembly thank you for that.

[13:45]

Mr. Speaker, just because this work is not paid, certainly it

doesn't speak to the value of your contributions. As the minister said, this is information that is not only valuable to producers in your local area and across the province, certainly it impacts information right around the world. So due to that importance and the longevity of your service, I would invite all members to welcome these guests to their Legislative Assembly and thank them for their service.

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

**Mr. Olason:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all members of the Assembly, I'd like to welcome 41 of our best and brightest grade 8 students from Brunskill School in Saskatoon University. They're accompanied by their teachers, Michael Kurpjuweit and Cory Farthing, and educational assistant, Bernie Sylvestri.

I look forward to meeting with them after question period this afternoon and answering all their questions and letting them know a little bit about what we do in this place. I know we're going to have a very robust discussion this afternoon, but it will be respectful. So I'd ask everybody to welcome them to their Legislative Assembly.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Kindersley. No? . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . No? All right. Don't fake me out.

## PRESENTING PETITIONS

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Kindersley.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by the citizens of Claydon, Swift Current, and Frontier, Saskatchewan. I do so present.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Regina Rosemont.

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Thanks, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present petitions on behalf of concerned citizens as it relates to the underfunding and 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 of Moose Jaw. I so submit.

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

**Ms. Beck:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition calling on the government to stop the cuts to our kids' classrooms. Those who have signed this petition wish to draw our attention to the following: to the fact that last year's budget saw an additional \$67 million in education property tax go into the General Revenue Fund, but also saw \$54 million cut from our classrooms.

Of course, Mr. Speaker, these cuts have had a devastating impact on supports and services to children around the province, including supports that help deal with mental health issues in our classroom. I'll read the prayer:

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

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

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

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

Now, Mr. Speaker, we know that Saskatchewan politics should belong to Saskatchewan people. And the federal government and the provinces of Alberta, Manitoba, Quebec, Nova Scotia, and now British Columbia have moved to limit this influence and level the playing field by banning corporate and union donations to political parties.

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

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Government of Saskatchewan call on the 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 the city of Regina. I do so present. Thank you.

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

**Ms. Chartier:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise

once again to present a petition calling on the Sask Party to appoint a seniors' advocate. Those who have signed the petition point out that the concerns of Saskatchewan seniors have not been a priority of the Sask Party government. They point out that there's been many cuts that this government has been implemented, like the hearing aid plan, podiatry services, STC [Saskatchewan Transportation Company], increasing long-term care fees — many, many things, Mr. Speaker, that have made life unaffordable and more difficult for seniors.

The petitioners point out that Saskatchewan doesn't have legislated minimum care standards for long-term care, and even with continued reports — one just a month ago — and concerns from families on the issues in long-term care, the Sask Party government has failed to ensure safety, quality of life, and dignity for seniors. They point out that several provinces have seniors' advocates who successfully work to ensure seniors have the supports they need and deserve. And they point out that a seniors' advocate would provide vital support for seniors and their families across the province.

I'd like to read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly in Saskatchewan call on the Saskatchewan 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 petition today is signed by citizens from Regina and Saskatoon. I so present.

## STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

### Reconciliation Regina Event

**Mr. Fiaz:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I had the privilege to attend the announcement of Reconciliation Regina. The event was held this morning at māmawêyatitân centre at Scott Collegiate.

It began with a pipe ceremony and a prayer from Elder Noel Starblanket. There were also comments from the mayor of Regina, Michael Fougere, and Ms. Mary Culbertson, the Saskatchewan Treaty Commissioner. It was a great event, and we would like to thank the city of Regina for their work on reconciliation.

Mr. Speaker, our government recognizes the importance of reconciliation, and that is why we are committed to continue our work on the TRC [Truth and Reconciliation Commission] calls to action. We have already acted on 26 of the 34 calls to action directed at the provinces, and we continue work on additional calls to action that are directed specifically to the province. But we know there is more work to do.

There are challenges Mr. Speaker, no doubt. We know that the wrongs of the past will not be resolved overnight. However, events like this highlight how important reconciliation is to all the people who call Saskatchewan home, and what can be

achieved on the journey when we work together. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Fransaskois Community Celebrates la Francophonie**

**Ms. Sproule:** — Merci, monsieur le Président. Le lundi 5 mars, avec le député Kevin Waugh et Élise Proulx-Cullen, députée de Saskatoon à l'ACF, j'ai eu l'honneur de lever le drapeau fransaskois au coup d'envoi inaugural du 20e Rendez-vous de la Francophonie.

Chaque année, le drapeau est élevé à Saskatoon à l'École canadienne-française où tous les élèves de la 1re à la 12e année se réunissent pour chanter "O Canada" dans la langue officielle du français et célébrer le drapeau officiel de la communauté fransaskoise.

Les Rendez-vous de la Francophonie sont une série d'événements au Canada qui donnent l'occasion à tous les Canadiens de se joindre à la célébration des cultures et des patrimoines francophones et acadiens, et de défendre la dualité linguistique du Canada. Les RVF [Rendez-vous de la Francophonie] donnent à tous l'occasion de participer à une célébration mondiale encore plus grande — la Journée internationale de la Francophonie, qui est aujourd'hui, le 20 mars.

J'invite tous les membres à prendre part aux activités de Rendez-vous dans leurs communautés et à se joindre à nos communautés fransaskoises pour célébrer leur culture dynamique. Et si vous le faites, remercier les nombreux bénévoles qui contribuent à faire de ces événements une réalité. Merci, monsieur le Président.

[Translation: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On Monday, March 5th, with Member of Parliament Kevin Waugh and Élyse Proulx-Cullen, Saskatoon representative with the ACF, I had the honour of raising the Fransaskois flag at the kickoff of the 20th Rendez-vous de la Francophonie. Each year, the flag is raised in Saskatoon at l'École canadienne-française, where all students from grades 1 to 12 gather to sing "O Canada" in the official language of French and to celebrate the official flag of the Fransaskois community.

The Rendez-vous de la Francophonie are a series of events in Canada that provide the opportunity for all Canadians to join in the celebration of francophone and Acadian culture and heritage, and to defend linguistic duality in Canada. The RVFs give everyone the opportunity to participate in an even bigger worldwide celebration — the International Day of La Francophonie, which is today, March 20th.

I invite all members to take part in the Rendez-vous activities in their communities and to join with our Fransaskois community to celebrate their dynamic culture. And if you do, thank the many volunteers who contribute to making these events a reality. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.]

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

#### **Social Work Week Proclaimed in Saskatchewan**

**Mr. Hindley:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise in the House to recognize that March 18th to the 24th has been proclaimed Social Work Week in Saskatchewan. Social Work Week is our chance to take the time to appreciate all that the social workers do for the people across Saskatchewan. This year's theme is Bringing Change to Life.

Every day across our province, social workers support individuals, families, and communities to seek and experience positive change. Social workers can be found applying their professional skill sets across all of Saskatchewan, from public and private practice through community-based organizations, as educators, innovators, researchers, and across government in all human service sectors. It's also our opportunity to recognize the value of social work as a profession and the work that the Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers does as the regulatory and professional organization for social workers.

Since its inception in 1962, the association has grown to more than 1,800 registered members. The association has many events and activities planned at a number of communities throughout the week, including in my hometown of Swift Current where I believe they had an event earlier this month, and I'm sure all of these will be a resounding success.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask that all members join me in recognizing and thanking social workers for the important work they do for all people of Saskatchewan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Regina Rosemont.

#### **Champions for Mental Health Message Brought to Saskatchewan**

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Mr. Speaker, mental health care is health care, period. Unfortunately, far too many Saskatchewan people are forced to suffer in silence without access to the mental health and addictions care they need. We must do so much better as a province.

On March 17th I had the honour to bring greetings on behalf of the official opposition at the Champions for Mental Health dinner organized by the Schizophrenia Society of Saskatchewan. The members from Wascana Plains, Walsh Acres, and University also attended. The event's keynote was Michael Landsberg.

Canadians know Michael Landsberg best as the brash, quick-witted sports journalist on TSN [The Sports Network] who enjoyed an 18-year run with his show, *Off the Record*. Today Landsberg is still talking sports, but he dedicates much of his time to sharing his story of his ongoing battle with depression, encouraging people to talk about mental health and courageously reminding all that those that are suffering are sick, not weak. He did so last week in The Battlefords, in Fond-du-Lac, Cigar Lake, and Regina.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to thank Michael Landsberg, the Schizophrenia Society of Saskatchewan and its leadership, president Bruce McKee and executive director Dr. Jamie Eng,

and all those across Saskatchewan working to address the stigma and importantly working to extend services, supports, hope, and care each and every day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Athletes Inducted Into the Conexus Warriors and Legends Hall of Fame**

**Mr. Michelson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Congratulations to three exceptional individuals who were inducted into the Conexus Warriors and Legends Hall of Fame last month in Moose Jaw.

Goaltender Jason Fitzsimmons and forward Rob Reimer were inducted into the Hall of Fame, along with Toby Tobias, who was recognized in the Builders category.

Jason Fitzsimmons spent three years in the net for the Moose Jaw Warriors playing 132 games. He is fourth in all-time games played by a Warrior goaltender and his 54 . . . fifth in franchise history. Jason now works as a pro scout and is involved with the major league operations of the Washington Capitals.

And from Neville, Saskatchewan, Rob Reimer played in 250 games for the Moose Jaw Warriors from 1987 to 1991. By the end of his career with the Warriors, he had 107 goals, 138 assists for 245 points. Reimer is currently tied for fifth in all-time scoring for the Moose Jaw Warriors.

And gentleman Toby Tobias, who served as president for the Moose Jaw Warriors board of directors in 1991 — he played a major role in building the foundation for this team.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in congratulating Jason Fitzsimmons, Rob Reimer, and Toby Tobias on their induction into the Conexus Warriors and Legends Hall of Fame. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of the Environment.

### **Remembering Wendy Dammann, First Female Sheriff in Canada**

**Hon. Mr. Duncan:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in the House to acknowledge the life of an exceptional member of my constituency, Wendy Dammann.

Wendy was born in Weyburn in 1948 and grew up in the surrounding area. She attended high school in Stoughton and after graduating, became a stenographer, taking a position with the Saskatchewan government medical records division in Regina.

[14:00]

But a career as a stenographer was to be short-lived. In 1969 Wendy relocated to Weyburn and accepted a position at the Weyburn Court House as deputy sheriff and local registrar, and nine years later she was promoted to sheriff. Mr. Speaker, this promotion was significant because it made Wendy the first female sheriff in all of Canada.

Mr. Speaker, Wendy was recognized in our community with a number of awards including Quota International's Excellence in the Workplace and being named the Woman of the Year in 2002.

Mr. Speaker, she remained the sheriff until 2002 when she retired. And in typical Wendy fashion, she timed her retirement to begin at 12 noon on her last day — high noon. Mr. Speaker, Wendy was also a staple in the community throughout her career. She lost her battle with cancer last month, and I know that she will be missed by many.

And so I want to acknowledge Wendy. But I also want to acknowledge the provincial Protocol Office, Central Services, and the Chief Justice for agreeing to lower the flags at the Weyburn Court House in her honour. Mr. Speaker, I'd ask everyone in the Assembly to join with me in acknowledging Wendy's significant achievements and sending the best to her family in this difficult time. Thank you.

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

### **Ministry of Highways Partners with Rural Municipality**

**Mr. Nerlien:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last week an agreement was signed between the Minister of Highways and Infrastructure and the RM of Barrier Valley to form a partnership to upgrade the McKague access road.

The agreement was signed as part of a recent initiative the Ministry has undertaken to join with RMs to develop partnerships and improve low-traffic rural highways. The objective is to work with the communities to provide residents with sustainable access to their communities using a combination of provincial highways and municipal roads to handle truck traffic in particular, to better facilitate the efficient movement of Saskatchewan goods and services.

By forming this partnership, the RM can contribute in-kind contributions such as gravel, base materials, ditch mowing, or winter maintenance, and this has allowed the government to improve more kilometres of road. Each partnership is customized to fit each RM's unique abilities and needs.

Mr. Speaker, the agreement with the RM of Barrier Valley marks the second recent agreement signed. The ministry has also agreed to a partnership with the RM of Reciprocity to improve Highways 361 and 318. Agreements regarding the Frenchman Butte access, Tantallon access, and Highways 18 and 28 are also being discussed.

This government has found an innovative way to make important repairs. We remain committed to working with local RMs and investing in rural Saskatchewan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

### **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

**The Speaker:** — Before we go to question period, I also want to take the opportunity to introduce Ryan Labatt in the Speaker's gallery. And Ryan and I worked many, many years together in the social services. Great to have you here, sir, to



your legislature.

Also would like to remind members . . . and also like to welcome the school group. Looking forward to debate as much as I'm sure they are. So let's see where this goes today, all right? Best behaviour. All the best.

### QUESTION PERIOD

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

#### Services for HIV Patients

**Mr. Meili:** — Mr. Speaker, in December federal funding for HIV [human immunodeficiency virus] and AIDS [acquired immune deficiency syndrome] outreach and support work was cut to Saskatchewan front-line service providers by almost \$700,000 and with very little explanation. And as a result, this month we will see the closure of the Scattered Site facility in La Ronge, one of the only centres in the North where any harm-reduction supports are available and, in this case, delivered by an HIV-positive peer support worker.

We're facing an HIV epidemic that neither our federal nor our provincial government is taking seriously and, as a result, people in the North are losing access to the services and supports they need to survive.

What is this government doing, Mr. Speaker, to advocate for northern HIV services? And what has the Premier done to fight for restoration of federal funding to HIV service organizations in Saskatchewan?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Premier.

**Hon. Mr. Moe:** — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and I've just been informed by the Minister of Health that he has wrote a letter to the federal minister. This was a federal cut to HIV funding here in the province of Saskatchewan. He's asked him to reconsider, Mr. Speaker. I'll let him speak as to whether or not he has heard a response to that, Mr. Speaker.

But the Leader of the Opposition is correct because we need to continue to invest in all health care services, Mr. Speaker, and access to our health care services here in the province of Saskatchewan and access to those treatments, Mr. Speaker. And HIV investment has been strong in the province of Saskatchewan by the Government of Saskatchewan on behalf of those people, Mr. Speaker, totalling about \$4 million annually. And now, Mr. Speaker, this funding has significantly improved our response in this province to HIV, Mr. Speaker.

But there's much more to do, Mr. Speaker, and we need to continue to work with our federal government and our partners across the province to ensure that we can continue to supply the services that people expect of their provincial government.

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

**Mr. Meili:** — Mr. Speaker, we have medical students here with us again today. They were here a year ago, and their ask at that time was that the government extend full coverage of antiretroviral medications for all people living with HIV in

Saskatchewan. That antiretroviral treatment has been proven to not only improve the lives of the patients who take it but also prevent transmission to other potential patients.

Last year Saskatchewan saw 170 new cases of HIV, by far the highest rate in the entire country, and each new case will cost our province \$1.3 million. It would cost, on the other hand, only \$500,000 per year to expand antiretroviral coverage to all patients who need it.

So, Mr. Speaker, it's been a year and there has been no action on this. Will this government commit to, in this year's budget, funding antiretrovirals so no one who needs those medications goes without?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Premier.

**Hon. Mr. Moe:** — Mr. Speaker, we will find out the answer to that question specifically on April the 10th when we release this year's budget, Mr. Speaker. But it is important to note that over 90 per cent of HIV drugs here in the province of Saskatchewan are covered by the government of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

We've invested \$8.7 million, Mr. Speaker, in this needed service in the province of Saskatchewan to those individuals that require those antiviral drugs here in the province of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. I acknowledge there's more work to do, but acknowledge also that there has been work done by the Government of Saskatchewan, and we'll continue with those efforts into the future.

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

**Mr. Meili:** — Mr. Speaker, the best test of an investment is whether it's adequate in dealing with the problem that it's facing. When the numbers continue to rise, the investment is insufficient. And it's been not just one year, it's been over two years since people, experts in this field have been requesting full coverage of antiretroviral medications.

This is the part that I don't understand, Mr. Speaker: each new case costs us \$1.3 million. It would cost only \$500,000 a year to prevent so many more cases by being sure that everyone has coverage for antiretrovirals. What part of paying a little bit more now to save so many dollars and so many lives down the road does this government not understand?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Premier.

**Hon. Mr. Moe:** — Mr. Speaker, I've spoken to the investment that this government has provided over the last number of years, Mr. Speaker, up to and including last year, Mr. Speaker, and we remain committed to working on this investment far into the future. I've talked of \$8.7 million, Mr. Speaker. Ninety per cent of HIV drugs are covered here in the province of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. When it comes to individuals, Mr. Speaker, First Nations on-reserve, First Nations are covered by the federal government. Mr. Speaker, it's this government that steps in and ensures that those low-income people in the province of Saskatchewan are covered, or fully covered, Mr. Speaker, by this government, Mr. Speaker.

And here are the stats: 38 per cent of HIV patients paid nothing

for their HIV drugs, Mr. Speaker, here in the province of Saskatchewan. Fifty-seven per cent of patients paid less than \$100 over the course of the year for their HIV drugs, Mr. Speaker.

But specific to the member's question, Mr. Speaker, it's this government that has been committed to working with all of our drug formulary, Mr. Speaker, including that for HIV patients here in the province of Saskatchewan. And we will continue to work with those patients and others across the province, Mr. Speaker, to ensure that we can continue to have one of the most comprehensive drug coverage programs in the nation of Canada.

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

### Federal Pharmacare Program and Coverage of Prescription Drug Costs

**Mr. Meili:** — Mr. Speaker, once again it's not how much you study, it's whether you pass the test. If we're still seeing that many new cases, we're not having the investment we need to deal with the problem.

Lack of access to antiretroviral drugs is only one part of a much larger problem, Mr. Speaker. Canada is the only country that has a universal health care system that doesn't also include prescription drug coverage. And that lack of drug coverage is costing us billions, billions per year because we pay among the highest prices in the country for medications.

When people have to skip their medications because they're having to decide between paying their rent, paying for food, or paying for the drugs they need, that costs them and it costs us in more hospital visits and more complications from those illnesses. Mr. Speaker, if we had universal drug coverage in this country, we would save \$7 billion a year just in the drug costs alone, let alone how much we'd save in downstream health costs. So my question, Mr. Speaker, is, what is the Premier doing to pressure the federal government for fast action for universal pharmacare for Canada?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Premier.

**Hon. Mr. Moe:** — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker, and as we're aware, in the most recent federal budget, the federal government is looking . . . has struck a committee to look at pharmacare in the nation of Canada, Mr. Speaker. And, Mr. Speaker, we look forward to, you know, how those discussions progress and how they would affect our comprehensive drug plan that we have here in the province of Saskatchewan.

And again, Mr. Speaker, I think it's important for us to always be looking to where we're going but always ensure that we are aware of where we've been as well, Mr. Speaker. And when it comes to a drug plan in the province of Saskatchewan, it is one of the most comprehensive drug plans in the nation of Canada, Mr. Speaker. It's one that's been constantly added to by this government, Mr. Speaker, and our commitment to that into the future remains, Mr. Speaker.

We understand there was a day here the other day with members opposite quite likely — and I think the MP [Member

of Parliament]; I'm not sure if he's in caucus or out right now, Mr. Speaker — but the MP unveiling their universal health care plan across the nation of Canada. But, Mr. Speaker, the fact of the matter is, is the federal government is already looking at that. We want to ensure and we will keep an eye and look on it with great interest as to how it affects the people in the province of Saskatchewan, and ensure that we are always providing the very best drug coverage on behalf of the people in this great province.

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

**Mr. Meili:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, I'm thrilled to hear that the Premier is in favour of universal pharmacare for Canadians. That's great, and I hope that he will continue to pressure for a positive pharmacare program for the whole country, Mr. Speaker, because the math is clear — both the financial and the moral math.

Reducing the amount that people pay for prescription drugs saves money and saves lives. The last provincial budget, however — if we want to talk about where we've been — the last provincial budget got that equation wrong, with 66,000 families with children and 120,000 seniors paying more for medications because of drug plan increases from this government. Seniors and parents are watching closely, Mr. Speaker, to see what the next budget will bring as far as increases to the cost of living, increases to what we need for healthy lives.

Will the Premier commit to at least not further burdening seniors and families in the next budget by not increasing cost of prescription drugs right here in Saskatchewan?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Premier.

**Hon. Mr. Moe:** — Mr. Speaker, there's a number of questions in there. I'm going to start at a couple at the front end of that question, Mr. Speaker. I may not get through all of them, Mr. Speaker, but I would like to clarify, Mr. Speaker, the member's opposite interpretation of my comments to be fully supportive of a universal pharmacare program here in the nation of Canada.

Mr. Speaker, that's just not quite the case, Mr. Speaker. We would look at what the federal government is looking at with their pharmacare program, Mr. Speaker, and we would always look at the impacts that it would have for coverage and costs on the people of the province of Saskatchewan. And as I said, Mr. Speaker, we will always look at these items on behalf of the people and we'll call them as we see them, Mr. Speaker.

And I think it's fair to say that it's been this government that is not scared to disagree with, not frightened to disagree with the federal government when it's in the best interests of the people of the province of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, whether it be on the development of pipelines with some of our provincial neighbours, Mr. Speaker, or whether it be with respect to the imposition of a federal carbon tax.

Mr. Speaker, with respect to, you know, the financial or moral math, Mr. Speaker, that is a little bit ironic, Mr. Speaker, coming from that side of the House, Mr. Speaker — a party that

has now committed two and a half billion dollars of spending initiatives, Mr. Speaker, with absolutely no plan, no plan whatsoever to fill those holes, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the member opposite for the question with respect to supports for seniors, Mr. Speaker, and I would remind him of the investments of this side of the House in home care, in long-term care facilities — one in my community, one in Prince Albert — across this province, Mr. Speaker. More work to be done we always acknowledge but, Mr. Speaker, the record of the Saskatchewan Party government and support for seniors is strong.

[14:15]

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

**Mr. Meili:** — Mr. Speaker, it's very interesting to hear what the Premier has to say on that, because I'm a bit baffled about what he might not like about universal pharmacare, why he might be on the fence about that. Would it be the savings? Would it be the billions of dollars of savings or would it be the improved health outcomes that would cause him concern?

We hear him talking about imaginary billions of dollars, but we know that \$7 billion would be saved by this country if we had universal pharmacare. And if there's any fight to be picking, it's pushing for a universal pharmacare program that would cover every person, would save lives, and save money.

And then the big question, Mr. Speaker, and this is the question I asked, which wasn't answered, which is, will the Premier commit to not increasing what families are going to have to pay for prescription drugs in Saskatchewan in this budget?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Premier.

**Hon. Mr. Moe:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I said at I think the first question here today with respect to the comprehensive drug plan that we have here in the province of Saskatchewan, one of the best and most comprehensive drug plans in the nation of Canada, Mr. Speaker, there are a number of provinces that have much lower coverage than the province of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, across the nation.

And I guess the question I have for the members opposite is, if the province of Saskatchewan's plan is here, other provinces are far below that, and the national plan comes in somewhere in the middle, would we be looking at reducing the coverage to Saskatchewan residents, Mr. Speaker? Most certainly, this side of the House will not be doing that, Mr. Speaker. We will always stand for those people in the communities across this province.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Regina Rosemont.

#### Funding for College of Medicine

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — You know, Mr. Speaker, if we ever want to become a province with universal pharmacare, the best mental health supports, we're going to need incredible leaders like those that are with us here today from the College of Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan. But the Sask

Party's cuts and refusal to commit to long-term, stable funding puts all that at risk.

Last year the Sask Party cut the U of S's [University of Saskatchewan] budget by 5 per cent. They also initially cut the College of Medicine by \$20 million — dollars that were desperately needed by the College of Medicine. They blocked the funding until the med school's accreditation was at risk. The ministers of Finance and Advanced Education at the time said they restored the funding as a result of "due diligence." Well making Saskatchewan's med school hang in the balance is anything but due diligence.

When will the Sask Party stop cutting the U of S College of Medicine and provide stable, reliable funding that will ensure its accreditation is never in question again?

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

**Hon. Ms. Beaudry-Mellor:** — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I want to thank the member opposite for the question. You know, I spent this morning with the U of S board of governors, having a very vigorous conversation about just this thing. The college was first put on probation in 2002, as you know, under the NDP [New Democratic Party] and not reaccredited until 2009. They were given a warning in 2011 and placed on probation in 2013 and 2015.

This year, however, we have provided a total of \$89 million in targeting funding to the College of Medicine, and an additional 20 million to support accreditation efforts after that. We're going to continue to work with the College of Medicine on a go-forward basis, Mr. Speaker, and I look forward to subsequent questions.

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

#### Funding for Mental Health

**Ms. Chartier:** — Mr. Speaker, across the province there's a desperate need for more mental health and addiction supports. The suicide crisis in the North is devastatingly real and children are literally dying while stuck on wait-lists to see child psychiatrists. Still, last week the Health minister admitted they had failed to invest half of the \$3.1 million the federal government has transferred for mental health this year, and he refused to say exactly where all the money they did spend went. Mr. Speaker, how can they possibly justify delaying the use of these badly needed funds, and can the minister guarantee today that none of the federal dollars have been or will be used to backfill Sask Party cuts?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Health.

**Hon. Mr. Reiter:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We recognize the importance of mental health. This isn't just a Saskatchewan phenomenon, Mr. Speaker. This is an important issue right across the country. At the last federal-provincial-territorial ministers' meeting for Health ministers that the Minister for Rural and Remote Health and I attended, it was a very significant part of the discussion at that table.

Mr. Speaker, there were several questions in the critic's comments, and I would first of all take exception to the member saying that I didn't answer the question, Mr. Speaker. We very clearly indicated where the money was spent. On subsequent questions I'd be happy to go into more detail.

But, Mr. Speaker, her point about using that money to backfill cuts is not the case, Mr. Speaker. That just simply isn't happening. And, Mr. Speaker, we also didn't forgo half of the money from the federal government; the federal government agreed that we could defer it. That along with the incremental increase in the federal grant money, Mr. Speaker, will be spent in the upcoming budget year, just like we'll make use of every dollar of that federal money in subsequent years.

Mr. Speaker, again mental health is extremely important. I look forward to subsequent questions from the member opposite.

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

**Ms. Chartier:** — Mr. Speaker, there were precisely two questions for that minister. How can he possibly delay or justify delaying the use of any of these badly needed funds? We're in a crisis here, Mr. Speaker, and where exactly . . . I want to know precisely where that money went, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Health.

**Hon. Mr. Reiter:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's not just about spending more money, but it's about targeting it to the most appropriate use for that money, Mr. Speaker. That's what we're going to do.

To the specific point that she wants to know where that money was spent, 400,000 of it was spent for the University of Regina's Online Therapy Unit; 200,000 to pilot an online module for parents of children with anxiety; 150,000 to increase opportunities for physicians to receive targeted training in child and adolescent mental health, Mr. Speaker; 640,000 to establish multidisciplinary teams. The member doesn't seem as interested right now, Mr. Speaker. This is an important issue, Mr. Speaker: 640,000 to establish multidisciplinary teams and peer supports to provide client-centred services, and the list goes on, Mr. Speaker.

We're happy to provide that information, Mr. Speaker. We take this very seriously. We are going to make use of every federal dollar, and we're also going to be supplementing that as well, Mr. Speaker. As we mentioned the other day, our goal is to eventually reach 7 per cent. Mr. Speaker, we've increased all health care spending which also increases that goal. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Beck:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The medical students who are with us today join teachers and other experts in calling for capacity to be built in our schools to work with our kids directly in the buildings where they spend most of their days. Such programs can help respond to emerging issues, link children to effective treatment, and prevent devastating consequences.

Instead of investing though, the Sask Party is cutting and there are fewer and fewer supports for Saskatchewan children in need. And the positions that are being cut are not just nice to have or extras, Mr. Speaker. They include the very mental health supports that children need today.

So I ask the minister, instead of investing in finding solutions, why is the Sask Party cutting these needed mental health supports in our schools?

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

**Hon. Mr. Wyant:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Health has been quite eloquent in terms of indicating what the government's support is in terms of working to alleviate mental health challenges. And in our classrooms, Mr. Speaker, we have invested over \$30 million to provide for nearly 400 counsellors, Mr. Speaker — 236 counsellors, 70 psychologists and 70 social workers, Mr. Speaker. We continue to support a number of programs within our schools, Mr. Speaker, including the Kids Help Line, anti-bullying resources and grants, and mental health first-aid training.

Mr. Speaker, we take this very, very seriously, and our government is going to continue to work on this, continue to have ongoing dialogue with our partners in education, Mr. Speaker — with teachers, with school boards, and with parents — to make sure that we're providing the right resources.

Mr. Speaker, this morning when we met with the medical students we talked about a program that's available in Alberta. And I was pleased to have a conversation with the Minister of Health before question period today, the fact that his ministry is already investigating that program. Mr. Speaker, I look forward to having more conversation with the Minister of Health, to work together with the Ministry of Health and with the Minister of Rural and Remote Health, to see what further resources that we can provide in our classrooms, Mr. Speaker, to make them safe spaces to help deal with the issues of mental health in our classrooms, Mr. Speaker, and our students.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

### **Mental Health Issues and Improvements to Northern Airports**

**Mr. Belanger:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Several months ago, the community of Fond-du-Lac was faced with a tragic plane crash. One person died because of their injuries, and many in the community felt that trauma and are continuing to struggle. Chief Louie Mercredi of the Fond-du-Lac Dene Nation is quite upset that no help is coming forward for his entire community, and I quote, "My whole community has been traumatized."

Mr. Speaker, once again people in the area are feeling forgotten by the Sask Party government. And since the crash, the trauma of the crash, more lives have been lost to suicide, with another person attempting this past Sunday.

Mr. Speaker, Fond-du-Lac is not alone. Across the North, there is a suicide crisis taking place. When will this government finally take action and provide meaningful mental health

supports that are so vitally needed, so that my colleague from Cumberland and I can stop having so many funerals to go to?

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

**Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit:** — Mr. Speaker, mental health issues in the North is something that's very serious to this government, Mr. Speaker. And it's heartbreaking when — doesn't matter where you are, what part of the province — you hear of someone that's lost their life much too soon, especially when it's to suicide, Mr. Speaker.

We want to make sure that people know that in a time of crisis that there is supports in place. I've referred to the HealthLine a number of times. Although it's not the stopgap, it's a good point of first contact for individuals to get the individual mental health supports they need and be directed to the services they need, Mr. Speaker. We know that a lot of funds have been put into specifically our former northern health regions to make sure that those regions are able to deliver the mental health and addiction supports that they can when they're needed as well, Mr. Speaker. We know that there's more to do though.

The ministries of Health, Education, and Social Services, we continue to work with our federal and First Nations partners in coordinating responses, Mr. Speaker. But again we're trying to be as proactive as possible. We continue to, through the health authority, provide supports to people at risk of suicide through schools, the RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police], and of course our First Nations partners. We've invested in the Embracing Life committee, which helps communities have capacity to prevent suicides in the North. Mr. Speaker, we've also initiated the northern training and response registry, which will help communities in the North find the mental health and suicide prevention supports that they need in one phone call, one contact, be able to contact all those agencies, Mr. Speaker.

Over the past two years through the ministry, we've invested in more community suicide prevention initiatives, including suicide prevention protocols that have been fully implemented through the northern mental health and addiction services. We've trained 93 human services staff in mental health first aid; 228 have received Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training, that's the ASIST program in schools; 46 have been trained in safeTALK [safe tell, ask, listen and keep safe] protocols. A community suicide prevention coordinator has been hired in the North, and ongoing support through the SHA [Saskatchewan Health Authority] is available, Mr. Speaker. And if there's any more questions, I'd be happy to talk about some more initiatives that we've invested in.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

**Mr. Belanger:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. They are the government and their responsibility is to govern for all and not avoid certain regions of our province. And today all the excuses that they're giving are just not acceptable.

Mr. Speaker, Chief Louie Mercredi is going to come to Regina. He's going to ask the questions on mental health supports. And he's also going to ask the question on the community needs and the fact that the community counts on safe access to their

community.

This tragic accident, from his perspective, is the fact that their airport, being the lifeline for this community, needs upgrades to ensure public safety. The province told them to talk to the federal government, but the feds are pointing to the provincial government because the province operates the runway. Now, Mr. Speaker, the First Nations of this Athabasca Basin area and all people of the province deserve support, not only for this airport but other airports throughout the province, not the jurisdictional runaround that this chief is getting.

When will the Sask Party respond to the requests of the community and widen and lengthen the runway at the Fond-du-Lac airport?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Highways.

[14:30]

**Hon. Mr. Marit:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member opposite for the question. We take the northern airports in northern Saskatchewan very seriously through the Ministry of Highways. We invest well over \$2 million every year in airport maintenance and ongoing in that field. And we also invest over 50 million in total in highway, airport, and northern community projects.

So, Mr. Speaker, we do look forward to ongoing discussions with our federal counterparts on that. It's one of the big discussions we're having with the federal government, as we speak right now, that some of the new funding programs should really look at northern airports as their main means of transportation and transit. And we are pursuing that with the federal minister to try and lever even more money to try and improve the airports as it is. And we know it is our only means of transportation in northern Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

#### PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Chair of the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

##### Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies

**Mr. Cox:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies to report Bill No. 77, *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Superannuation Plans) Amendment Act, 2017* without amendment.

**The Speaker:** — When shall this bill be considered in Committee of the Whole on Bills? I recognize the minister.

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this bill and that the bill be now read the third time.

**The Speaker:** — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 77 and that the bill be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — The minister may proceed to move third reading.

### THIRD READINGS

**Bill No. 77 — *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Superannuation Plans) Amendment Act, 2017***

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — I move that the bill be now read the third time and passed under its title.

**The Speaker:** — It's been moved by the minister that Bill No. 77 be now read a third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

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

### PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Chair of the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

#### Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies

**Mr. Cox:** — Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies to report Bill No. 78, *The Municipal Employees' Pension Amendment Act, 2017* without amendment.

**The Speaker:** — When shall this bill be considered in Committee of the Whole on Bills? I recognize the minister.

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this bill and that the bill be now read the third time.

**The Speaker:** — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 78 and that the bill be now read a third time. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — The minister may proceed to move third reading.

### THIRD READINGS

**Bill No. 78 — *The Municipal Employees' Pension Amendment Act, 2017***

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — I move that the bill be now read the third time and passed under its title.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 78 be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is

the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

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

### PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Chair of the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

#### Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies

**Mr. Cox:** — Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies to report Bill No. 79, *The Public Employees Pension Plan Amendment Act, 2017* without amendment.

**The Speaker:** — When shall this bill be considered in Committee of the Whole on Bills? I recognize the minister.

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this bill and that the bill be now read a third time.

**The Speaker:** — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 79 and that the bill be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — The minister may proceed to move third reading.

### THIRD READINGS

**Bill No. 79 — *The Public Employees Pension Plan Amendment Act, 2017***

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — I move that the bill be now read the third time and passed under its title.

**The Speaker:** — It's been moved by the minister that Bill No. 79 be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

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

**PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING  
AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Chair of the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

**Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies**

**Mr. Cox:** — Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies to report Bill No. 80, *The Municipal Financing Corporation Amendment Act, 2017* without amendment.

**The Speaker:** — When shall this bill be considered in Committee of the Whole on bills? I recognize the minister.

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this bill and that the bill be now read a third time.

**The Speaker:** — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 80, and that the bill be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — The minister may proceed to move third reading.

**THIRD READINGS**

**Bill No. 80 — *The Municipal Financing Corporation  
Amendment Act, 2017***

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — I move that the bill be now read the third time and passed under its title.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 80, be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

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

**The Speaker:** — Why is the member from Douglas Park on her feet?

**Ms. Sarauer:** — A point of order, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — What's your point of order?

**POINT OF ORDER**

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During question period today the Minister of Health, when asked a question, was referring to a list regarding the \$3.1 million of federal funding that had been transferred to the province for mental health services and where that went this year. We'd ask that, pursuant to rule 52 and the tradition of the House, that that document be tabled.

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

**Hon. Mr. Brkich:** — From what I understand it's already been tabled in the House. If you can show to me in written questions . . . You asked it, I believe. I would ask the Speaker to check that, but check written questions.

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

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm assuming because of the limited amount of time the Minister of Health has to make an answer, he listed a few different locations and then said, I believe, "and the list goes on and on," Mr. Speaker. So we would like the details. We'd like to have that document tabled, as is tradition of this House.

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

**Hon. Mr. Brkich:** — Once we get to written questions.

**The Speaker:** — The Speaker will defer the decision upon further information. Order.

**ORDERS OF THE DAY**

**WRITTEN QUESTIONS**

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Government Whip.

**Mr. Lawrence:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the answers to questions 106 through 128.

**The Speaker:** — What was the first bit? Sorry, I recognize the Government Whip again. Could you repeat the numbers?

**Mr. Lawrence:** — 106 through 128.

**The Speaker:** — Question 106 to 128 is tabled. I recognize the Government Whip.

**Mr. Lawrence:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to order the answers to questions 129 through 131.

**The Speaker:** — Question 129 to 131 is ordered. I recognize the Government Whip.

**Mr. Lawrence:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the answers to questions 132 through 137.

**The Speaker:** — Question no. 132 to 137 is converted. I recognize the Government Whip.

**Mr. Lawrence:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to order the

answers to questions 138 and 139.

**The Speaker:** — Question no. 138 to 139 is ordered. I recognize the Government Whip.

**Mr. Lawrence:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the answers to questions 140 through 143.

**The Speaker:** — Questions no. 140 to 143 is tabled. I recognize the Government Whip.

**Mr. Lawrence:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to order the answers to questions 144 through 146.

**The Speaker:** — Question no. 144 to 146 is ordered. I recognize the Government Whip.

**Mr. Lawrence:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the answers to questions 147 through 157.

**The Speaker:** — Question no. 147 to 157 is tabled. I recognize the Government Whip.

**Mr. Lawrence:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to order the answers to questions 158 through 163.

**The Speaker:** — Questions no. 158 to 163 is ordered. I recognize the Government Whip.

**Mr. Lawrence:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the answers to questions 164 through 167.

**The Speaker:** — Questions no. 164 to 167 is tabled. I recognize the Government Whip.

**Mr. Lawrence:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to order the answers to questions 168 and 169.

**The Speaker:** — Questions no. 168 to 169 is ordered.

## GOVERNMENT ORDERS

### ADJOURNED DEBATES

#### SECOND READINGS

##### Bill No. 121

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 121** — *The Cannabis Control (Saskatchewan) Act* be now read a second time.]

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

**Ms. Mowat:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise today to join into adjourned debates on Bill No. 121, *The Cannabis Control (Saskatchewan) Act*. So I thought we'd start off with a bit of a summary on what some of the changes are that are being proposed here. Of course this is a new Act, Mr. Speaker, so we know that we aren't amending a different Act. It's a new piece of legislation that has been drafted here so there

are certainly a lot of considerations that go along with drafting a new piece of legislation and a lot of things for us to be discussing here today.

So Bill 121, this bill is designed to create a regulatory framework for legalized cannabis. Some key elements of this framework include the fact that consuming cannabis is going to be prohibited in public spaces. Possession of more than 30 grams and more than four plants is prohibited. People under 19 years old are prohibited from possessing or consuming cannabis, which is punishable by a fine of up to \$2,000. And possession of cannabis in a vehicle is going to be prohibited except when transporting it from the place it was obtained to the place it will be consumed. And of course the rules for retail stores selling cannabis are also established, so a whole bunch of different pieces to be considered in this legislation that we will need to have a closer look at.

So as far as the overall details, it's nice that we're getting some of this information now, Mr. Speaker. I remember the federal Liberals making this promise as a campaign promise leading up to the 2015 election, so there has certainly been quite a bit of time for the Sask Party to consider how they were going to go about implementation. They've made some comments to the effect that it's been a rushed process, or that they've been pressured into a timeline, but I will point to the fact, Mr. Speaker, that it is now 2018. We have had well over two years since the Liberal government was elected, so quite a bit of time that did exist for the purposes of consultation, and the purpose of surveying and finding out what people of Saskatchewan are interested in in terms of this legislation.

[14:45]

So when we're talking about possession of more than 30 grams being prohibited, I must confess, Mr. Speaker, that I don't have a terrible amount of experience with cannabis. I'm not entirely sure if 30 grams is a reasonable amount or an unreasonable amount, but if anyone wants to weigh in on that, they're more than welcome to do so. So I'll leave that piece of the legislation to some . . . if there are more experienced folks to comment on.

People being under 19 years old being prohibited from possessing cannabis, I know that there's some contentious debate around what the minimum age should be, Mr. Speaker. And I definitely hear the different perspectives on this. Ultimately though, we are supportive of the age that was determined at 19 years old and having it line up with alcohol, Mr. Speaker.

The rules around transportation in a vehicle seem to be quite onerous and difficult to enforce, so we're going to have some questions about how these rules are going to impact people. So again, possession of cannabis in a vehicle is prohibited, except where transporting it from the place it was obtained to the place it will be consumed. So there are questions, Mr. Speaker, in terms of how these places will be determined and, in terms of implementation, what that is actually going to look like at the day-to-day level. So we certainly have some questions about enforcement and how that's going to work.

So that's a broad overview of what we're talking about in relation to Bill 121. I know that there was some public



consultation that took place in the survey that was Saskatchewan wide. I participated in a survey fairly recently, I think about a month ago, Mr. Speaker, that was issued by the city of Saskatoon where they had a similar style of survey where they were trying to work out many of the details on how they were going to go about implementation within the city. So I know there were a number of residents of Saskatoon that participated in that survey as well, and just a ton of implications in terms of, you know, the distance that retail stores will need to be from schools and from parks and, you know, all these intricate details that need to be worked out because we're bringing forth this legislation. So there is quite a bit of work to be done at every level of government to see this legislation through. So some interesting considerations and implications for our municipalities there.

I also understand there are concerns in terms of the fact that no dollars have been allocated for the rollout of this legislation, no provincial dollars, and whether there's going to be a cost to municipalities in terms of coming up with new enforcement measures. So that might be something that we need to be looking at here as well.

Most of the members in this room know that this is a contentious issue. It's a controversial issue. There has been quite a lot of public engagement and speculation about this legislation. Some individuals disagree with the fact that legalization is coming forward altogether. Some disagree with the different forms that it has taken. And so there are quite a few opinions on this and it's difficult to reconcile all of those different opinions. And I also understand that a few communities have opted out of the licences that they are available to get. So that is definitely reflective of the different viewpoints on this piece of legislation.

Some of the news articles we have seen . . . I have a news article by David Baxter of Global News that is from March 16th, titled "Sask. aims to have comparable pot price to black market despite tax unknowns." So there's definitely a concern that the price of cannabis will be undercut by the black market, that those will be the sales and that will still drive those sales underground. So that's one of the public concerns that exists with the legalization of cannabis.

We have "Legalized pot price in Saskatchewan will be comparable to street price, province says," CBC News by Adam Hunter on March 15th. And "Costs across the country will vary." So different concerns about how the piece of cost will factor in. I also have an article from the *Saskatoon StarPhoenix*: "As provincial government introduces legislation for sale of weed, here are dos and don'ts of legal cannabis in Saskatchewan."

And I think this is an important piece here, Mr. Speaker, as well, because here we're talking about the fact that there's going to have to be a huge public education aspect to this legislation so that people know and can follow what the new legislation provides. I know that it is not always clear when legislation changes. For example, there is still I think a lot of public confusion about some of the changes to drinking and driving laws from last year, I believe. And I know there's still some concern about that.

We need to make sure that there is strong public education, so I appreciate articles about dos and don'ts. And we need to be able to effectively communicate this at the government level as well. This is going to be a key piece to make sure that people know what is expected of them, and also what the repercussions are going to be if they don't follow those expectations.

"Legal marijuana age will be 19 in Saskatchewan." So this is an article that talks about the fact that the legal age is going to be 19. And we also have some more public news about the "Saskatchewan government rolls out its marijuana regulations," March 14th. A lot of these quite current articles that exist in the news: "Saskatchewan sets minimum cannabis . . . age at 19, rolls out framework," another article from David Baxter.

And we just see the articles keep coming and coming. The public interest keeps coming and coming. So we know, Mr. Speaker, there is a tremendous importance for us to be able to get it right. And I know the intent behind this legislation is for it to be a little bit flexible, to review that legislation, and to review the policies, you know, a year out, three years out, so that we can make sure that we're getting it right. And I think that that is a good approach. We should be reviewing the legislation. We should be looking at some of the implications here, because there are quite a few implications and the public is watching with interest on what we do in these areas.

Mr. Speaker, there is also a provincial survey that was issued online that I referred to earlier. And there were a number of questions that were asked in this provincial survey, and the results were quite interesting. So I'll go through that in a little bit of detail here if you'll indulge me, Mr. Speaker, as well. And the survey results were released in a Government of Saskatchewan document called *Saskatchewan's Cannabis Framework: Framework and Survey Results*. So there are some key pieces. I'm not going to go through all of the 17 pages here, Mr. Speaker, but there are some key pieces that I would like to identify from this survey.

First of all, one thing that they identify in the introduction is that the goal in the provincial legislation is to be able to comply with federal regulation. And the federal bill is Bill C-45, the *Cannabis Act*. So they talked about what some of the intent is behind this legislation. So I think it's important for us to keep that in mind as we're talking about what our framework is going to look like in Saskatchewan as well. So some of the pieces were to:

- protect public health and public safety and, in particular, restricting youth access to cannabis;
- protect young persons and others from inducements to use cannabis;
- provide for the legal production of cannabis to reduce illicit activities in relation to cannabis;
- deter illicit activities in relation to cannabis through appropriate sanctions and enforcement measures;
- reduce the burden on the criminal justice system in relation to cannabis;
- provide access to a quality-controlled supply of cannabis; and
- enhance public awareness of the health risks associated with cannabis use.

So I think it's good for us to keep that in mind as well.

And one important thing that they note, which I don't know if we've had the full public education on, because I myself was a bit surprised to find out about, Mr. Speaker, is that edible cannabis products at this time are not being legalized. So on page 5 of Saskatchewan's Cannabis Framework they identify: "Bill C-45 originally prohibited the sale of cannabis edibles and concentrates; however, the Bill was amended to include a provision that will provide for the . . . [legislation] of edibles and concentrates by the one-year anniversary of cannabis legislation." I suspect that this has — I'm not an expert — I suspect that this has something to do with being able to measure THC [tetrahydrocannabinol] levels and so on. I know that there's still some confusion about, you know, how are we going to move this forward and to be able to regulate edible products. But I thought that was an important piece to note.

So when we're getting to the survey results, the results that were received from the Saskatchewan cannabis survey — the survey was conducted between September and October of 2017, Mr. Speaker — there were 34,681 respondents. Of those, 26,199 were complete surveys. The important thing that I found here, Mr. Speaker, is that this is the highest response rate received for any Saskatchewan survey. So I know there are some questions about the reliability of online surveys and how all of this works. I come from a social science background, so I'm no stranger to some of the criticisms of different types of methodology when you're conducting surveys. But I will say that the highest response rate we've ever seen for a Saskatchewan survey, that is something quite impressive, and it really shows us the amount that the public is interested in engaging in this topic.

And so if we have a scenario where the Government of Saskatchewan is indeed interested in hearing from the people, has conducted this survey to listen, presumably to listen to the results that were provided, it's interesting to me, Mr. Speaker, that that's not the course that they took and that we don't see them taking that input in all cases. So I'll get into that sort of piece by piece as we look at some of these survey results, but it strikes me that if you have a Saskatchewan survey that's the highest response rate you've ever seen, that you would want to take some of those results into consideration.

And in particular, what I'm referring to is quite a big piece of the picture, Mr. Speaker, and that is the model that they decided to work with. And having been the critic for SLGA [Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority] prior to the start of this session, I was watching quite intently to see what role the government was going to propose for SLGA. Because as you know, if we incorporated our already regulated distribution network, there might be more wholesale opportunities for us — bring some of that money into the province in a way that is outside of the regular proposed taxation system. So I'm interested in how we can make more money for this province, and I think that that would have been a good move. And evidently that's also what the people of Saskatchewan have said.

So in the very first question, "If retail stores are considered, who should sell retail cannabis," the number one answer, at 45 per cent of respondents — and remember this is quite a few

people in Saskatchewan — was "Government run retailer (similar to Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority (SLGA))."

So I have a question about, if we're talking about all these respondents and this open dialogue and the desire to listen, there is actually a line about how the government has taken time to consider the input provided in the surveys. I really have a question about how they wouldn't take this information into account and whether it's a simply ideologically driven decision or if they're listening to what the people of this province want.

[15:00]

So that's a key piece for me, Mr. Speaker, in terms of acknowledging the residents of Saskatchewan. If we're going to take time to consult, we have to listen to what people have to say. And I would say there is a pretty clear statement that was made in this survey, and I don't know that the opinions of the people of the province were respected at the highest level.

There were also some other questions about restrictions on the amount of cannabis a person can purchase. Should there be restrictions? People agreed, yes there should be restrictions on the amount, although what that amount is was not discussed in the actual question itself. So again, I can't comment on the 30 grams. I'm not entirely sure if that is adequate.

What age should non-medicinal cannabis be legal for consumption in Saskatchewan? Most people agreed that it should be 19 years of age so that it was in concert with alcohol sales in Saskatchewan. And we've seen that that's the direction the government has chosen to go.

Do you think there should be zero tolerance for cannabis for driving? Total agreement was at 58 per cent, Mr. Speaker. Sorry, I have to lean down a little bit. We've got some very small text in this document.

Do you feel cannabis consumption should be prohibited in vehicles? Strongly agree and agree — again 68 per cent of respondents agreed that it should be banned in vehicles.

So in this case, the government seems to have listened to the questions that they have asked. In case of what the model's actually going to look like, we haven't seen that same approach.

Do you believe there should be the same penalties for alcohol-impaired driving? Most people agreed with that as well.

And we had some more questions as well that were asked around workplace safety, you know, concerns about the fact that more needs to be done to keep workers and their workplaces safe, and questions about growing at home and public health.

Cannabis use in public spaces should be prohibited. And this was agreed upon 88 per cent, so this is probably the most strongly agree that we saw in the survey. And I think that's just because people don't want to be walking around and dealing with inhaling cannabis everywhere that they are. So the public spaces argument I think is pretty clear, Mr. Speaker. So those were some of the survey results.

So now finally we're at a point where we have some details on this bill. Despite the fact that this was an election promise, as I said, the Sask Party didn't seem to have all the details in place until really this month. So it just shows the fact that there has not been the long-term planning that we would have liked to have seen. And we've heard some concerns about even some of the consultation that took place. Some municipalities feel they should have been better consulted and so on.

So I think there's some concerns there as well. We know now that there are going to be . . . the process for retail permits that's going to exist. We have a list in a backgrounder that was provided in the government back in January, I believe, Mr. Speaker, on the retail permits that are available. So there is a list of communities where the retail permits are available.

We know that there is a two-step process to put forward a request for proposal. So in phase 1 we have initial screening, and in phase 2 there is a random draw or lottery. So provided you make it through phase 1, it's going to be a lottery system for handing out licences.

We also know though that there are some communities that have decided to opt out. So we have five municipalities who have decided to opt out at this point, to my knowledge, Mr. Speaker: Pilot Butte, Biggar, Kindersley, White City, and Shellbrook.

So the way it works for communities who have decided not to opt out is that retailers in the tendering process, they have to submit a \$1,000 non-refundable fee for each submission that they put forward. It will cost \$5,000 for a retail permit in cities and 3,500 in towns. So we have a process that has been laid out here. We've heard concerns from some other areas that they would like to be considered for a permit and weren't on the list, and some questions about how the permits were decided. So again some municipalities would have liked to have been consulted in that process as well.

So I know that there is a lot to debate on this legislation and we have, you know . . . It is quite a substantial piece of legislation here, Mr. Speaker, and I won't spend that much more time talking about it, but I do want to identify the fact that there are some concerns with the age of 19. We support the position, but I do want to identify there are quite a few concerns about, you know, developing teenage brains. I used to work with the cadet program and we learned a lot about teenage development and how the brain is still developing at the age 19. And I always found it a little bit offensive when I was 19 years old to learn that, but I appreciate some of the public health perspectives on the fact that, you know, our kids are still developing at this age and there's a concern with the fact that their development could be stunted.

And ultimately though, I think that if we were to make the legal age a little bit higher as suggested, if we were going to go into the 20s, then I think that there would be more opportunity for underground sales and the black market. So I think making it the same age as alcohol makes sense on balance. But I definitely understand that this was a difficult decision for the government, but ultimately support where they landed. I just understand a lot of the complexities that existed there.

So that's all I'll say in this regard for Bill 121, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank you for the opportunity to weigh in. I know my colleagues will have much more to say about this as it's a relatively new piece of legislation. But with that I will adjourn debate on Bill 121, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — The member from Saskatoon Fairview has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 121, *The Cannabis Control (Saskatchewan) Act*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

#### Bill No. 122

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan 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 read a second time.]

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

**Ms. Mowat:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You're not rid of me just yet. I am also pleased to enter into adjourned debates on Bill 122, which could be cited as *The Cannabis Control (Saskatchewan) Consequential Amendments Act, 2018*. So this piece of legislation goes hand in hand with Bill 121 which we were just speaking about, Mr. Speaker.

Really what this piece of legislation does is it makes consequential amendments to other pieces of legislation so that they can align with the changes that are being made in Bill 121. So in bringing in these new regulations, we know that there is a ripple effect, that one change necessitates changes in other pieces of legislation and that that's what's happening here, Mr. Speaker — some housekeeping changes to reflect the fact that other pieces of legislation are indeed impacted by the legalization of cannabis and it's important to make sure that our legislation aligns.

I do not envy the folks who have to do this and I know that there is quite a bit of work that needs to go into making sure that legislation does not contradict one . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Apparently there isn't. I don't know. But I don't envy the folks that have to do this and make sure that all the legislation lines up because it is certainly a difficult task. Having not been a lawyer by trade myself, I find reading the legislation can be somewhat thick at times. So you know . . .

**An Hon. Member:** — So do lawyers.

**Ms. Mowat:** — So do lawyers, my colleague from Regina Douglas Park says. And so you know, dealing with some of this cumbersome language and trying to identify what the contradictions are is certainly not something that I would be lining up to do with my time, Mr. Speaker. But I really appreciate the folks who do it because it's so important for our overall functioning in society that everything lines up properly.

So that's what the intent is behind Bill 122. Some of the changes it makes, it makes changes to *The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Act, 1997*, so it's talking about the Liquor and Gaming Authority having authority over "regulation and control of." And I believe the change here is that they've really added section 12(1)(f):

any other matter that the Lieutenant Governor in Council may assign to the authority.

I believe that that's the change that has been made to that section.

And then of course there's the French interpretation of the section as well, Mr. Speaker, because we are moving toward, you know, putting everything into bilingual terms, which I think is great in terms of accessibility, but also reflects the fact that we have two official languages in our province and country.

There's also changes to subsection 19(2):

... the authority may establish one or more processes in accordance with the regulations for the allocation of permits and endorsements.

And another clause is added about the procedures to be followed by the authority in establishing processes for the allocation of permits and endorsements. So this is talking about what I was just referring to in adjourned debates on Bill 121, the fact that permits are being provided out, and what the terms are of those provisions, so being able to provide those permits. We have to have legislation that grants that authority.

There is also some changes to *The Court of Appeal Act, 2000* and *The Vital Statistics Act, 2009*, and then of course the French interpretation. I can't comment to the French interpretation of the Act because I am very not proficient in French whatsoever, so I'll trust that it says the same thing on both sides. So again it seems prudent that these changes need to take place.

It seems like a prudent piece of legislation, Bill 122, and I'll leave it to my other colleagues to provide more insights into that. And with that, I will move to adjourn debate on Bill 122, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — The member for Saskatoon Fairview has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 122, *The Cannabis Control (Saskatchewan) Consequential Amendments Act, 2018*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

### Bill No. 115

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 115** — *The Residential Tenancies Amendment Act, 2017* be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. McCall:** — Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. It's good to be recognized by your good self and to join debate today on Bill No. 115, *An Act to amend The Residential Tenancies Act, 2006* ... [inaudible interjection] ... You know, sometimes in this Chamber, Mr. Speaker, you make the mistake of listening to what various folks are saying over on the other side, and it can throw you for a bit of a loop. I thought I heard the member from Moose Jaw North saying, that's enough out of me. But of course, Mr. Speaker, I'll be the judge of that. Thank you very much. But anyway I guess, you know, when it comes to the various sentiments in terms of the speeches that I give, maybe that member gives, you know, we could get into what the feelings are, what the opinion is back and forth. But enough about my feelings, Mr. Speaker. Let's get back to *The Residential Tenancies Act, 2006*, Bill No. 115.

[15:15]

Mr. Speaker, one of the things that is of utmost importance when it comes to matters of residential tenancies is for government to strike a fair counterpoint between the rights of tenants and the rights of landlords, and certainly the responsibilities back and forth across that line as well. Certainly in terms of the different abuses or challenges that are anticipated by an Act of this nature on either side of that street, Mr. Speaker, there is again a tremendous need for fairness, for balance, and for not pitting one side against the other because there are problems that arise on either side of that ledger.

Over the years, I've had experience to observe what are in some cases the actions of slum landlords, but I've also had the occasion to observe the actions of folks that might be deemed as slum tenants. And certainly as residents have every right to expect well-functioning basic standards in terms of the safety of a residence, so too do landlords have an expectation around their property not being trashed, Mr. Speaker. And you know, how do you set up a regulatory regime that strikes that balance between these two interests that are, you know, oftentimes very much in balance? But certainly there are folks in either group, on either side of the equation, that step over the line.

So it's one of the tests that we look to in terms of this legislation, whether it adds to the fairness or builds upon fairness in the legislation, or if it favours one side against the other. And certainly, Mr. Speaker, in the situation where this legislation arises, it's prompted by the changes in legislation around cannabis. And again we just had a great couple of speeches from the member from Saskatoon Fairview on the cannabis control legislation brought forward by this government, been a long time coming. But again, some fine speeches on offer there from the member from Saskatoon Fairview.

But certainly the changes in legislation around cannabis and the need that arises in turn around what are the restrictions on cannabis use in rental units, Mr. Speaker, it is obviously something that needs to be addressed. And certainly that's something we'll be looking to in terms of consulting, in terms of the different interest groups. We'll be looking to see that that balance is maintained because of course, as a landlord has a right for certain expectations around the way that that property is going to be used, so too does ... There are certain rights and responsibilities that accrue to a tenant in terms of reasonable

expectation of using something that is a legal, duly authorized substance in that dwelling, Mr. Speaker.

So we'll be looking to see how that is adjudicated under the Act. The minister, in his second reading speech, talked about various loopholes that the legislation is seeking to close that are being abused in some extreme cases, Mr. Speaker. We'll certainly be looking to ascertain whether or not those are representative of the normal experience between renters and landlords, Mr. Speaker, whether or not they're exceptions that prove a rule or if there is a need for action.

And we'll certainly be looking in terms of the provisions in the Act that stand around the disposal of property that belongs to a tenant and the requirements for landlords to reach out to tenants and how that is to be appropriately sorted out, Mr. Speaker. It's again something that needs to be pursued further in committee, and I am certain that that will be done in relatively short order.

But, Mr. Speaker, again to finish off where I'd started, in terms of the change in the legislation around cannabis that has prompted parts of this legislation coming forward, in terms of the need for good access on the part of both landlords and tenants to the Office of Residential Tenancies, and in terms of the ability to have that balance between those two interests, Mr. Speaker, to have that fairness — these are the things that we'll be looking for in this legislation.

So I'm sure that other of my colleagues will have more to say about this legislation, Mr. Speaker, but with that I would move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 115, *The Residential Tenancies Amendment Act*.

**The Speaker:** — The member for Regina Elphinstone-Centre has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 115, *The Residential Tenancies Amendment Act, 2017*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

#### Bill No. 94

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Cox that **Bill No. 94** — *The Saskatchewan Advantage Grant for Education Savings (SAGES) Amendment Act, 2017* be now read a second time.]

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

**Ms. Rancourt:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's always a pleasure to join in debate with regards to the bills that we're discussing, and today I'm going to be putting some remarks in with regards to Bill No. 94, *The Saskatchewan Advantage Grant for Education Savings (SAGES) Amendment Act, 2017*. This was brought forward by the former minister for Post-Secondary Education in the fall sitting, and we're here today to discuss it a little bit more and add some of my remarks, Mr. Speaker.

As it was earlier announced today that we had an opportunity to

meet with some medical students — I think they met with both sides, the government and us, the opposition — they were talking about mental health within our province, Mr. Speaker. And today in particular that's a topic that's top of mind for myself, Mr. Speaker. My daughter is attending a funeral of her fellow colleague today that committed suicide last week. And so when we talk about mental health, it is a real personal meaning, and I know most of us members here have been touched in some way with losing someone with regards to suicide and mental health. And so I think we need to really focus on that and take what the medical students have been saying to heart, and they had some really great suggestions. And like the Minister of Health said, they talked about, you know, ensuring that the dollars go to the right services that are needed, and I think that's really important.

I think it kind of relates to this bill in a way, Mr. Speaker, because we're talking about the future of education for our students. And the medical students, they put a lot of investment in their education and their heart and soul with their continued learning. And I do sincerely hope that they continue their practice within Saskatchewan and we keep these young, eager students right here in the province. And in ensuring that, we have to ensure that post-secondary education is affordable, Mr. Speaker, for our young people here. And in Saskatchewan we've had a lot of challenges with regards to that, with having the highest tuition rates within Canada, and that oftentimes would make individuals consider seeking education elsewhere.

And with regards to some of the cuts that we've been seeing with our post-secondary education, students have been talking about how, because of the cuts to our post-secondary education institutions, that that has resulted in having a reduction of options for classes, because of layoffs with regards to educators. And if we don't have the classes and the availability for students and our tuition is high, we're going to expect our young students to be leaving the province. And we wouldn't want that.

So, Mr. Speaker, in the 2017-2018 provincial budget, the government announced the suspension of the SAGES grant payments as of January 1st, 2018, as part of the province's plan to address its financial mismanagement and waste. And I'll talk a little bit about the history of the SAGES program, Mr. Speaker. It was first announced and released May 14th, 2014 by the then Advanced Education minister, Rob Norris. And they were very happy to be announcing this program, which is a wonderful program to help make education more affordable for families. So SAGES enables the Government of Saskatchewan to provide a grant of 10 per cent on contributions made since January 1st, 2013 into a registered education savings program to a maximum of 250 per child per year.

And to be eligible for SAGES, the following requirements must be met: the child is a resident of Saskatchewan when the RESP [registered education savings plan] contribution is made, is named as the beneficiary of the eligible RESP, and the contribution is made on or before December 31st of the year the child turns 17. And so those were the requirements and that was the announcement when that funding announcement was made March 14th, 2014.

And so many people took advantage of this program. And we

know that because of having this program cut, it's going to impact . . . When we asked the minister how many people took advantage of this program and were recipients of the SAGES benefit, they gave us some answers here. And they said in 2013-14 there was 36,357 recipients; 2014 to 2015, there was 43,879 recipients; 2015 to 2016, there was 51,809; and 2016 to 2017, there was 60,071; and 2017 to date, which they don't have a date on here, but there's 64,441, Mr. Speaker. So in essence, around 60,000 recipients are going to be impacted by the lack of having this program available for residents of Saskatchewan, which I think is very unfortunate.

I'm going to read some quotes of some individuals that, once the announcement of the new budget and the cuts to students was announced, these were some of the quotes that were made. This quote was from Shawna North. She's the vice-president of the education sector of the Saskatchewan Government and General Employees' Union. She indicated that "The cuts to scholarships and student aid will make it that much harder to afford for those enrolled in classes and the elimination of the Saskatchewan Advantage Grant for Education Savings means that parents saving for their child's education are going to be paying more when their child starts post-secondary education."

And then also commenting here was Vianne Timmons. In an email that she provided, she indicated that this was "obviously disappointing" and that "more critically, the cuts ignore the affordability challenges facing students and neglect the significant economic and social benefits of post-secondary education."

Mr. Speaker, I would argue that as well. There is an argument to be made that investing in education will help improve the economy, and not in fact be a detriment to our economy, like this government is indicating with ending this program. And when times get tough, Mr. Speaker, this government decides to make cuts to health and education and social services and community-based programs, but provides tax benefits to the most wealthy and well connected in this province.

[15:30]

And I think, Mr. Speaker, this is all about priorities. This is definitely about priorities. Are we going to invest in the long-term benefits of post-secondary education for our youth in our province? Or do we feel that that's not beneficial? I think if you ask a lot of people, economists and such, they'd say you're going to get your best bang out of your buck if you're going to be investing it in education. So I think this is going to be harder on our economy and not the right decision.

So these ". . . cuts ignore the affordability challenges facing students and neglect the significant economic and social benefits of post-secondary education." Like I said before, if the costs keep going up for students, and the availability of these programs are going to be limited because universities are having to minimize the amount of classes that they're offering because of the lack of support from this government, we're going to lose our young people from this province. And we can't afford that, Mr. Speaker.

So I know the critic with regards to this portfolio will contact stakeholders and will have lots of information and will have lots

of questions to put forward towards the minister at committee. And I know other colleagues on my side here will have more information that they would like to add to this bill debate, so at this moment, Mr. Speaker, I'm going to move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 94, the Saskatchewan advantage grant for education savings. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — The member for Prince Albert Northcote has adjourned debate on Bill No. 94, *The Saskatchewan Advantage Grant for Education Savings (SAGES) Amendment Act, 2017*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

### Bill No. 95

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 95 — *The Miscellaneous Statutes Repeal and Amendment Act, 2017*** be now read a second time.]

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Regina Rosemont.

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Thanks, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to enter into debate here today as it relates to Bill No. 95, *An Act to repeal and amend miscellaneous Statutes and make consequential amendments to certain Statutes*. There's what would appear to be a fair amount of housekeeping in this legislation, cleaning up Acts that are no longer relevant, Mr. Speaker.

It's interesting though to note on a few of these fronts some of the changes that have been brought forward here. I guess there's changes as it relates to *The Income Tax Act*, Mr. Speaker. Nothing that I could see within here pertaining to the tax hikes that have been brought forward by this government, so no changes there, Mr. Speaker. And I know that that's something that many across Saskatchewan would have been observing and hopeful for within this legislation.

Certainly of course as you'd know, Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party brought forward a billion-dollar tax hike on the hard-working people of Saskatchewan last year, and the impacts are real for households that are working hard to make ends meet but that are also dealing with a challenging job environment, Mr. Speaker, unemployment that's risen, job loss that's grown across the province, Mr. Speaker. So we don't see changes within this Act to address those tax hikes at all, Mr. Speaker.

I do see changes to the . . . I guess it's repealing *The Community Bonds Act*, and obviously this would have been a borrowing mechanism for municipalities. Of course we have municipalities across Saskatchewan that have had the rug pulled out from under them, Mr. Speaker, and were really blindsided by the elimination of grants-in-lieu over the last year.

And the impacts, of course, have left communities, municipalities, elected leaders scrambling to make up that shortfall, to make up that loss of revenues. And the impact has been hard on households, on property tax payers, on businesses and families across the province. So we see in this Act,

repealing *The Community Bonds Act*, and we see that of course at a time where municipalities across the province are not being treated well at all by this provincial government and have significant infrastructure needs as well.

You know, it was interesting a few years back when the province discontinued the Saskatchewan savings bonds. And you know, many people utilized those Saskatchewan savings bonds and found them to be a solid investment, but it was also an investment in our province. And I know there was a lot of pride that Saskatchewan people took when they took out a Saskatchewan savings bond. And it became clear to me that the Sask Party government really didn't want Saskatchewan people to have a keen eye to the fiscal house. They really didn't want people observing the financial management of the province.

And that program was eliminated at a time where unprecedented revenues were flowing into government, yet we had a Sask Party government that failed to balance the books, failed to get the job done and to leave our fiscal house in a better condition. In fact they not only depleted things like the rainy day fund, Mr. Speaker, but piled on billions of dollars of debt. And in fact the Sask Party has doubled the debt in the last five years, Mr. Speaker.

So I found it interesting when the Sask Party eliminated the Saskatchewan savings bonds, Mr. Speaker. In many ways it would appear that the Sask Party really just didn't want Saskatchewan people taking a keen interest in the financial affairs of the province, our public finances. And I guess that's for partisan or political reasons, Mr. Speaker, but not in the public interest of our province.

I also see that this bill repeals a section of *The Power Corporation Amendment Act*, and that relates to recourse for payments owed. And we'll take this through committee, Mr. Speaker, but I'm not sure if this is related directly to the ripped-up agreements with municipalities from across Saskatchewan with respect to grants-in-lieu, Mr. Speaker. But it would certainly, you know, not be strange for this Sask Party government to use their heavy hand as we've seen before to prevent recourse from those that are owed something by the provincial government.

In the case of the grants-in-lieu, Mr. Speaker, we had agreements that were entered into by the Crown corporations with municipalities across Saskatchewan, the acquisition of assets, of power utilities or energy utilities, Mr. Speaker. And those municipalities had gone to the hard work, the due diligence, the organization to organize and to operate those utilities, and they did that in the interests of their communities. They also received from that healthy revenues for their communities. So this was certainly a common-sense approach to communities meeting the needs of their communities and also giving some security from a financial perspective.

So what grants-in-lieu represented was the acquisition of those power utilities and energy utilities, and the contracts that were in place were there to compensate municipalities for the loss of revenue. So it was a royalty, if you will. But you know . . . And I'm getting heckled by the Minister of Finance here, Mr. Speaker, which doesn't surprise me. I must have hit a nerve. I know that that minister has displayed a complete lack of

understanding of this file, Mr. Speaker, and has really offended municipalities from across Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, offended municipal leaders from across our province, and I think actually impacted the most, I believe, communities like Humboldt and Yorkton, Mr. Speaker.

And I know those communities and those municipal leaders and frankly the taxpayers of the province are owed more respect from their Finance minister who has, you know, pushed forward these changes, of course with the Premier who went out the door, Mr. Speaker. And it's past time that that Finance minister and the new Premier dig into this file and understand what those grants-in-lieu represent, Mr. Speaker.

But it's actually quite the message that this Sask Party government is sending to Saskatchewan people when they just rip up agreements, rip up contracts, Mr. Speaker, with no accountability, and then with the heavy hand of government ensure that there's not any recourse there as well.

And you know, the impacts are real, Mr. Speaker. Everyone that's received their tax notices and what the increases are going to be will know what the impacts are of the broken promises and the disrespect from the Sask Party. They know it all too well in Melville. They know it all too well in Yorkton. They know it all too well in Saskatoon and Regina. They certainly know it in Humboldt as well, Mr. Speaker. And I'd say it's past time for the MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] from Humboldt and the Finance minister of Saskatchewan to sit down with those municipal leaders who have been willing from the get-go to explain to that minister what those grants represented.

I also see the Sask Party here is eliminating *The Home Energy Loan Act*, Mr. Speaker, and at the same time as we see no activity from this government at a critical time where we should be supporting the creation of thousands of jobs across Saskatchewan through an ambitious energy efficiency retrofit program. We see a government that's not acting in the interests — long-term interests — of our province, from certainly an environmental perspective, but they're failing us economically, Mr. Speaker.

They're failing to create the good jobs and the investment that we need across this province. And that's disappointing, Mr. Speaker, because we have . . . Certainly Saskatchewan people who are being hit with tax after tax after tax by the Sask Party are owed good jobs. You know, they shouldn't be handed the costs of the mismanagement and scandal and waste of this government and they certainly shouldn't be handed, you know, a weakened economy because of the choices — the poor choices — of the Sask Party government.

You know, and I find this interesting. This piece of legislation as well addresses the film tax credit, Mr. Speaker, the film employment tax credit. And of course here's just another example of ideology of the Sask Party trumping common sense and the long-term interests of our province.

We once had a thriving film industry in our province, that was in a position to grow exponentially. We have a world-class sound stage that films and productions were lining up from around the world to compete to come and film in. And of course

we had the spinoff of thousands of jobs within our province and investment within our province, diversification to our economy as well.

And even the chamber of commerce within the province weighed in when the Sask Party axed the film tax credit, driving investment from our province, driving so many workers and families from our province, and weakening us from an economic perspective. And it's right now where you see the poor economic conditions that the Sask Party have placed us in. We know we would be stronger if we had the sector in place, the film sector in place, and the jobs and investment that's with it.

I know next door in Manitoba there's over \$200 million of investment being made this year, driving up their GDP [gross domestic product], creating jobs. We see more than that in Alberta and then we see billions of dollars in British Columbia. But of course the Sask Party took those jobs away from Saskatchewan people, weakened our economy at a time where we had an unprecedented opportunity with strong commodity prices. They chose to weaken our province and pulled diversification out of our economy, Mr. Speaker.

So we see on some of these measures that we see, these are housekeeping changes. In other cases, they're the consequences of a government that has failed to deliver for the people of our province and has failed to serve the best interest of our province, certainly from a social perspective, but from an economic perspective as well.

[15:45]

And front and centre within this legislation is the repealing of Enterprise Saskatchewan. And you might recall Enterprise Saskatchewan. You know, Mr. Speaker, it came with the sort of lofty language that the Global Transportation Hub once did as well, Mr. Speaker. This was the showpiece for the premier that just departed, Mr. Speaker, when he came to office. This was his economic plan, Mr. Speaker, and obviously it was a complete flop. It was something that wasted millions of dollars, Mr. Speaker, but more than that it wasted the energy and efforts of hundreds of good people from across the province who were tapped to be engaged in this mismanaged project of the premier, of the Sask Party, Mr. Speaker. But that was a key component of, you know, what that premier was running on in 2007 as he came to office.

And in fact the other thing he did through that process is he took over local economic development within our province, took it away from communities. I see the member for Moosomin here, and I think of the good folks out there in Moosomin who dedicated themselves to economic development within that region and to great effect, knowing the assets and interests of that region and having skin in the game, Mr. Speaker.

And what we saw from the Sask Party was certainly a disrespect of the local economic minds and those that had skin in the game, those that were creating investment across our province, those that knew the assets of our communities and regions best, Mr. Speaker. And it was taken all over, taken all over into the auspice of Enterprise Saskatchewan. Bunch of

money thrown at it, wasted of course, Mr. Speaker. And they brought all sorts of very good people from across the province and brought them into the fold through that process and wasted their time, Mr. Speaker. So like so many things that the Sask Party has touched, wasted money, wasted time, and failed to deliver for the people of our province, Mr. Speaker.

And right now, you know, if we look across Saskatchewan we sure would be well served by leaning on and trusting in local communities from across Saskatchewan when it comes to economic development. And we're, you know, sort of the exception in Canada around local economic development funding, where this government blew up the efforts of regions and local communities, took over that control, of course mismanaged their enterprise project, wasted time, wasted money, and now has left us in a spot where we're one of the only provinces in Canada that doesn't fund local economic development, Mr. Speaker.

And I think that needs to change. I think we should be trusting in the people of this province. I think we should be trusting in the good people of Prince Albert and area, the good people of Moosomin and area . . . I'm being heckled by the member from Indian Head. You know, certainly Indian Head is a community that we would be well served by having local economic minds being engaged in economic development. It's a community that's been hurt by the choices of this government and, you know, the film industry through to the tree nursery, Mr. Speaker. These are all important.

And we're talking about economic matters here at a time where, of course, this government's failing to get the job done for Saskatchewan people, failing to create the jobs that Saskatchewan people need, putting forward a performance that's pitiful, Mr. Speaker, from a perspective of the GDP — lowest in Canada, Mr. Speaker. And those impacts are all felt by Saskatchewan people.

And then we have a government that sits on their hands at a time where we have a rail system that just simply isn't performing, Mr. Speaker. And right now, at this time we have, you know, certainly producers not able to get product to market, but impacts that are cascading across our economy as we speak — a refinery that's not running at full capacity because they can't get the product to market, potash producers who can't get product to port right now, manufacturers from across our province that are hamstrung right now.

And my message to the Sask Party around rail transportation is this is a time for this government to act. Unfortunately, under the Sask Party and also because of things like lower commodity prices, we don't have the economic strength that we should. But the fact of the matter is that our rail system isn't even performing at this point within our GDP, at this point within our economy. And we want to grow new markets, Mr. Speaker. We want to expand trade. We want to serve our exporters from across Saskatchewan. But if the Sask Party sits on their hands on the file of rail transportation, Mr. Speaker, they're failing a whole generation of businesses across our province. They're failing the future of our economy. And the goal, of course, is to bring that economy back into stride, to see it firing on all cylinders, to create the kind of jobs that Saskatchewan people need and deserve. But we're not well served by a government



that gives lip service to an underperforming rail transportation system, the duopoly that's simply not getting the job done for Saskatchewan people. And this is the time that we should be addressing this within our province.

And you know, I get a kick having ministers and backbenchers heckle throughout this speech. I'd urge them, they should . . . This is a matter of urgency. This is a matter that's costing us real dollars today from a fiscal perspective. And look at their deficit, Mr. Speaker. You'll understand what the consequences are there. But it's costing jobs. It's costing the bottom line of Saskatchewan companies, Mr. Speaker, and it's impacting an entire province.

So, Mr. Speaker, I'd spoken to a few of the elements in *The Miscellaneous Statutes Consequential Amendments Act* that's been brought forward, some of it being housekeeping, a lot of it representing really poor choices of this government, a government that really hasn't served the interests of the people of our province, that couldn't get the job from a fiscal perspective, couldn't get the job done economically, Mr. Speaker. And as such I know there's a lot within this Act that would allow me to go a lot longer within this Assembly.

But I think what's important is, you know, there's a bit of a debate across the floor. What we need to remember is we're talking about real people, real jobs, real lives, real communities, and there's real hurt out there, Mr. Speaker. And they deserve so much better than a government that breaks its promises and has its own partisan self-interest well ahead of the long-term public interests of this province.

Mr. Speaker, as it relates to Bill No. 95, you know, there's lots more to be said. I know more will be said by my colleagues. There will be more within committee. But at this point in time, I'll adjourn debate.

**The Speaker:** — The member for Regina Rosemont has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 95, *The Miscellaneous Statutes Repeal and Amendment Act, 2017*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

### Bill No. 97

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 97** — *The Arbitration (Family Dispute Resolution) Amendment Act, 2017* be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased today to enter into the debate on Bill No. 97, *An Act to amend The Arbitration Act, 1992*. And I've been listening to many speeches on this and it's one that is very, very important. And I'll reflect a little bit on what I said yesterday about the mediation and some of the other tools that the minister has brought forward. And this is one piece of the puzzle, a very

important piece.

It does talk about defining arbitrators, or also known as umpires or other . . . or a family arbitrator, and defines it as "a person who is recognized by the minister as meeting the requirements prescribed in the regulations for family arbitrators." And a family dispute means "a dispute between the parties respecting a matter to which one of the following applies."

It talks about *The Children's Law Act, 1997*, and other than a hearing pursuant to that section 12, it doesn't change section 12. *The Family Maintenance Act, 1997*. *The Family Property Act*. *The Divorce Act of Canada*.

And as I said yesterday, this is very important considering where we find ourselves here in Saskatchewan, that we have the highest rates of domestic violence here in Saskatchewan. And so when we talk about arbitration or mediation or family in dispute, quite often it is very, very tragic and it's one that could lead to very difficult situations.

So while this is important, we need to recognize the fact that, as with many things, we can put forward pieces of legislation, tying up the legislation, but if our resources aren't there, if there isn't access to justice, then it really means nothing, doesn't it, Mr. Speaker. It really is a simple nothing.

Hopes are created that maybe we'll have a more . . . a friendlier court system, one that people feel welcome and that they won't be shunned or felt to believe that somehow it's not for them, that in fact they have access to justice and they can make things happen.

So in many ways this is a good piece of legislation, but I think the challenge remains. And we wait until early April. And as the Premier said today, that we have to wait until then to find out what kind of commitments they have. And of course this is something that I feel we'll need to know the answer to as soon as possible while we wait for the budget. I understand that. It's clearly something that people are very, very impatient, and there can be tragic circumstances. We've seen especially when it comes to interpersonal violence, domestic violence, that that in fact can lead to death and we know, matter of fact, the Minister of Justice has a process in place examining that.

So I know we'll be having lots of people who want to speak to these issues. We'll have questions about access to arbitration and arbitrators. And we'll have more questions about the implementation of this process. The key though will be resources, not so much in terms of the language in the bill — we get that — but it's the resources. You can dress it up all you want but if you're not going to really support it, then what's the point. And particularly in this, it's very, very sad.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I'm going to move that we adjourn debate on Bill 97, *An Act to amend The Arbitration Act, 1992*.

**The Speaker:** — The member for Saskatoon Centre has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 97, *The Arbitration (Family Dispute Resolution) Amendment Act, 2017*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

**Bill No. 98**

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 98 — *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Family Dispute Resolution) Amendment Act, 2017/Loi modificative diverse (résolution des conflits familiaux) de 2017*** be now read a second time.]

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

**Ms. Beck:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my pleasure to rise and enter into second reading debate on Bill No. 98, the miscellaneous statutes amendment Act. As has been previously discussed both by the minister and members on this side, the intention of this bill is to amend a number of Acts including: *The Children's Law Act*, *The Family Maintenance Act*, *The Family Property Act*, and the family — I maybe already said that — *The Family Maintenance Act*, Mr. Speaker, updating some language, and adding some measures to deal with mediation, and to divert some of the matters that maybe would have previously been dealt with by the courts, diverting them to family mediators and some other professionals as I will get into here, Mr. Speaker.

I'm just going to go back to the minister's, the then minister's comments back on November the 21st, 2017 when he introduced this Act in second reading, noting that there's an encouragement or a move towards encouraging "... parties to use out-of-court dispute resolution processes for family disputes where appropriate." Of course, Mr. Speaker, there's a lot of evidence towards this that the more that those type of disputes, that by their very nature tend to be heated and have very large impact on families but particularly on children, if we could look at best practice to maybe reduce some of that animosity and some of the impact that is experienced by families when they go through this process, I think that is indeed a very good and a needed goal within the justice system.

One note in the minister's comments: "Parties to disputes need to be aware of the range of options available for early settlement and to maximize these opportunities to reduce the financial and emotional cost of separation." So certainly similar to the comments made by my colleague from Saskatoon Centre. It is very important to change the legislation, but in other pieces making sure that the necessary resources are there to support those changes.

So those are a number of questions that I'm sure my colleagues will have when we get to committee with this bill. Will the resources be there and where will the resources be for the additional training that's required? And I'll go through that as I go through my comments. Will the resources be there to make sure that families are aware of these resources in the community and how will that be made apparent to them?

[16:00]

I have done a little bit of research looking for some of the definitions and some of the background information here, Mr. Speaker, and found it a little bit difficult to find. I did find it on the Internet, but in some articles that were ... [inaudible

interjection] ... Well the member from Cannington is cautioning me, probably with some veracity, that I should be careful about what I read on the Internet, but this is from the Government of Sask site so hopefully, Mr. Speaker, I can trust that. Although, hey, maybe that is good counsel, Mr. Speaker.

Another thing that the minister mentioned in his comments in second reading that there will be new provisions:

... will create exceptions in certain circumstances on application to the court or another prescribed person. For example, where there is a history of violence, a child has been abducted, or [there's] a restraining order ... in place, a party may seek an exception.

I was very glad to see this in the legislation, Mr. Speaker. Of course mediation is desirable and helpful and beneficial for a lot of reasons, but it is not something that can be applied in all circumstances, and the one that I'm most familiar with is in the case of domestic violence. If it is required or entered into when there is that type of not only physically but emotionally abusive relationship, it often is used as further means to further that abuse and continue with that relationship.

So I was very glad to see that some exceptions would be made here. I believe what's being anticipated is that, barring those exceptional circumstances, there would be every, not every opportunity but every attempt would be made to divert as many of these cases to these alternate dispute processes as possible.

It goes on to say in the minister's comments:

Where parties choose mediation, they will be required to use the services of a family mediator.

And that definition has been changed throughout all of these pieces of legislation and defined. And:

The qualifications for this special type of mediator will be set out in the regulations. Family mediators will have special training in family law and have enhanced knowledge of the conflicts that may arise in and the intricacies of family law disputes.

And I think that that is something, again going back to my earlier comments, I have many questions about, and I'm sure the critic will as well. Who is being met with to determine these qualifications? Just a shout out to the SASW [Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers] who were here earlier today, and this in the midst of Social Work Month in the province, Mr. Speaker. Hopefully I would hope that those bodies, the regulatory bodies for a profession such as social workers would have been able to be consulted with regard to the training that's required.

But also I would be curious to know where this training is available. Is it offered in Saskatchewan? Is it offered at the polytechnic or at the universities? And even more so, are we ensuring that there is proper funding and resources to ensure that these new, what seem to be in some cases new programs, that that training is there? The other thing is, you know, where these new workers will live, or where they will be housed with regard to ministry.

The amendments to *The Children's Law Act* will also include revisions respecting parenting coordinators. And I may stand to be corrected on this, Mr. Speaker, but I don't think that we currently have parenting coordinators in the province. So this is something that we see in Ontario and BC [British Columbia], I believe, and it's something that's being anticipated here. So you know, where that training will take place, is this something that people can access online, that type of training? And how will they fit into this government's 5 per cent reduction mandate within the public sector if these are being introduced as new and much needed?

I think the minister did a good job of outlining the reasons that these professionals are needed, the benefit on both the financial side but particularly the benefit to families and in particular children to have these professionals accessed within or prior to entering into the more formal court proceedings. I hope that the corresponding dollars will be there both for the training and for the hiring of these important positions, Mr. Speaker.

I'm just going to . . . I'm quite fascinated by the idea of the parenting coordinators. I've looked up an overview of parenting coordinators: ". . . is a child focused or child centered form of dispute resolution which provides parents with an alternative to managing child related disagreements during or after divorce/separation."

And unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, anyone who's been through even the most amicable of separation and divorce knows just how difficult these situations are. And having someone there to help you navigate, help you come to an agreement that really is in the best interest of the children, which I think a lot of people enter into, you know, saying that that's what they want, but emotions get heated and some long-standing resentments can build up, and really it's often the children who pay the price for that type of animosity that builds up. So to actually have these parenting coordinators in place in these situations prior to the more acrimonious process which happens in the courts, I think that that is something that is very desirable and I hope that we will have enough.

We were hearing today about wait-lists for children seeking mental health services in this province being in some cases in large cities up to two years, Mr. Speaker. I hope that we're not looking at that type of a wait-list here because, you know, in the minister's own background documents here and some of the documents on the Justice family law website, the longer these disputes go on the more expensive they tend to be, but also the greater impact there is for the children, and more heightened the conflict can become.

So I think this is a good idea and I would like to see that there would be some assurances that it's properly resourced and that the access, there is the right level of access, that this can be accessed without delay. Otherwise we lose the benefit of having these positions in place, to too large of a degree, Mr. Speaker.

So in this background document I'm just going to reference here at the top — it's under publications on gov.sk.ca. It's titled *Early Dispute Resolution in Family Law Disputes* and dated June 2017, but there's no attribution of who compiled this document. It looks like it's may be a stakeholder document that was soliciting feedback. But it does talk about a number of the

changes that have been incorporated into this bill.

I would like to . . . Types of ADRs — so that's alternative dispute resolution — looking at the mandatory resolution:

Mandatory ADR would permit parties to participate in their choice of ADR. There are a variety of ADR methods that may assist parties in the early resolution of family disputes.

Of course mediation, as is noted here, is likely the most well-known of these disputes, but also there is collaborative law services that are referenced in *The Children's Law Act*, *The Family Maintenance Act*, and *The Family Property Act*.

So these are mechanisms that are in place now, perhaps underutilized and lesser known than they might be when some of these changes are made provided that there is a proper level of resourcing to ensure that people going through these situations have both knowledge and access to the programs.

In terms of timing, and I think that is important . . . it's something that I've mentioned, the importance of the timing with the availability of these services. The proposed provisions would permit parties to participate in their choice of ADR and the timing would occur either before pleadings are filed or immediately after the close of pleadings.

If issues aren't resolved through this process, it's anticipated that the issues proceeding through a court resolution process would have been clarified and narrowed. So I guess what that's saying there, Mr. Speaker, is that even, you know, if sometimes these processes, for a number of reasons, don't work and the matters do proceed to court proceedings, there is a provision in this new bill that doesn't allow any of the evidence overturned within the mediation process to be disclosed in court unless there is agreement from both parties. And I think that's very important. It's protective. Otherwise if members going into the mediation process are guarded with the information that they share and that they bring forward for fear that it will be brought up and used against them in court later, I think that really would go a long way to damage the efficacy of the mediation process. So I do think that that is a very important provision in this bill as well.

I'm just going to move down through this — sorry, I'm still getting used to the new bifocals here, Mr. Speaker — and back to the parenting coordinators, Mr. Speaker. So this is a relatively new, new to me, perhaps new to the province classification of professionals within the dispute process, the family law process. And I just want to read this into the record:

Parenting coordinators can help parties after an agreement or order is in place to resolve disputes over how an agreement or order is interpreted or put into effect.

They don't create the agreements, of course. Those are, I would assume, created through the ADR process or sometimes through court. But they do help parents navigating parenting time arrangements, dates, pickups, holidays, and they may be an effective way for parties to resolve smaller disputes over existing agreements and orders outside of the court. Again, here's the piece that I referenced earlier:

Parenting coordinators are present in other provinces, such as British Columbia and Ontario, and offer parties in high conflict relationships an avenue for resolution that does not involve more court applications.

So this is another piece — sort of on the other side of the court process — that allows parents a way to deal with their disputes without going back to court. And certainly, unfortunately again, Mr. Speaker, there are probably people even in this House today who have experience or a tale of disputes, particularly around custody agreements that have gone on for a long time, that have been highly conflictual, and that have, I guess plainly put, Mr. Speaker, cost both parties a lot of time, a lot of energy, and a lot of money in many cases, Mr. Speaker.

[16:15]

And again, both on the emotional side of things, the trauma side of things, children pay the impact there. But also sometimes, you know, I've seen parents go broke trying to get back at the other parent. So this is an alternate avenue for parents outside of the court system, and quite possibly a way to reduce some of that animosity and conflict.

And again, I think we'll be looking for what the qualifications will be. I believe it says here that those will be the responsibilities . . . The bill will set out, the services of a parenting coordinator may be used, and the types and determinations the parent coordinator may make, and the minimum training and practice criteria an individual will need to qualify as a parenting coordinator. And so that's to be determined, I guess, Mr. Speaker.

Something that I have a personal interest in but I think is very important, along with the other questions that I've raised around where those seeking to have these qualifications, where they could gain them and how they'll be regulated, and if there are new courses that need to be established within the province, where the funding for that will come. I think that those are likely on the list of questions that the critic will have when this bill moves to committee in short order here, Mr. Speaker.

Using the closing comments of the minister on second reading, "This suite of family law amendments will assist to promote alternate dispute resolution methods in family law matters for the timely and cost-effective resolution of family law disputes." Mr. Speaker, I think if this legislation is enacted and resourced properly, I think it has the potential to do so. And there's some parts of this bill that I think are long overdue and am quite excited to see in here. Again I'll go back to, particularly the understanding that while mediation is effective and desirable in many, many cases of family law, in cases where there is abuse or there has been . . . It doesn't specifically note child abuse but only child abduction. I guess that's a question I have. Why not abuse, only abduction?

But with some notable exceptions and important exceptions, the potential of mediation and bypassing the court on many of these issues both deals with issues that we see with court backlogs, but also maybe a more appropriate avenue where it's possible for two parties to come to an agreement in a lower stakes and lower conflict situation through some of these ADRs.

So I do have more questions, but I'm sure that the critic will have even more and we'll be coming to them shortly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for hearing my thoughts on this. And with that I would move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 98.

**The Speaker:** — The member for Regina Lakeview has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 98, *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Family Dispute Resolution) Amendment Act, 2017*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

### Bill No. 99

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 99 — *The Interpretation Amendment Act, 2017 (No. 2)/Loi modificative n° 2 de 2017 sur l'interprétation*** be now read a second time.]

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Regina Rosemont.

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Thanks, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to enter into debate here this afternoon again, this time on Bill No. 99, *The Interpretation Amendment Act, 2017*. The title of this legislation doesn't really sound like much, Mr. Speaker. It sort of leaves, I think, the average person watching at home to think that this would be a general piece of housekeeping. But of course this represents a betrayal of the people of this province when it comes to our Crown corporations, Mr. Speaker.

Of course, not too long ago — a couple years ago and for many years before that — the Sask Party had promised and pledged that our Crowns weren't for sale, that they wouldn't privatize our Crowns. Of course they went to Saskatchewan people in that last election, just two years ago, made that promise to the people of the province, hand over heart, promising that our Crowns weren't for sale.

And then of course, shortly thereafter, we realized that that just wasn't the case. We had a government that desperately scrambled to sell off STC and then tried to put up to 50 per cent of all of our Crown corporations up for sale, Mr. Speaker, representing a massive betrayal to the people of our province, a breaking of trust with the people of the province on an issue so important to not just today but to our future.

Of course our Crown corporations were built by and for Saskatchewan people. They create hundreds of millions of dollars every year in dividends that they return to pay for things like our classrooms and health care across Saskatchewan. They support and create thousands of jobs all across our province and thousands more through supply chains with local businesses all through our province. In fact this is an area that should be strengthened and improved, strengthening those Saskatchewan supply chains, indigenous supply chains, making sure that we maximize the economic benefit of our Crown corporations. And of course our Crowns also provide low rates, affordability to the people of our province, and service, Mr. Speaker, in places that wouldn't otherwise receive service.

So our Crowns are critical to today. They're critical to future

generations. And the Sask Party's betrayal on this front won't be forgotten by the people of our province. They know where the Sask Party stands on this issue. They know that they simply can't be trusted with our Crowns. And this is going to be a critical issue into that next election, Mr. Speaker, because people recognize that when it comes to our Crowns, when they're gone, they're gone. It's so hard to rebuild Crown corporations that are desperately sold off for a quick buck under this government, and Saskatchewan people will rally as they have to protect our Crown corporations for future generations.

The Sask Party brought forward legislation that would have allowed the sell-off of up to 49 per cent of all of our Crowns, Mr. Speaker. Now they pretend as though they're changing that legislation, Mr. Speaker, but really they've left the door wide open to sell-offs. And Saskatchewan people have also learned that they, of course, simply can't take the Sask Party on their word when it comes to our Crowns. And they recognize as well that a majority government has a lot of power on these fronts, which is why I'm rather certain that Saskatchewan people will remember this matter and be very mindful of our Crowns when they go to vote in the next election — as they will in the by-election, for example, up in Northeast, you know, where the Finance minister got out of Dodge, Mr. Speaker, and now we're going to be having a by-election here in Regina. And I know people up in Regina Northeast felt tremendously betrayed on this front and were let down. And I heard it from door after door after door through Regina Northeast, Mr. Speaker, from people who felt that they simply weren't straight with them, Mr. Speaker.

You know, the member who had his cameo in the leadership race there, the member from Meadow Lake, is heckling a little bit here, Mr. Speaker. He's heckling, but the point around Northeast, Mr. Speaker, that's the Finance minister's riding. And I know, you know, since that last election it's been a place that . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . It was the then Finance minister's riding. Of course he's got out of Dodge, Mr. Speaker, after he cranked up the debt and broke promises to the people of the province.

But I've been out on those doors an awful lot, along with our team and along with many local volunteers, and the number of people that voted for the Sask Party in the last election who clearly won't again, Mr. Speaker, because of this betrayal, a betrayal that matters to the people of our province, is significant.

I know we went out one time, Mr. Speaker, and I was out with the member for Regina Lakeview, I think the member for Regina Douglas Park as well. We took petitions out to the then Finance minister's riding, Mr. Speaker, after the broken promise and the betrayal and the sell-off of our Crown corporation, STC, and the attempted sell-off of our Crowns, Mr. Speaker. And it was hard to find a door, Mr. Speaker, that wouldn't sign that petition calling on the Sask Party to stop the sell-off of our Crown corporations. And Saskatchewan people, hard-working Saskatchewan people, recognize of course that this is a broken promise, but they also recognize that as the Sask Party sells off our Crowns, they're selling out Saskatchewan people, Mr. Speaker, and selling out our future.

Our Crowns need to be locked down with the highest level of

protection possible, and they need to be strengthened and utilized to meet the needs of today and into the future. At a time right now where we've got economic challenges caused in part by the Sask Party, Mr. Speaker, we need to utilize our Crowns to crank up job creation within our province and also address some of the challenges that we face — say, for example, from an environmental perspective, reducing emissions and creating jobs. Our Crowns are in a perfect position to be leveraged on this front.

So, Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan New Democrats, the official opposition, the people of our province, won't allow the Sask Party another chance to sell off our Crown corporations. They will remember. They won't forget. And we'll work to make sure that our Crowns are protected for future generations.

With that being said, there's much more on this debate, and I think a team of us maybe will go out and spend some time talking to the good people of Northeast here tonight, Mr. Speaker. I will adjourn debate as it relates to Bill No. 99.

**The Speaker:** — The member for Regina Rosemont has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 99, *The Interpretation Amendment Act, 2017 (No. 2)*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

### Bill No 103

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 103 — *The Land Contracts (Actions) Act, 2017*** be now read a second time.]

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

**Ms. Chartier:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to enter into the debate around Bill No. 103, *The Land Contracts (Actions) Act, 2017*. Mr. Speaker, it's always good to take a look at the minister's second reading speech to have a sense of where the government is coming on a particular bill. And this particular bill, Mr. Speaker, came out of recommendations from the Law Reform Commission of Saskatchewan, titled reform of the land contracts Act. I can hear the Deputy Premier, actually, who is speaking from his seat, who is very proud of this bill and talks about the time when he initiated this process, Mr. Speaker. So we hear from the Deputy Premier.

The Law Reform Commission of Saskatchewan does really, really great work actually, important work in terms of evaluating Saskatchewan legislation and seeing where we should go. And the minister in his second reading speech does in fact say that it was building on recommendations, but I haven't been able to do a side-by-side comparison of the Law Reform Commission's report and this legislation. But I know when we get to committee that our critic will, and will ask some very specific questions around that.

The minister, in his second reading comments, points out that the land contracts Act is “. . . consumer protection legislation in

place to protect borrowers by requiring lenders to obtain leave of the court before starting a foreclosure proceeding.”

He points out that:

The protection is provided as . . . time to bring the mortgage up to date; refinance or sell the property before foreclosure or judicial sale; or if that is not possible, [he points out that it's] time to find alternative accommodation. This [particular] Act does not apply to farm land.

Mr. Speaker, the point about time to find alternative accommodation, it was interesting yesterday. My colleague from Regina Lakeview pointed to some stats from the Canadian Bankers Association. You'll have forgive me. I really think I need to start wearing reading glasses here, or get longer arms. But looking at the statistics, Mr. Speaker, what the Canadian Bankers Association does is they produce a list of the percentage of arrears to total number of mortgages. And it's important to point out here in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, we are three times the national average. The percentage of arrears of total numbers of mortgages here in Saskatchewan is point seven four per cent.

We can look to provinces like Alberta and the Maritimes to see where they're at. We've had similar challenges around being resource-dependent economies, and they are lower. We've got Atlantic Canada at point five four per cent and Alberta at point four three per cent. But I think that the striking thing again, Mr. Speaker, is that Saskatchewan is three times the national average, which this particular number, this percentage signifies 969, the number of mortgages in arrears in Saskatchewan as of November 30th, 2017, Mr. Speaker.

[16:30]

You think about those numbers and those are families, those are real people who are struggling with affordability, struggling with lack of jobs, lack of employment, and trying very hard to keep their head above water but failing, Mr. Speaker. And this Sask Party government has failed in many regards in providing the proper . . . At a time when our oil resources or our natural resources are low. And we also have a government making affordability more difficult, increasing the PST [provincial sales tax] on folks. I think it was five increases in SaskPower rates in the last couple of years, Mr. Speaker.

So I think this signifies something very serious and this number represents — we can't ever forget here in this place — that that number represents real people with families, people who just want a good livelihood, Mr. Speaker, and to be able to have a home. When you purchase a home, you want to put down roots and feel like you're connected to something, Mr. Speaker. That's close to 1,000 people, 1,000 families who are losing that.

But just with respect to Bill No. 103, the minister in his second reading speech points out that this particular bill, the land contracts Act, is more than 70 years old, being enacted in 1943. And the commission's final report, the Law Reform Commission's final report considered the steps required by the land contracts Act for non-farmland mortgages and recommended reforms to better protect borrowers in current

conditions. Again, so it'll be interesting to see how much the bill matches the Law Reform Commission's recommendations.

The minister points out the Act will maintain the time and notice provided by the current Act but reduces the cost to those involved in the process. He points out that in Saskatchewan we are the only province that requires any pre-action process for foreclosure, and he goes on to say that “The current Act requires a number of steps before the application for leave to commence an action.” And he is arguing that this doesn't serve the interest of borrowers or lenders, and many steps can confuse borrowers and cause unnecessary expense to the lender that may be passed on to the borrower.

So as he mentions, the Law Reform Commission's report and the recommendations, it recommended that:

. . . the first step in the new Act for foreclosure proceedings will be a plain-language notice of application for leave to commence an action. The notice will be first in legislated form and secondly served on the borrower and the Provincial Mediation Board at least 60 days before the hearing date.

He points out that the new process eliminates two steps:

The 60-day time period between the notice and the hearing will be retained. It will allow the borrower to negotiate a payment plan with the lender and put the land up for sale or, alternately, to prepare to appear in court.

Mr. Speaker, the minister argues:

The new process will ensure both the borrower and the courts have the most up-to-date information before an application for leave to commence a foreclosure action is heard. It will require their copy of the mortgage or agreement for sale of the land as reasonable evidence of the value of the land . . . and reasonable evidence of the value of the land be served with the notice. It will also require updated arrears information to be served on the borrower and filed with the court prior to the hearing date.

He also points out that:

The court will continue to be limited to eight months of adjournments on an application for leave to commence a foreclosure action. This provides certainty [He believes it provides certainty] to the process for both parties. The bill will not apply to properties used for commercial purposes at the time of default.

He argues that it's “. . . consumer protection legislation that is not intended to apply to purely commercial transactions.”

It also, Mr. Speaker, repeals two bills, *The Home Owners' Protection Act.* and *The Agreements of Sale Cancellation Act.* Elements of it were moved into this bill.

So, Mr. Speaker, I know that our critic responsible — I believe it's our Justice critic, who is a very able individual — I know that she will have many questions in committee on Bill No. 103, *The Land Contracts (Actions) Act, 2017.* But with that, at this

time I would like to move to adjourn debate.

**The Speaker:** — The member for Saskatoon Riversdale has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 103, *The Land Contracts (Actions) Act, 2017*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

#### Bill No. 104

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 104** — *The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code, 2017/Code des droits de la personne de la Saskatchewan de 2017* be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure and an honour to rise today to enter into the debate on Bill No. 104, *An Act respecting the Saskatchewan Human Rights Code and its Administration and repealing a certain Act*. And it's an interesting piece of legislation. We were kind of surprised when the minister brought this forward. And we thought, what could this be? This is a huge undertaking. And then we found it was simply a translation piece and that it was just going to be translated into French.

And we think usually when you bring big bills into the legislature there's reasons, and you don't just bring something of this magnitude, one of the foundational bills or pieces of legislation of our province, and then have nothing much else in it. It just begs for debate. And so today I hope to raise a few issues that I think — and particularly in this time that we find ourselves in our province, both in terms of the truth and reconciliation period that we're in — that people are really looking for improvements around human rights. And also with the increased population of newcomers to our province and a young population, people have a much higher expectation for human rights than, say, a few decades ago.

So when we found this piece of legislation was just about translation. Well that is very worthwhile and I want to even say on today when we mark the special day for the francophone community, the Fransaskois of Saskatchewan, it's only fitting that it be translated into French. That is a very laudable goal, and of course we support it.

But as we look through it we go, in this time are there improvements that we could make to the legislation ourselves? We know that we have a very activist commissioner who has guided the Human Rights Commission to new areas that I think have really caused a lot of interest for people in Saskatchewan, particularly with a new issue around education and the commitment he has and what he's caused many people to speak of. And we wish him well in that, and we think that's a good, good thing. He talks about rights and responsibilities.

But at the same time, we have to stay close to the knitting. We have to say, what is our Human Rights Code and is it meeting

the current challenges of the new millennia and particularly here in Saskatchewan? But not only in Saskatchewan, as we've said that our province really plays a large role. We're really part of the world and we've always been known as the world's breadbasket, but now we've expanded that. We've diversified that and I'll talk a little bit about how we should even talk a bit about that in our Human Rights Code. And I think it's a missed opportunity.

You know, Mr. Speaker, one of the interesting things about our Human Rights Code is, I think and I've been told, that we're one of the few that actually has a bill of rights. And this is a really, really important piece, as people at home and many people in the House may not be aware that we have certain rights that are enunciated in *The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code*. The first is the right to freedom of conscience, and with that "... opinion and belief and freedom of religious association, teaching, practice and worship."

And right to free expression, that every person has the right to "... freedom of expression through all means of communication, including ... the arts, speech, the press or radio, television or any other broadcasting device."

Now I have to stop there. Mr. Speaker. If there's ever a time to modernize language, let's modernize this part because, I tell you, radio, the press ... You know, when we've been talking about another bill this government has introduced around revenge porn, they talk about expanding that definition, but here we are still using the word "radio" and "television." And for many people, even the word "television" is becoming archaic because they're watching online. You know, the old family TV for a period of time, maybe 50 years, 60 years, now it's sort of becoming kind of passé. So I think the minister should make note of that because we'll probably be coming back to talk about how that really needs to change, the right to free expression, the right to free association.

And I just want to say, interestingly, and this is one thing that I ... When we were talking about the bill, it talked about revenge porn and that. And I talked about the right to be forgotten. And as we talk about the right to privacy ... You know, we have right to associate, but even more ... And we just heard yesterday about how Facebook was mined and it was a Canadian that was the whistle-blower, talked about how I believe the company — I can't remember the name of the company but it was on the news ... [inaudible interjection] ... Cambridge analytics, yes. And it had its roots in Canada in terms of data mining, and how that's really become something that we have to be very careful about.

And so the right to be alone, the right to privacy is becoming as much ... as important as the right to free association. And I think that's very, very important. It goes on to right to freedom of arbitrary imprisonment. And the one that I found very interesting is a right to elections. And here, if I could draw this to the attention of the folks opposite, here again, you know, in the Human Rights Code we're caught in a binary stereotype. We talk about, has the right to express freely "his or her franchise in all elections." I think it would be much more appropriate and much more modern to say "to exercise freely their franchise in all elections." We know that people identify and express their gender in many different ways, and it's more

than just two. “His” and “her” are limiting, and in fact it may be even grounds for legal action further on.

And so that takes me back to another issue that we have here, that we talk about the prohibited grounds. And this I do want to say. We congratulated the government just a few short years ago where they expanded this. The commission believed strongly that the idea of trans rights was covered under gender and sexual orientation but soon understood that that was not the case, that in fact they needed to think more broadly than that.

So they added a prohibited ground subsection (o), gender identity. But we need . . . And we do know, we do know this is sort of halfway there, but not even very close when there should be “gender identity and expression.” It’s the expression part that you’ll be discriminated against. It’s how you express yourself that will cause the discrimination. It will not be your identity that is in your mind. And so while this may seem appropriate, that this is the time to really fix this and really come to terms with making this the best Act that we could have, the best code, the best bill we could have in Canada.

And so just a few observations on the actual wording here if you’re wordsmithing. And we’ll be talking to the minister about if there is a possibility to see these as friendly amendments, because the intention is the same. If they argue that identity is the same as expression, then say what you mean and mean what you say. It’s as simple as that. So it’s accessible justice and not one that is a half measure. Change “his or her” to “their.” Be straight with that so that’s inclusive, not exclusive, because this is the time to improve the legislation.

Now there are some things that I do want to put on the record, Mr. Speaker, because the thing is, when you do open up these kind of pieces of legislation, you are opening up ideas. And I do want to bring this to the attention of the House. One of the things we have concerns about — and we look at the stats in the back of the annual reports and we look at them very, very carefully — and we do have . . . We know, and I’ll come back to this a little bit later, we know the government has changed the processes of dealing with new cases or complaints in the Human Rights Commission. And so we’ve seen the number of complaints grow over the last several years and we’re not sure what is the cause of that but I do want to draw attention to some of these numbers that I think are quite alarming.

[16:45]

In the most recent Human Rights Commission report, April 1st of 2016 to March 31st, 2017, they had taken in a total number of new complaints of 444, of which 141 were formalized. Now they have to . . . So there’s 141. Of these 141, some under employment, we see that it was some 78 per cent. Now I want to make sure I have the right number. No, 83 per cent, 84 per cent, 83.9; 141 actually were dealing with employment. Now they say that many of these cases can actually have more than one stand for what the prohibited ground was, so it might add up to actually more than the 141. In that case, 84 per cent were dealing with employment. And then you go down to some of the others like education, there were 8; housing, 3; other was 2; public services was 13. So they really dug in quite detail but they kind of left the employment. But even that, for example under disability, 78 complaints dealing with employment. And

then the others were quite small.

But the shocking number that we have a lot of questions about, Mr. Speaker, and we’ll raise this in committee or in estimates, is the number of complaints that were found to have no reasonable grounds. And what they saw was an increase from 177 to 220, or approximately half the complaints were found to have no reasonable grounds. Now that may be the case, and I’m not arguing their judgment, but I would like to know more about those 220 cases. Are we missing something in our Human Rights Code that we should be addressing? Because how is it that 220 people come forward in one year with a complaint that they think is a human rights case, and they’re wrong? Half the cases are dismissed because they’re not reasonable grounds. And we have no more data other than it’s 220. How can that be? Isn’t that worth a little bit more attention?

When we had the Ombudsman come forward a few weeks ago, she has that same case, where several were not falling within the provincial Ombudsman’s mandate. And so we could ask her, so what were they? Well they were either federal situations or they were something to do with another type of situation. And so we soon found that it just wasn’t as relevant. But I do have this concern that it’s gone from 177 up to 220, some 45 more cases being dismissed. So we have deep concerns about that.

And, Mr. Speaker, you know, we have some concerns about what’s happening here that we need to really address. We have situations that, in the spirit of Truth and Reconciliation, the Sixties Scoop, that is this an opportunity to speak more articulately to the indigenous population, to the indigenous folk here in Saskatchewan, about what Human Rights Code means for them and particularly in terms of the treatments received that they’ve had.

But one other issue that I do want to get on the record and I think it’s important and I have shared with the Minister of Justice, and while I’m not expecting that we get this on to the bill today or this session, it’s one that we really need to talk about. And this is one about the use of criminal record checks by employers who are doing that during the hiring process and that this creates significant barriers for people who hold criminal records that may not be applicable to the situation.

We see this situation rising in America where they’ve actually created a movement called Ban the Box because so many people are experiencing or having to go to jail because of three strikes and you’re out — you’re going to jail. Angela Davis was just here a few weeks ago, on March 8th, talking about the criminalization of both men and women that see unheard-of numbers in the States. And, Mr. Speaker, we’re seeing that here in Saskatchewan, particularly around sectors of our population that really causes some real problems.

So anyway, in the States they’ve got this Ban the Box movement that began in 2004 to stop the discrimination that criminal record holders face when answering the question “do you have any criminal convictions?” on job application forms.

Now of course there is a time and place for that, truly. When you’re dealing with schools or daycares, clearly you need to know about criminal records. Clearly you need to know about



criminal records when there's a position of trust, dealing with money, for the potential of fraud. So we're not saying get rid of this completely, but where it's applicable. That quite often we're seeing . . .

And this is the issue of human rights. It's not the case of, do you need to know? People feel they want to know, and because they want to know, they have to know. And really they should not be asking that. And so the campaign, this Ban the Box campaign, wants to open up employment opportunities for people who have past convictions, welcome people back to their community, and institute fair hiring processes concerning past convictions, and eliminate any restrictions on membership, volunteer, or board participation that may exclude people with arrest or conviction history. And we want to make sure we understand that it's got to be relevant. It's got to be relevant.

Now why isn't this happening in Canada? Why hasn't this got more attention here? Well we used to have a process in Canada about Canadian pardons or record suspensions. But we saw in 2010 this was suspended under Prime Minister Harper. Bill C-10, for safer streets and communities Act, which made substantial changes to the pardons Act, increasing the length of time and quadrupling the cost of getting a pardon, which went from \$150 to \$631 — really impacting people who might have had that choice of getting a pardon but now they can't.

And now, Mr. Speaker, with the passage of Bill C-45, the *Cannabis Act*, and Bill C-46, the Act to amend the Criminal Code, there will be even more uncertainty about people who've had a criminal conviction concerning cannabis. But now with the legalization of cannabis, what happens to their criminal record?

And so this is something that we need to look into. We know both Quebec and British Columbia have tackled this issue, and I think that it's time that we take a look at it in Saskatchewan. Because we know that we have . . . For example, the indigenous population accounts for 15 per cent of our population, but indigenous adults make up 80 per cent of the prison population and indigenous women make up 87 per cent of all female admissions.

So this is something that really is tied to human rights. And I think it's time that we take a look at how can we make sure, when people have paid for the consequences of their illegal act, that they can then re-enter the community and not face further discrimination because of something they did in the past. I think it's time that we really take a look at this. And you know what it does is it drives people to work underground. We're missing potential taxation because they're working . . . And then that even creates even more problems. People are on social assistance longer because they can't get to work.

And really, Mr. Speaker, this is not an arbitrary idea or something. I've had many people in my office talk about this, and so I really want to make sure that we think about this. And I've asked the minister to consider, to take a look at this because, while we all want to make sure that our streets are safer, that people do pay for their crime, that in fact we do want to make sure that if there's no implications that they can get back to work as soon as they can.

So, Mr. Speaker, I want to also take a look and I . . . This is a very important Act for me as critic for human rights. And I know the Justice critic will want to speak longer on this as well. But this is a very important piece of legislation so I went to the library, got this book out: *Speaking Out on Human Rights: Debating Canada's Human Rights System*. This was written in 2013 and so it's current up to 2013.

There's a couple things that I want to highlight here, and the first is the fact that . . . And this is interesting as I read this. And I'll read this quote, recommendation no. 10:

The Saskatchewan government should undertake a study of the Saskatchewan human rights system to determine the impact of the loss of a specialized human rights tribunal on a level of access to justice, the types of remedy offered, and the length of delays compared to other systems in Canada.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I don't want to revisit that debate we had a few years ago, but I think that . . . This was written in 2013, I think five years after we passed the legislation to end the tribunal system, and people across Canada are watching how our legislation is. And if they're calling for changes, I think that's pretty serious when we're actually named in a textbook on human rights in Canada.

The other one is this, recommendation 14:

Governments should amend human rights legislation to include specific authority to work with international human rights networks and international human rights systems.

And, Mr. Speaker, I have talked about this because as an exporting country, many of our situations finding ourselves involved in a global issue. And one that I have raised, for example, is the Myanmar situation, the genocide of Rohingya that was happening and continues to happen. It's been going on, but really hit the headlines in the fall when people were very concerned about what was happening in Myanmar.

Now that may be seen to be far away, and what's that got to do with Saskatchewan? It has a lot to do with Saskatchewan because, you know, we export peas to that country. They're one of our main customers, in fact, and if I have the numbers right, we went from 300 tonnes a few years ago to, just a couple of years ago, 33 000 tonnes. And so, Mr. Speaker, the cost of that was \$200,000. It is now a \$16 million export for us where we export peas.

But of course there was a little hiccup prior to 2014. I should not . . . I don't want to minimize it by using the word "hiccup," because it was pretty serious when we were taking a look at what was happening in Myanmar, and the dictatorship that was happening. And so we had cut off trade with Myanmar, and that was limiting our ability to export. That came off in 2014 and we responded in kind, increasing our export of peas. But now we see that they're engaged in what many would call a genocide practice against the Rohingya.

And so, Mr. Speaker, we have a responsibility. We have a global responsibility to have an authority for the province or the commission to make comments on that. We can't just wash our

hands and say we're just the exporters. We know, and we've seen this in South Africa, the impact of joining together to ban sales. In fact, boycotts can have a powerful effect, a non-violent way of approaching resolution to global issues.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I do want to say that we should consider that. So while I wrap up my comments, and I want to say that we'll see this, and I'll have lots of questions in committee. And not just that we do support the French translation — very important that this code be in French, obviously a very important aspect of Canada.

But this is the opportunity to clean up some of the other language, make sure that it's gender friendly in terms of getting rid of the terms "his" and "her" and replacing them with "their." I think that that needs to be an emphasis we're seeing over and over again with this province. We need to modernize the language about social media in the Bill of Rights. It's very important.

I would really encourage the government to take a look at considering the impact of the employment record checks. I think that's having a huge impact. And in our spirit of truth and reconciliation, what a great time to say, hey, let's explore this. It's very important to explore this. And I would also, Mr. Speaker, think that we should take a look at the international implications. We are a major trading partner in this world and that is good news, Mr. Speaker.

So I would move adjournment of the Bill No. 104. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** — The member for Saskatoon Centre has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 104, *The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code, 2017*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

**Hon. Mr. Brkich:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To facilitate the committee sitting tonight, I would make a motion to adjourn the House.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Government House Leader the Assembly do now adjourn. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

[The Assembly adjourned at 17:00.]



**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS**

**INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

Merriman .....	3503
Rancourt .....	3503
Wilson .....	3503
Meili .....	3503
Eyre .....	3504
Reiter .....	3504
Chartier .....	3504
Stewart .....	3505
Beck .....	3505
Olauson .....	3505
The Speaker .....	3508

**PRESENTING PETITIONS**

Francis .....	3505
Wotherspoon .....	3505
Beck .....	3506
Forbes .....	3506
Chartier .....	3506

**STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS**

**Reconciliation Regina Event**

Fiaz .....	3506
------------	------

**Fransaskois Community Celebrates la Francophonie**

Sprule .....	3507
--------------	------

**Social Work Week Proclaimed in Saskatchewan**

Hindley .....	3507
---------------	------

**Champions for Mental Health Message Brought to Saskatchewan**

Wotherspoon .....	3507
-------------------	------

**Athletes Inducted into the Conexus Warriors and Legends Hall of Fame**

Michelson .....	3508
-----------------	------

**Remembering Wendy Dammann, First Female Sheriff in Canada**

Duncan .....	3508
--------------	------

**Ministry of Highways Partners with Rural Municipality**

Nerlien .....	3508
---------------	------

**QUESTION PERIOD**

**Services for HIV Patients**

Meili .....	3509
Moe .....	3509

**Federal Pharmacare Program and Coverage of Prescription Drug Costs**

Meili .....	3510
Moe .....	3510

**Funding for College of Medicine**

Wotherspoon .....	3511
Beaudry-Mellor .....	3511

**Funding for Mental Health**

Chartier .....	3511
Reiter .....	3511
Beck .....	3512
Wyant .....	3512

**Mental Health Issues and Improvements to Northern Airports**

Belanger .....	3512
Ottenbreit .....	3513
Marit .....	3513

**PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

**Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies**

Cox .....	3513
-----------	------

**THIRD READINGS**

**Bill No. 77 — *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Superannuation Plans) Amendment Act, 2017***

Harpauer .....	3514
----------------	------

**Bill No. 78 — *The Municipal Employees' Pension Amendment Act, 2017***

Harpauer .....	3514
----------------	------

**Bill No. 79 — *The Public Employees Pension Plan Amendment Act, 2017***

Harpauer .....	3514
----------------	------

Bill No. 80 — <i>The Municipal Financing Corporation Amendment Act, 2017</i>	
Harpauer .....	3515
<b>POINT OF ORDER</b>	
Sarauer .....	3515
Brkich .....	3515
The Speaker.....	3515
<b>ORDERS OF THE DAY</b>	
<b>WRITTEN QUESTIONS</b>	
Lawrence .....	3515
<b>GOVERNMENT ORDERS</b>	
<b>ADJOURNED DEBATES</b>	
<b>SECOND READINGS</b>	
Bill No. 121 — <i>The Cannabis Control (Saskatchewan) Act</i>	
Mowat .....	3516
Bill No. 122 — <i>The Cannabis Control (Saskatchewan) Consequential Amendments Act, 2018</i>	
<i>Loi de 2018 corrélative de la loi intitulée The Cannabis Control (Saskatchewan) Act</i>	
Mowat .....	3519
Bill No. 115 — <i>The Residential Tenancies Amendment Act, 2017</i>	
McCall .....	3520
Bill No. 94 — <i>The Saskatchewan Advantage Grant for Education Savings (SAGES) Amendment Act, 2017</i>	
Rancourt.....	3521
Bill No. 95 — <i>The Miscellaneous Statutes Repeal and Amendment Act, 2017</i>	
Wotherspoon .....	3522
Bill No. 97 — <i>The Arbitration (Family Dispute Resolution) Amendment Act, 2017</i>	
Forbes .....	3525
Bill No. 98 — <i>The Miscellaneous Statutes (Family Dispute Resolution) Amendment Act, 2017</i>	
<i>Loi modificative diverse (résolution des conflits familiaux) de 2017</i>	
Beck.....	3526
Bill No. 99 — <i>The Interpretation Amendment Act, 2017 (No. 2)</i>	
<i>Loi modificative n° 2 de 2017 sur l'interprétation</i>	
Wotherspoon .....	3528
Bill No. 103 — <i>The Land Contracts (Actions) Act, 2017</i>	
Chartier .....	3529
Bill No. 104 — <i>The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code, 2017</i>	
<i>Code des droits de la personne de la Saskatchewan de 2017</i>	
Forbes .....	3531

# 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