



SECOND SESSION - TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

of the

**Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

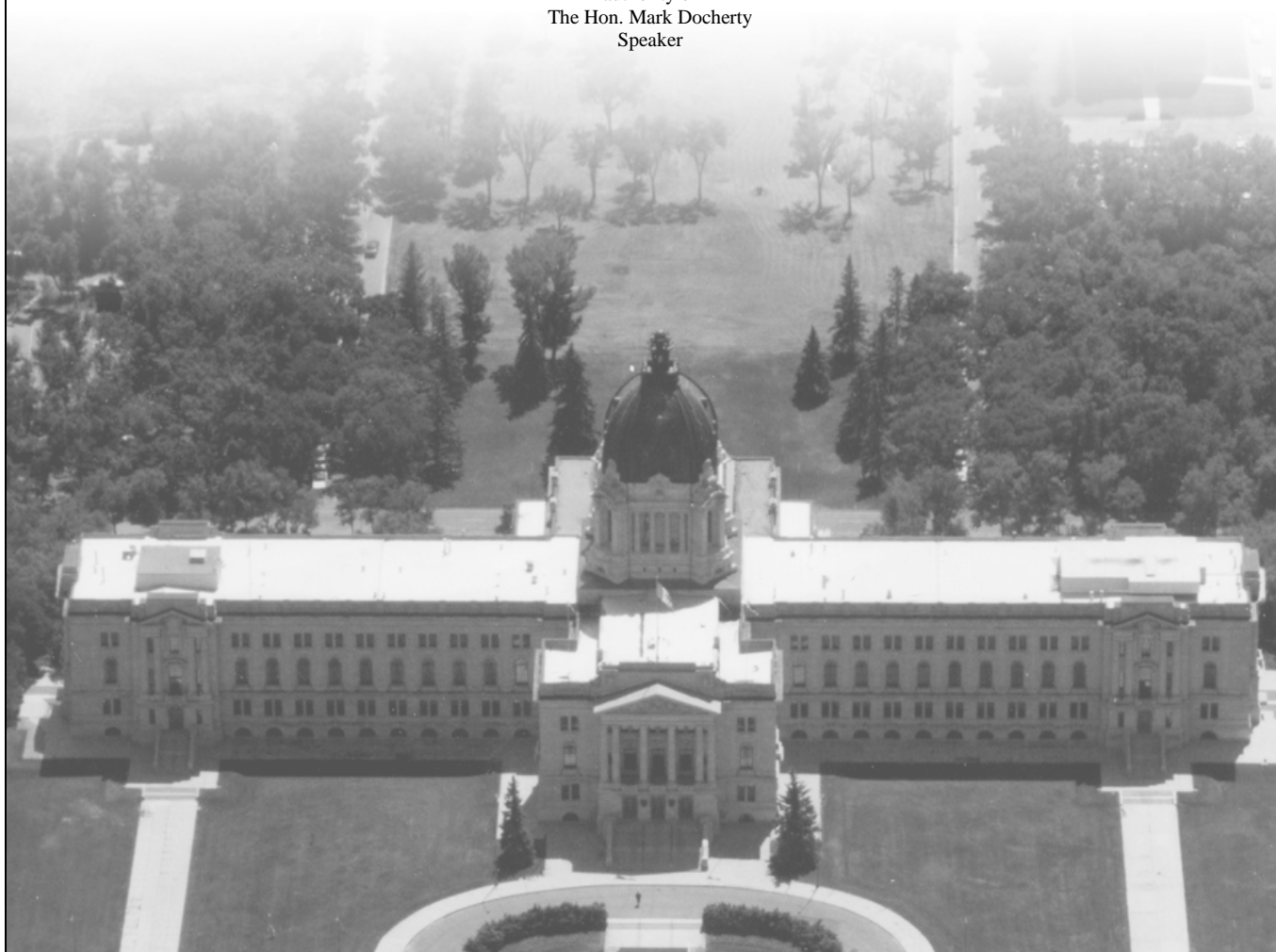
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**DEBATES  
and  
PROCEEDINGS**

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(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

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**Beck**, Carla — Regina Lakeview (NDP)  
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**Bonk**, Steven — Moosomin (SP)  
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**Chartier**, Danielle — Saskatoon Riversdale (NDP)  
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**Lambert**, Lisa — Saskatoon Churchill-Wildwood (SP)

**Lawrence**, Greg — Moose Jaw Wakamow (SP)  
**Makowsky**, Hon. Gene — Regina Gardiner Park (SP)  
**Marit**, Hon. David — Wood River (SP)  
**McCall**, Warren — Regina Elphinstone-Centre (NDP)  
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**Michelson**, Warren — Moose Jaw North (SP)  
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**Sarauer**, Nicole — Regina Douglas Park (NDP)  
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**Vermette**, Doyle — Cumberland (NDP)  
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**Wilson**, Hon. Nadine — Saskatchewan Rivers (SP)  
**Wotherspoon**, Trent — Regina Rosemont (NDP)  
**Wyant**, Hon. Gordon — Saskatoon Northwest (SP)  
**Young**, Colleen — Lloydminster (SP)

Vacant — Regina Northeast

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**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 Buriandyk

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[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

**ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS**  
**INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

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

**Hon. Mr. Moe:** — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all members of this House, I would like to take the opportunity to welcome back to this House the former member and MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] from Wood River, is Yogi Huyghebaert has joined us here today. And, Mr. Speaker, he served for a number of years, served that constituency, set it up in extremely good shape so that we were actually able to get the current member elected in the last election — our now Minister of Highways, Mr. Speaker.

But I most notably remember the opportunities that I had to work with Yogi in his time as minister of Public Safety but also minister, Mr. Speaker, of the provincial disaster file and some of the roads and whatnot that we were fixing up in our area. And the yeoman's amount of work, I would put forward, that he put into that file is appreciated. And on behalf of the province, we're very thankful for his effort on that file in particular, but his service in general. And I ask all members of this House to welcome Yogi to his Legislative Assembly.

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

**Ms. Chartier:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the Premier in welcoming the former member from Wood River, Mr. Yogi Huyghebaert, back to his Legislative Assembly. I know Yogi and I had the opportunity to do some CPA [Commonwealth Parliamentary Association] work several years ago, Mr. Speaker. And I know that we didn't have a lot of points of commonality in our discussions but we sure did, I think, enjoy each other's company at the end of the day, Mr. Speaker, and both are well committed to the well-being of this province.

I thoroughly enjoyed getting to know Mr. Huyghebaert. I know often relationships can be tenuous between the sides, Mr. Speaker, but that was one of the values of CPA, was getting to know members who we don't have the time to connect. So with that, I'd like to ask all members to welcome Mr. Huyghebaert to his Legislative Assembly. And it's very good to see him today.

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

**Mr. Bradshaw:** — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yogi's getting a lot of accolades today because I also, to you and through you, would like to introduce Yogi now. As everybody around here knows, Yogi and I used to do a lot of cooking together and we got to be very good friends. And he actually comes fishing with me every summer. Well let's put it this way, Mr. Speaker. I do the fishing; Yogi does the cooking.

But, Mr. Speaker, the reason Yogi's in here tonight is I've

asked our three newest members over to my condo tonight. I was going to cook for them and give them a meal. And Yogi said, "You won't be able to handle that." And he said, "You'll have to have expert help to help you and feed them properly." So Yogi's coming over to my place also to show me what to do. So I want to ask all the members to please welcome Yogi to his Legislative Building.

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

**Ms. Beck:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome guests seated in the east gallery. Please welcome to the Legislative Assembly, we have with us today Neil McDonald; Neil's parents; Brit McDonald; and Neil and Brit's young daughter. We also have with us Katie Emde.

Mr. Speaker, these folks are with us today to share some of their concerns around the lack of supports for children with special needs in this province. And I will be asking questions later, but at this point I'd like to welcome these advocates to their Legislative Assembly.

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

**Hon. Mr. Reiter:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to this Assembly, it's my pleasure to introduce some guests on the floor of the Assembly, Mr. Speaker, from the Canadian National Institute for the Blind. Mr. Speaker, the CNIB works tirelessly to help enhance the lives with people living with vision loss. They had an event at the legislature on Monday for members on both sides of the House. They're having an event tonight to celebrate the 100th anniversary of CNIB, Mr. Speaker, and as part of that they're joining us here today.

I'd like to introduce our honoured guests: John Mulka is CNIB's regional vice-president in Western Canada; Christall Beaudry is the executive director of the Saskatchewan division; Luc and Rita Lemoine and their daughter, Emilie who is a CNIB client; Ashley Nemeth, a CNIB client and her guide dog, Rick; and also Michael Shaw who is a CNIB client.

Mr. Speaker, I again thank them for the event that they hosted for us on Monday. We hope their event tonight goes very well, and I'd ask all members to please join me in welcoming them to their Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Chartier:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to join with the minister opposite in welcoming the guests from the CNIB today. A hundred years is a long time of advocacy for those who are partially sighted or blind, Mr. Speaker. I want to commend them for the work they do on making sure people have the confidence, the skills, and the opportunity to lead full and robust lives. So thank you for all the work that you do.

I'm sorry that I wasn't able to attend your reception on Monday, but I always appreciate the opportunity to connect and the visits that you pay us on a regular basis. So thank you for all the work that you do. On behalf of the official opposition, I'd

like to ask all members to welcome these guests today.

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

**Hon. Ms. Beaudry-Mellor:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with my colleague, the Minister of Health and the Health critic from across the aisle, to welcome the better half of our family, actually my sibling group, my sister Christall and the work that she does with the CNIB. It's their 100th celebration tonight and many of us will be attending that. And I just want to thank you for all your hard work.

I also see Darla and Mary in the gallery today. And I'd also like to welcome them to their Legislative Assembly.

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

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to join with the member from Regina Lakeview in welcoming the McDonald family to their Legislative Assembly. Neil and Brit McDonald live in Regina Douglas Park, but not only that, Neil's business shares a wall and is neighbours with my constituency office.

Neil is the owner of Hunter Gatherer Vegetarian Diner, Mr. Speaker. It's a wonderful community gathering spot. It may be the, I dare say, the restaurant with the most exciting, the most interesting decor in the city. And even if you're not a vegetarian, Mr. Speaker, I strongly encourage you to check out the restaurant. They have the best fries in the city. And it's truly a family affair. I often see Neil's father, who's here today, working alongside his son in the diner, as well as Neil's partner, Brit, who is an amazing artist in her own right. She works at the diner, but she also helps do some artistic work for the diner and is also using her artistic capabilities in advancing a better understanding of how we as a society can better assist children who live with autism.

So I'd like to join the member from Regina Lakeview and ask all members of this Assembly to welcome them to their Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Mr. Wyant:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, I'm very pleased to introduce someone in your gallery. Mary Donlevy-Konkin is here. She's no stranger to members of this Assembly, Mr. Speaker, having served in this building from 2007 to about 2015, and most recently, Mr. Speaker, as my chief of staff when I was the Minister of Justice and the Attorney General. Mr. Speaker, I must say that I am forever grateful for all the support that she gave me in my role and learning my role as the Attorney General over those number of years, Mr. Speaker.

She had the good sense to leave me though, Mr. Speaker, and now she is . . . She's now practising law in the city of Saskatoon at the McKercher firm, Mr. Speaker. She continues with her legal practice and some significant work, Mr. Speaker, in charitable organizations in Saskatoon and some board work, Mr. Speaker. So I would ask all members of the Assembly to welcome Mary back to her Assembly.

While I'm on my feet, sitting next to Mary is Darla Lindbjerg who is the CEO [chief executive officer] of the Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Speaker. The chambers around this province, Mr. Speaker — and Saskatoon is no exception — provide some great advice to us, Mr. Speaker. They're great advocates for the business communities, in the communities where they are, Mr. Speaker. And so I want to especially welcome Darla to her legislature, Mr. Speaker, and thank her chamber and all chambers around Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, for the incredibly hard work that they do.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to join with the Deputy Premier to certainly welcome Mary to her Assembly, and we wish her well.

But it is a great honour to welcome Darla Lindbjerg to her Assembly and to offer thanks for her leadership within the Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce. I had the privilege to recently sit down with Darla and greatly appreciated that conversation. I'm thankful for the work of her members and I'm also thankful for her leadership in bringing Michelle Obama to Saskatchewan tomorrow. And I look forward as one — I'm sure many others — that will be joining her tomorrow in Saskatoon. So thank you, Darla, for your leadership. Thank you for working to build a bright future for all within our province.

While on my feet I'm also really proud to welcome Shannon Berard-Gardiner to her Assembly, a long-time friend, somebody that I've learned an awful lot from. Shannon is an inspiring person who's worked for change within social services and within our province, together with her partner, Chris, and together with Matthew. And Matthew's an inspiring young person living with a disability who is living a high quality of life because of Shannon and Chris.

I had the privilege to know this family for quite some time. I know my dad was also, I think, principal in two different schools to this family, and so we've gotten to know Matthew awfully well. I had the privilege recently to come across Matthew and Shannon over at the Royal Saskatchewan Museum and had a great visit, and that sparkle in Matthew's eye is always something that leaves me in a good spot. So I thank and welcome Shannon to her Assembly as well.

And just 10 more introductions, Mr. Speaker. Next I'd like to, while on my feet, recognize Ashley Nemeth, who's here today. A leader within our province, someone who's worked tirelessly to advocate for those that are visually impaired and someone who lives a full life with a full family, and someone that I admire and someone that I was really proud to also count as a teammate in the last provincial election as she stepped up to serve as the candidate in Indian Head-Milestone. Thank you for Ashley's many efforts and I welcome her to her Assembly here today.

**The Speaker:** — I also have visitors here that I'd like to introduce. Sitting in the Speaker's gallery, my gallery, is my mother, Margaret Docherty, and my cousin, Dan Neeson. Dan's visiting from Buffalo, New York. And they're a couple of people that love to sit and watch the proceedings on the legislative channel. Amazing.

But I truly welcome both of you here and thanks so much for all of your support. Thanks for, you know, number one, coming to my office and just saying hi. But I appreciate both of you immensely, and again I'd like to have all members welcome my mom and my cousin to this Assembly.

I recognize the member from Indian Head-Milestone.

**Mr. McMorris:** — Sorry, Mr. Speaker, for following after you. I know that's not normally protocol, so thank you for recognizing me. I want to just join with the members opposite in recognizing Ashley Nemeth from Indian Head who's obviously from my constituency. And also Gunnar Passmore who's sitting behind me who's, I believe, he's still living . . . No, he used to live in Sedley for many, many years and many, many elections.

I can honestly say this is the first time that I've welcomed two constituents to the Legislative Assembly and I know neither one voted for me. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — Thank you for that.

#### PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — You snooze, Mr. Speaker, right? To you, you know, and through you, I rise to present petitions on behalf of concerned citizens that are concerned with the underfunding and the cuts to post-secondary education by the Sask Party. And 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 today are signed by concerned citizens of Moose Jaw. I so submit.

[13:45]

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Canora-Pelly.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by the citizens of Porcupine Plain, Bjorkdale, and Watson. I do so present.

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

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

Even though the Sask Party is making us all pay more, our children are actually getting less. And as might be expected, Mr. Speaker, these cuts have had devastating impact on classrooms and school divisions around the province, including cuts to high-needs and special-needs preschools right here in the city of Regina. I'll read the prayer:

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

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

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

**Ms. Chartier:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise once again to present a petition calling on the Sask Party government to appoint a seniors' advocate. The petitioners point out that the concerns of Saskatchewan seniors have not been a priority of the Sask Party government. They point at cuts that this government has made that have directly impacted the lives of seniors, like the cuts to the podiatry program, the hearing aid program, the cuts to STC [Saskatchewan Transportation Company], increasing long-term care rents; many, many places, Mr. Speaker, where . . . increasing medication costs. There are many places where this government has hurt seniors, Mr. Speaker.

The petitioners point out that the province of Saskatchewan doesn't have legislated minimum care standards for long-term care, and even with continued reports, including one from last month — their own report, Mr. Speaker, their CEO report. Even with these continued reports 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 and they successfully work to ensure seniors have the supports they need and deserve. And a seniors' advocate would provide vital support for seniors and their families across this province.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Sask Party government to immediately appoint a seniors' advocate to ensure the rights of seniors are upheld and that all seniors across the province have the supports they need and deserve.

This petition today is signed by citizens from Saskatoon and Regina, Mr. Speaker. I so submit.

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

**Ms. Beck:** — I request leave to revert to introductions, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — Okay. The member from Regina Lakeview has requested leave for an introduction. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**Ms. Beck:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't want to let the opportunity to introduce three special guests, who are seated in your gallery, get by me today, Mr. Speaker. Seated in your gallery are Sandra Mountford, Anita Burkell, and Marty Bley. These directors of child care centres in Saskatoon have come to their Assembly today and to advocate on behalf of their centres. They belong to the Saskatoon Federation of Early Learning, whose mission it is to advance the profession of early learning, Mr. Speaker, and that is indeed a worthwhile and important mission. And I would invite all members here to welcome these three early educators to their Legislative Assembly.

### STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

#### International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

**Ms. Mowat:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to bring attention to the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, which is observed today, on March 21st. The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination was established six years after the 1960 Sharpeville massacre in which police in Sharpeville, South Africa opened fire on peaceful protestors who demonstrated against the apartheid pass laws. Tragically, 69 protestors were killed that day, and since then the United Nations has called on the global community to remember the negative and oftentimes fatal consequences of racial discrimination.

The theme of this year's day International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is Promoting Tolerance, Inclusion, Unity, and Respect for Diversity in the context of combatting racial discrimination. This year's theme is very relevant to us here in Saskatchewan as we work toward building reconciliation through unity and respect for our indigenous peoples. Let us celebrate the diversity of our province and work towards a more inclusive society.

I ask that all members join me today in observing the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and urge the government to take meaningful action on the issues of racial discrimination and racial violence. Further, may we always remember our province's motto: "from many peoples, strength." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Biggar-Sask

Valley.

**Mr. Weekes:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, March 21st, marks the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Over the past 52 years this day has been recognized to commemorate past and present efforts to end racism and racial discrimination and to mark how far we have come, while recognizing we still have further to go.

This year's theme is Promoting Tolerance, Inclusion, Unity, and Respect for Diversity in the context of combatting racial discrimination. This day encourages each and every one of us to see what we can do every day to stand up against racism and intolerance. Diversity is what makes our society strong, bringing our communities closer together.

Mr. Speaker, 2018 marks another significant milestone. Seventy years ago this December the UN [United Nations] Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted. Forty-eight countries voted for this declaration, including Canada. As a society we can acknowledge the progress that has been made since this document was signed but, as Martin Luther King Jr. said, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." We must continue to push for tolerance and equality across all our communities.

Mr. Speaker, I challenge all members of this Assembly, as representatives of our constituents, to lead by example as we continue to work towards the elimination of racism from our province. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### Lafleche Named Hockeyville Finalist

**Ms. Sproule:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm very pleased to rise in the House today and recognize my hometown of Lafleche. Lafleche — which is south of Gravelbourg and east of Assiniboia, in case you're wondering — became one of the four finalists for Kraft Hockeyville during Saturday's *Hockey Night in Canada* broadcast.

Last Saturday hundreds of people crammed into the Lafleche Community Centre to see if they had been selected as finalists. Now the journey started in January, when Gillian de Graauw and her team of organizers behind the Hockeyville bid began submitting stories and rallying the town around the cause. As Gillian pointed out in her contest submission, "... hockey in Lafleche is not just a game. It is a family, a community striving to better the lives of those around us."

Now I can attest to that, Mr. Speaker. I have so many fond memories of watching my four brothers play hockey in that rink, from bantam to midget, and then of course to our beloved senior men's team, the Lafleche Flyers. We even had our own NHL; it was the Notekeu Hockey League. And our guys brought home the championship on many occasions.

Mr. Speaker, the final round of voting opens at 10 a.m. on March 30th and closes at 6 p.m. on March 31st. And the winner will receive \$250,000 in arena upgrades and the title of Kraft Hockeyville, as well as the opportunity to host an NHL — and

that's the National Hockey League — pre-season game.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I don't get to do this very often in campaigns, but I encourage all members and all the people of Saskatchewan to vote, and to vote often, for my hometown of Lafleche and their push to win Kraft Hockeyville.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Canora-Pelly.

#### **Canadian National Institute for the Blind Celebrates 100th Anniversary**

**Mr. Dennis:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The CNIB is celebrating its 100th anniversary. This is a great opportunity to express our gratitude to the CNIB staff, board members, and volunteers for their excellent work that they do for the Saskatchewan people experiencing vision loss.

Mr. Speaker, the Canadian National Institute for the Blind has successfully undertaken the role as the sole provider of vision rehabilitation services in Saskatchewan since 1918. The CNIB provides rehabilitation services and support, research, advocacy, and public education for people with loss of sight.

Our government is committed to working with the Canadian National Institute for the Blind to ensure vision rehabilitation services are available to partially sighted individuals in Saskatchewan. Since 2013-14, the Ministry of Health has provided over \$2.4 million in funding to the CNIB for vision rehabilitation services and low-vision aids. Last year our government delivered on a promise to invest an additional \$250,000 to support vision loss rehabilitation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the CNIB on reaching their 100th anniversary milestone, and we extend best wishes to the next century of services providing community-based support, knowledge, and voice to ensure all Canadians who are blind or partially sighted have the opportunities to fully participate in life. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **World Down Syndrome Day**

**Mr. Buckingham:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today is World Down Syndrome Day. As a proud parent with a daughter with Down syndrome, I appreciate the efforts to raise awareness and to create a single, global voice for advocating for the rights, inclusion, and well-being of people with Down syndrome.

World Down Syndrome Day was first observed in 2006 in many countries across the world, and in 2011 the United Nations General Assembly declared March 21st as World Down Syndrome Day.

To help bring awareness, Down Syndrome International began the Lots of Socks campaign. This campaign encourages everyone to wear the official Lots of Socks or to wear any mismatched socks. They can be bright-coloured socks, printed socks, or even socks of different lengths. They also encourage people to use the hashtag #LotsOfSocks and the hashtag

#WDS18 across all social media platforms to bring awareness through a large online presence.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Down Syndrome International society, the Canadian Down Syndrome Society, and the Saskatchewan Down Syndrome Society for all the work that they do to raise awareness about this condition and how the people with Down syndrome hold a very special place in our lives and communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Royal University Hospital Foundation Radiothon**

**Mr. Olauson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to stand to recognize the Royal University Hospital Foundation for its efforts to raise funds for one of our province's busiest hospitals. Thanks to the many successful fundraising events and generous donors over the past 35 years, the RUH [Royal University Hospital] Foundation has invested more than \$115 million in innovative research, education, and patient care.

[14:00]

Mr. Speaker, the foundation is now in its final stretch of its three-year, \$20 million campaign in support of emergency, trauma, and critical care needs. Today the foundation is hosting a radiothon in support of the GREATER campaign at the Royal University Hospital in Saskatoon, with the goal of raising \$200,000 in just 12 hours. Mr. Speaker, this money will go towards purchasing equipment and furnishings for RUH's new adult emergency department currently under construction and set to open in 2019. Our government is committed to ensuring patients receive high-quality, timely healthcare in a modern environment.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan, I commend the RUH Foundation and its donors for their efforts and generosity in raising funds for this very important project. We wish the RUH Foundation the best of luck today in their radiothon as we are confident that they will reach their fundraising goals. I encourage everyone to make a donation today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Saskatchewan's 22nd Lieutenant Governor**

**Hon. Ms. Wilson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today we had the privilege of swearing in Saskatchewan's 22nd Lieutenant Governor, His Honour the Honourable W. Thomas Molloy.

His Honour was born and raised in Saskatoon, received a Bachelor of Law from the University of Saskatchewan, and practised primarily in the areas of indigenous and business law. He was involved in a number of treaty negotiations in his career, but none were as impactful as his role as chief negotiator for the Government of Canada in negotiations with the Inuit of Nunavut in the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. This led to the creation of the territory of Nunavut.

From 2001-2007, His Honour served as a chancellor of the

University of Saskatchewan. In 1996, His Honour was appointed an Officer of the Order of Canada, and in 2012 he was invested into the Saskatchewan Order of Merit, among many other honours and awards.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to recognize former Lieutenant Governor, the Honourable Vaughn Solomon Schofield who held the position with grace and honour since her appointment in 2012. She has served this province laudably.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of this Assembly, I want to thank the Honourable Vaughn Solomon Schofield for all her remarkable work, and welcome His Honour the Honourable W. Thomas Molloy, Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

### QUESTION PERIOD

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

#### Management of Provincial Economy

**Mr. Meili:** — Mr. Speaker, it was a historic day here in the House and a great celebration. But across the province, there are families who are struggling and life is becoming less affordable every day. Nearly a thousand families have their mortgage payments in arrears — a 40 per cent increase in just five years, three times the national average.

Saskatchewan families are struggling, Mr. Speaker, and this government's last budget only made that harder. A budget that cut key services in health, in education all while increasing costs through the addition of PST [provincial sales tax] to construction, to restaurant meals, to children's clothing. These measures further slow a sluggish economy and delay our recovery.

With these alarming numbers on mortgages in front of us, Mr. Speaker, what measures will this government take this year to make sure that Saskatchewan people are not facing the prospect of having to walk away from their homes?

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

**Hon. Mr. Moe:** — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member opposite for the question. There are some challenges in the last number of months in our province, Mr. Speaker, with the downturn in natural resource prices, some of our mining industry, some of our energy industry, Mr. Speaker.

But thank goodness for our agriculture industry, Mr. Speaker, that remains strong here in the province of Saskatchewan. And I think it's important for us to identify the diverse nature that our economy is made up here in this province, Mr. Speaker, as it's those exports that are our source points of wealth, Mr. Speaker, that allow us to invest in the very services and infrastructure and invest in our communities across this province, Mr. Speaker. And in doing so, we can continue to invest in the families and the people of this province.

So, Mr. Speaker, we have had a downturn in the last number of months, but we will continue, Mr. Speaker, to push forward to

ensure that we can bring things back to balance in this province, Mr. Speaker, so that we can sustain that very investment that the people in this province have come to expect over the last decade, so far into the future, for my children and their children's children, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Meili:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We lost 7,800 jobs in this province in the last year, compared to an increase of 46,000 jobs in Alberta. A large portion of those jobs lost were in agriculture, which you mentioned as one of the strengths.

We need a bit more than that sort of cheerleading about our economy. We need some real plans. We need some real plans about how are we going to deal with a problem we see growing, that growing problem of families having their mortgage payments in arrears — triple the national average. How is this government going to take real measures, not these austerity measures that slow down our economy, but real measures to stimulate the economy, not stifle it?

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

**Hon. Mr. Moe:** — Mr. Speaker, we have had the opportunity to invest across the province over the last decade. We've had a decade of a strong economy here in the province of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, and it's allowed us to invest in physicians, allowed us to invest in medical infrastructure and education infrastructure. It's allowed us to invest in education, in the people in the classroom, Mr. Speaker, most notably with another seven and a half million dollars just recently, Mr. Speaker, to top up the last quarter, to add some educational assistants to our classrooms.

Mr. Speaker, in doing this, we've been able to remove 112,000 people from the tax rolls here in the province. Some of our most needy people in the province, Mr. Speaker, have been totally removed from the provincial tax roll.

And, Mr. Speaker, we all know and we recognize as well that it isn't the government that drives the economy, Mr. Speaker. It's always those industries that operate within our province, Mr. Speaker. We have a few of those industries that are challenged right now getting their product to market. Most notably, our rail system is plugged up a little bit, Mr. Speaker. And one way for us to ensure that we can correct that into the future is to advocate on behalf of safe, efficient pipelines, Mr. Speaker, in their construction.

I see our neighbours to the west of us, the Opposition Leader and the Premier have joined in their support of advocating on behalf of the Kinder Morgan pipeline, Mr. Speaker, and I ask the Opposition Leader to join with the Premier of Saskatchewan today to advocate on behalf of that for our farmers, our energy industry in Western Canada, and a strong economy here in the province.

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

#### Legal Counsel and Federal Carbon Pricing

**Mr. Meili:** — Mr. Speaker, it would be lovely to see this

government be effective in their advocacy with the federal government. Unfortunately, whether it's the case of the pipelines or getting our grain on trains, on so many issues, we see this government outsmarted by Trudeau, not successful in their advocacy.

Last week, Mr. Speaker, last week our Justice critic submitted a written question to the Minister of Justice and the Attorney General asking whether this government has sought legal counsel regarding its fight with Ottawa, and if so, how much was paid and what recommendations were offered. Instead of a response, Mr. Speaker — and I found this very shocking — we received a refusal to provide this information.

Mr. Speaker, answering the questions of the opposition is essential. It's a fundamental in a parliamentary democracy. So I'll ask the questions again here out loud. Has this government sought legal counsel on the merit of their lawsuit? If so, what was the cost of that opinion, and what was the advice that was received?

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

**Hon. Mr. Moe:** — I'll tell you what's shocking, Mr. Speaker. What's shocking is the members opposite are already waving a white flag, already asking Prime Minister Trudeau to tax the industries and the families in the province of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. And I am unsure as to why that would be outside of when, Mr. Speaker, when we tallied up the members opposite's platform, Mr. Speaker, there's two and a half billion dollars that needs to be filled, Mr. Speaker. It includes some economic development programs in agriculture that the Minister of Agriculture will be speaking to at some point in time.

But what the people of the province want to know, Mr. Speaker, what the people in western Canada want to know . . . In the province of Alberta, the Leader of the Opposition and the Premier have joined together in their advocacy of the Trans Mountain pipeline, Mr. Speaker. And I'm asking the members opposite and the Leader of the Opposition to join with the Premier of the province of Saskatchewan to advocate on behalf of the industries that ensure that we have a strong economy in this province into the future, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Meili:** — Mr. Speaker, this government has been roundly criticized, roundly criticized for its lack of transparency in the past, and it's disappointing to see that pattern continue under the new management, Mr. Speaker.

In contrast, the government of Manitoba has provided a very clear answer to the very questions that I just asked and got no answer to. Mr. Speaker, they sought an opinion from legal scholar Bryan Schwartz, and they paid \$40,000 for that opinion and received very clear advice that, to quote Premier Pallister: "If we just say 'no,' we get Trudeau. If we go to court, we lose . . . We develop our made-in-Manitoba plan and we put it out there."

Mr. Speaker, this government appears to be stubbornly running headlong into a futile course of action. Instead of coming up with a made-in-Saskatchewan solution that could improve the

lives of people right here. Mr. Speaker, the people of Saskatchewan deserve to know. They deserve to know. Is this government about to embark on a costly crusade, a pointless crusade?

So I'll ask the question one more time. Did this government seek a legal opinion? What did that opinion say, and how much did it cost?

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

**Hon. Mr. Duncan:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I cannot believe, I cannot believe the Leader of the Opposition, it's his position that we should, in terms of consulting legal counsel with respect to the position of the Government of Saskatchewan, that we should outsource that to the province of Manitoba. I cannot believe that that is the stand . . .

[Interjections]

**The Speaker:** — Member from Athabasca, could you please come to order. Member from Athabasca, could I have your attention, please. Can you come to order? Yes or no?

**Mr. Belanger:** — Yes.

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

**Hon. Mr. Duncan:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I cannot believe that the Leader of the Opposition would advocate a position that we outsource legal advice to another province. I can't believe that that would be the case — that one province, they undertake some legal review, and that that should be the answer for the rest of us and we should just settle for that. That's not how we operate on this side of the House, Mr. Speaker.

But the member opposite talked about a costly endeavour. I'll tell you what's a costly endeavour, Mr. Speaker. First and foremost, a \$2.5 billion annual increase to the expenses of this province that the Leader of the Opposition is advocating for. Two and a half billion dollars each and every year in increase. And how would he pay for that? I think it would have to be through a carbon tax, Mr. Speaker. Now he's advocated for a carbon tax in the past. And you know what two and a half billion dollars looks like for a carbon tax? \$100 a tonne. Not 10, not 50 like the Prime Minister's talking about. \$100 a tonne. Is that what he's advocating for? Is he advocating for a 23-cent-a-litre increase to the gas tax? I can't believe he is. Let's hear an answer from him.

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

### Support for Special Needs in Education

**Ms. Beck:** — Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party voted unanimously for the Sask Party cuts to education that have had a devastating impact on Saskatchewan students and families. For the years since she was diagnosed with autism, three-year-old Ru McDonald's family has been fighting to get her into school. Their doctor recommended that she go to school so that she can thrive. But because of provincial cuts, three preschool

programs, including one designed to support children just like Ru, were cut.

Ru's family is joining us today in the gallery. Just this afternoon, Ru's parents received word that a spot has been found for Ru, and that's great news for Ru and for her family. But will the minister commit to reversing the heartless cuts so that other families don't have to fight so hard and so long to get their children into school?

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

**Hon. Mr. Wyant:** — Mr. Speaker, I welcome the family here today to bring their concerns to the floor of the legislature. Mr. Speaker, I understand the needs for intensive supports for children in the classroom, especially with respect to autism, Mr. Speaker. I have a granddaughter that's autistic, Mr. Speaker, who is in need of intensive needs within the classroom as well. So I know the challenges of parents, and I know the challenges of grandparents, Mr. Speaker.

But I can tell you this, Mr. Speaker: the plan of this government is to move to individualized funding for children with autism, Mr. Speaker, and our plan is to move that plan forward. There's certainly a lot more work to do, but I can tell you that \$281 million this year to school divisions in supports for learning funding, Mr. Speaker, and just last week, Mr. Speaker, \$41 million which was announced by the federal government to help early learning, Mr. Speaker — of that, 220 preschool spaces will be made available for children who need intensive supports, Mr. Speaker.

Certainly there is work being done in the Ministry of Health, Mr. Speaker. There's more work to be done, Mr. Speaker, but I think the commitment that's been made by the federal government in terms of increased funding, the commitment that the Premier has spoken about in terms of seven and a half million dollars, Mr. Speaker, for classroom supports, mid-year funding annualizing to \$30 million, Mr. Speaker, is a good step forward. Certainly more work to do, Mr. Speaker, but we'll continue to work to ensure that the supports that are required for children with autism and other intensive needs continue to be met in our school systems.

[14:15]

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

**Ms. Beck:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I will concur with the minister on this: there's much more to be done. And I know that the families who are in the gallery here today watching, and those watching at home, also know that there is so much more to be done. Ru's mother, Brittany, is fighting for her daughter, but she's also fighting for all Saskatchewan children who aren't receiving the supports that they need.

Brittany's calls aren't complicated. They include: infant screening for autism at 12- or 18-month checkups; providing the full recommended amount of time with educational assistants for every child starting in pre-K [pre-kindergarten]; reinstating targeted and appropriately resourced preschools to support high-needs learners; and adequate access to both speech pathologists and occupational therapists in the school system.

Mr. Speaker, will the Education minister take Ru's mom's recommendations seriously, and will he commit to reversing the cuts and properly — please — properly supporting children and young adults in our education system?

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

**Hon. Mr. Wyant:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to get the recommendations that have been brought forward by this family, Mr. Speaker, and I undertake to have a consultation with my officials within the Ministry of Education, Mr. Speaker, with respect to those.

But again, Mr. Speaker, I think this government has shown a commitment with respect to increased funding and supports in the classroom with the seven and a half million dollars that we . . . the mid-year funding that came forward just a month ago, Mr. Speaker; the additional \$41 million that's come from the federal government.

And I agree there is more work to be done, Mr. Speaker. But I think it can be said this government is clear in terms of its commitment to make sure that we meet the needs of children, not just early learning and children with intensive supports, in need of intensive supports, but all children in our school system, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Chartier:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the frustrating thing is this is a government that makes commitments and kicks them down the road, Mr. Speaker. During the last election, the Sask Party promised to finally catch up to other provinces and offer individualized funding for children living with autism spectrum disorder. Mr. Speaker, they broke that promise.

Almost two years later, families are still waiting for the support while the Sask Party continues to cut supports in schools and access to speech pathologists and occupational therapists. These families have been left to struggle and suffer. Even after we questioned the Sask Party in the fall session, they still refused to act. Will the minister finally come through, make good on the promise, and fund individualized supports for children with autism now and not make them wait any longer?

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

**Hon. Mr. Reiter:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as the Deputy Premier and Minister of Education just eloquently stated just a few minutes ago, we are going to move forward with individualized funding. It was deferred last year at budget time to this coming year.

Mr. Speaker, it's \$4,000 a year per child under six. The platform was we were going to grow that to \$8,000 in subsequent years and then with more long-term goals of increased funding, Mr. Speaker. So, Mr. Speaker, start dates, that type of thing, more details will be unveiled at budget time. But rest assured, Mr. Speaker, we will be following through with that promise. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### Management of Global Transportation Hub

**Ms. Sproule:** — Mr. Speaker, while they abandon our kids, they're still spending money hand over fist at the GTH [Global Transportation Hub]. The numbers don't lie. Over \$200 million spent so far and over \$37 million, and growing, in debt. \$13 million on land acquisitions and another \$11 million on lawsuit settlements on those land acquisitions. Mr. Speaker, \$21 million on the land at the centre of the RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police] investigation and possible charges, and almost \$10 million just to move a power line.

Tens of millions of dollars from Crowns, ministries, agencies, but the GTH's debt continues to grow and grow and grow. With tens of millions of their dollars thrown away, Saskatchewan people have more than paid the price for straight answers. So is this government hoping to sell or give away the GTH? And if not, what is their plan to fix the financial mess at the GTH?

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, in any real estate development the first costs that have to be paid for are the costs of acquiring the land, the costs of subdivision, the costs of putting in roads, the costs of putting in utilities. In this case it's even more complex because you had to deal with roads, rail, and other access points. Mr. Speaker, those were expensive things to put in. Those things are now under way or completed.

And, Mr. Speaker, I want to say to the members opposite, because of the work that was done at the GTH, the Loblaw centre is open, operating, and in that centre, Mr. Speaker, there are nearly a thousand jobs. At the time of construction, Mr. Speaker, there was 1,800 jobs there. There was \$485 million in private investments, over 860 full-time jobs. Every week, 4,800 trucks move in and out of the GTH. Of the 1,800 acres that compromise the GTH, over 700 acres have already been sold.

Mr. Speaker, there's more work to do at the GTH because, Mr. Speaker, in the last couple of years the economy has slowed down, market conditions are not as good as they once were. But, Mr. Speaker, the people there are continuing to work on it, and we're continuing to hold their feet to the fire, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Sproule:** — Mr. Speaker, at a thousand jobs at \$200 million, that's \$200,000 a job for the taxpayers of Saskatchewan. I think we need to take a look at that math.

Now just a couple of days ago the Attorney General, who's also responsible for the GTH, said it's too early to look into the Economy minister's proposal to sell off the whole thing. While he was dipping his toes briefly in the leadership race, he said this about the GTH: "... there were very, very serious mistakes made that should never have happened." Now, Mr. Speaker, I don't often agree with the member from Meadow Lake, but he did get a lot right during that particular press conference.

Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party has put a fire sale on just about everything else, from SaskTel to STC to 660 government buildings and even the cafeteria here. So can the minister tell us, yes or no, has the government held any meetings about selling or giving away the GTH? Perhaps maybe over the past weekend at a hotel in Regina?

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, last weekend I was in Saskatoon, so I don't know what went on at hotels in Regina. And for that matter, Mr. Speaker, I don't know what went on in the hotels in Saskatoon. I was at home. I was visiting with constituents. I was in the constituency office. Mr. Speaker, I was doing a turkey fundraiser, and we sell turkeys to raise money for my constituency. And, Mr. Speaker, when I was delivering those turkeys I thought, wonder how the NDP are doing.

Anyway, Mr. Speaker, I can say this: the Provincial Auditor reviewed the work that was done at the GTH. She made a number of recommendations and, Mr. Speaker, the recommendations were very clear that we had to do a better job of assembling land. We had to do a better job with subdivisions. The recommendations were received and they were acted upon, Mr. Speaker.

We're not going to take advice from the members opposite. We appreciate the situation the GTH is in and we'll continue to work to make sure the Global Transportation Hub is something that we can be proud of in Regina, that will continue to thrive, and find and create jobs.

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

**Ms. Sproule:** — Well I appreciate the minister's sharing of his weekend activities with us, Mr. Speaker. Obviously he hasn't answered the question. The question is: yes or no, did members of the government have meetings about selling or giving away the GTH this past weekend? Yes or no?

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, we don't have any meetings to talk about giving away the GTH or giving away anything else right now. Mr. Speaker, the members opposite want to give away some advice. We'll listen to what they've got to say.

I didn't talk to other MLAs on the weekend, Mr. Speaker. I went to events in Saskatoon. I went to a Hindu dinner; some of the members opposite were there. I did similar things to what everybody else did. I didn't have any meetings on the weekend about GTH.

Simple answer: I didn't have any meetings about the GTH. I don't think anybody else did either, Mr. Speaker.

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

### Ownership of Crown Corporations

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Mr. Speaker, last summer after months of protest, petitions, and public outcry, Brad Wall took to Facebook and announced that he had finally seen the light and that he was going to repeal the Sask Party's privatization law, Bill 40. Except he didn't. Their partial repeal law, Bill 99, is still being debated in the Assembly and hasn't yet come into force. As it's written, Bill 99 stops the Sask Party from selling up to 49 per cent of one of our Crown corporations, but it still leaves the door wide open for a wind-down, just like they did with STC.

Mr. Speaker, who is to say when another Sask Party minister will stumble onto something under their responsibility that they'll want to sell off? Does the minister responsible for SaskTel want to try his hand at the auctioneer's gavel? Why won't the Premier commit to scrapping all of Bill 40 and take further sell-offs and wind-downs off the table?

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, we heard what the citizens of our province asked for. They had concerns about our core utilities and wanted to make sure that public ownership was maintained in them. They didn't want to have discussions at that point in time about selling 5, 10, or 30 per cent. It was a sound idea to include a definition in the Act. But, Mr. Speaker, we're always willing to admit that we're willing to look at, to revisit something, so we're repealing that section of the Act.

Mr. Speaker, at the time we were doing that, we were in the process of winding up STC. And as such, Mr. Speaker, we have to leave that section in the Act. Mr. Speaker, if the members want it gone at some point in the future, we're prepared to have that discussion.

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

### Effects of Taxes on Provincial Economy

**Ms. Mowat:** — The Sask Party's PST hike from the last budget is continuing to do damage to our economy and kill jobs. Today's figures from Stats Canada show that less money is being invested in new housing construction. New housing investment is down 7.6 per cent, while investment in Alberta is up 14.7 per cent; in BC [British Columbia] it's up 14.8 per cent; and in Manitoba it's up 18.1 per cent.

Other provinces are creating jobs while Saskatchewan people can't find work because of the Sask Party's damaging decision to add PST to restaurant meals and the construction industry. When will the Sask Party scrap their job-killing tax on construction labour? And while they were reversing parts of their PST hike, why did they refuse to help Saskatchewan families by removing PST from kids' clothes and home insurance?

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

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will tell you what the economy does not need right now, Mr. Speaker. And what the economy does not need right now is a massive new carbon tax like that being advocated by the members opposite.

And today, Mr. Speaker, it takes a lot to shock me in question period here. I've been around for a little while. I was actually shocked by what I heard from the Leader of the Opposition. The Leader of the Opposition stood in his place and called our fight against the carbon tax a pointless crusade. Mr. Speaker, I think that 75 to 80 per cent of the population of this province believe that this is a fight worth having, that believe that a carbon tax foisted upon us by Justin Trudeau will not do anything to advance our economic interest.

But what are we seeing, Mr. Speaker? Weak leadership. We're seeing weak leadership and a weak position from the Leader of the Opposition. His position: surrender to Justin Trudeau. His position: wave the white flag. Mr. Speaker, that's weak leadership. On this side of the House, our strong Premier is taking a strong position. We are going to fight Justin Trudeau and we are going to fight this carbon tax.

### PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Chair of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

#### Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

**Mr. Bradshaw:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 108, *The Statute Law 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. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, I recognize leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this bill and this 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. 108, *The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2017* without amendment and that the bill be now read a third time. Is leave granted.

[14:30]

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

### THIRD READINGS

#### Bill No. 108 — *The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2017*

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — 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. 108 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 Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

##### Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

**Mr. Bradshaw:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 109, *The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2017 (No. 2)*, a bilingual bill, without amendment.

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this bill and this bill be now read the third time.

**The Speaker:** — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bills, Bill No. 109, 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. 109 — *The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2017* (No. 2)/Loi n° 2 de 2017 modifiant le droit législatif

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, 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. 109 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:** — Order. I can't hear. Well I'm happy to name people; I mean, whatever. I recognize the Chair of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

##### Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

**Mr. Bradshaw:** — Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 74, *The Evidence Amendment Act, 2017*, a bilingual bill without amendment.

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — I request leave to waive consideration of Committee of the Whole on this bill and 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. 74, *The Evidence Amendment Act, 2017*, a bilingual bill without amendment 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. 74 — *The Evidence Amendment Act, 2017* *Loi modificative de 2017 sur la preuve*

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — I move 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. 74 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 Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

### Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

**Mr. Bradshaw:** — Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 96, *The Choice of Court Agreements (Hague Convention Implementation) Act*, a bilingual bill without amendment.

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this bill and that this 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. 96 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. 96 — *The Choice of Court Agreements (Hague Convention Implementation) Act* *Loi sur les accords d'élection de for (mise en œuvre de la Convention de La Haye)*

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

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 96 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 on her feet?

### POINT OF ORDER

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Point of order, Mr. Speaker. During question period today, the Minister of Environment mentioned

something around a document he has that stipulated something around \$2.5 billion. I can't totally tell what he's saying, but if the minister could table that document that'd be greatly appreciated.

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

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. What we were referring to was the Leader of the Opposition's promises from the leadership race. I know the Leader of the Opposition hasn't compiled all of these promises in one place or costed them, but we've done that for them, Mr. Speaker, as it adds up to \$2.5 billion. I have the list right here. I'm happy to table it. Maybe the members opposite can take a look at it.

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

### WRITTEN QUESTIONS

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

**Mr. Lawrence:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to order the answers to questions 170 through 174.

**The Speaker:** — The Government Whip has ordered the answers to questions 170 to 174.

## 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 for Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

**Mr. McCall:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'll try to get this out of the way off the top. I'll not go on at such a great length that I'll need to stop for snacks or anything like that along the way, but certainly a lot of anticipation on Bill No. 121, *The Cannabis Control (Saskatchewan) Act*.

I hear my colleague from Martensville very excited about this speech, very excited about this legislation. I'm not sure what that's about, but okay. Everybody's got their loves; everybody's got their likes, Mr. Speaker. So you know, if she wants to get excited about Bill No. 121, fair ball. Fair ball, Mr. Speaker.

But certainly this one was . . . a lot of anticipation on this one. I think, where are we clocking on this one, dead last? Dead last of all the provinces in terms of a cannabis control framework, Mr. Speaker, in terms of jurisdictions throughout the country.

Now I'm getting some static from Moosomin, by way of Wolseley, or the other way around. I'm not sure if the bridge is swinging or what's going on over there. But anyway, Mr.

Speaker, I don't know if he's applying, is he applying for a grass station over there, or what's going on? Is he looking for ... open up his own shop? I don't know, maybe that's Whitewood. Pardon me, that's probably Whitewood. Probably Whitewood.

Anyway, Mr. Speaker, in terms of *The Cannabis Control (Saskatchewan) Act* — long awaited, hotly anticipated. And in terms of again being a bit of a study in terms of the differing positions over there, I know I'm sure my colleague, the Government House Leader, had a lot of insightful thoughts on this one. You know, the guy's interested in public policy, that's for sure. And I think I can see some of his fingerprints on this legislation but maybe not in bold relief or anything.

But anyway, Mr. Speaker, all levity aside, it is good to finally see this piece of legislation come forward. It's good to see that the government's finally, you know, clocked in at dead last in terms of bringing in the appropriate provincial regulatory regime, this of course being snuck up on them by the federal Liberal election win in 2015; you know, years ago now, Mr. Speaker. And you know, this is what they've come up with. And maybe it's ... Parts of it, sort of like the three bears or, you know, Goldilocks, Mr. Speaker, in terms of some of it. You know, a little cold and some of it a little warm; some of it just right, I'm sure.

But in terms of the age, they've stated that to be people under the age of 19 prohibited from possessing or consuming cannabis, punishable by a fine of up to \$2,000. Again, Mr. Speaker, there's a variety of opinions on that side in terms of, be it, you know, 25 as the age. And of course if you're going to try and drive the black market out of this, Mr. Speaker, that would have been a non-starter in terms of that gap between 19 and 25. So frankly for myself, Mr. Speaker, glad to see that they settled on the age of 19.

There's still some legitimate medical questions to be answered or concerns to be addressed, Mr. Speaker. And in terms of the kind of educational campaigns and the kind of dangers that are inherent if you're smoking marijuana or ingesting marijuana, and for people that are still developing their prefrontal cortex, Mr. Speaker, and some of the potential risks that entails, there's a job of education to be done there for sure, Mr. Speaker. But in terms of the various things that we try to accomplish under public health education campaigns, Mr. Speaker, that would certainly be one for that sphere.

In terms of consuming cannabis in public spaces being prohibited, again there was a good bit of commentary provided on the public record by a columnist, Murray Mandryk, a close observer of the comings and goings in this place, Mr. Speaker, in terms of, if you're going to be outlawing the consumption of cannabis in public spaces, what is the attendant enforcement regime that goes along with that? And what are the costs that are going to be entailed therein, Mr. Speaker? That's a question that needs an answer.

In terms of the amount, whereby under the legislation, possession of more than 30 grams and more than four plants being prohibited, again, Mr. Speaker, it's a ... Not to tip my hand too much here, Mr. Speaker, but I've got a better understanding of what a 12-case of beer looks like in terms of

my possessions, Mr. Speaker, than I do what 30 grams would amount to or four plants. But certainly four plants would seem to be consistent with the federal regime or with other jurisdictions, although again there are exceptions to that, notably in Quebec where they went kind of to the extreme of no plants at home. Again, Mr. Speaker, sort of odd, but anyway that one would seem to be just right in terms of Goldilocks and the three bears.

Now this one, again it's my understanding that this has parallels in the liquor control legislation, but whereby possession of cannabis in a vehicle is prohibited, except when transporting it from the place it was obtained to the place it will be consumed. Again, Mr. Speaker, there was an interesting exchange on the rotunda when this legislation was introduced, with the Minister of Justice talking about, musing upon grass stations and going back and forth. Again, Mr. Speaker, in terms of law being enforceable or not enforceable, Mr. Speaker, this one as well begs the question or a number of questions.

And then lastly the legislation sets out various of the rules for retail stores selling cannabis. Again, Mr. Speaker, it's interesting to note the evolution of this whole topic, Mr. Speaker, in terms of just the economic impacts on the province, the health impacts on the province, and again the fact that Saskatchewan comes last in terms of introducing what the regulatory framework is going to be compared to other jurisdictions.

It raises a number of questions around what kind of an economic disadvantage that places potential producers at in the province of Saskatchewan, the kind of economic development opportunities that are there in this new field of consumption and production, Mr. Speaker. And perhaps that's something that can be further explored in the committee stage of the legislation, Mr. Speaker, but these are questions that remain.

[14:45]

And this is perhaps not so much a matter for the cannabis control Act debate, but certainly the whole question of, the questions of enforcement generally as regards what constitutes impairment and how you're going to have a valid test for that, Mr. Speaker. There is other legislation before this Assembly where there's a couple of questions that arise from that as well, but I have yet to be informed of what is a good enforcement regime around accurately establishing impairment as regards the use of marijuana. But if you're going to put in legislation where there are any number of sanctions that can be deployed in a person's life on the basis of a less-than-appropriate or accurate test, that would seem to be a prime candidate for bad legislation, Mr. Speaker. And we'll, of course, have more questions about that.

There's also the questions that arise in terms of what this does to promote, you know ... Again, I'm a city kid, born and raised in the city of Regina, Mr. Speaker, but certainly my father grew up on the farm out Montmartre way. My mother was an import from a farm out in rural Ontario. But, Mr. Speaker, in terms of the tremendous agriculture sector that we have in Saskatchewan and that continual drive, that continual search for value-added, for diversification in the ag sector, Mr. Speaker, this would seem to be a market that would be tailor-made for those kind of

concerns, Mr. Speaker. And that again we're so far behind other jurisdictions in terms of what the framework was and what is possible for producers, Mr. Speaker, is again ... It's a government being less than helpful in terms of that economic development pursuit, Mr. Speaker.

I guess as well there's some questions that we have as regards the wholesale and retail aspects of this legislation, Mr. Speaker, in terms of not availing ourselves of the wholesale and distribution possibilities that exist under SLGA [Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority]. We're interested as well in terms of, you know, will this legislation effectively result in the market being captured by large out-of-province interests, both on the production side and the wholesale side? Or is there some kind of benefit that will accrue to Saskatchewan people in this market?

As well, Mr. Speaker, I note with great interest other jurisdictions that have ensured that there will be co-operation and involvement of First Nations in both the production, distribution, and retail sides of this whole endeavour. And you know, it bears further examination certainly, Mr. Speaker, but the early sort of commentary from different of the leadership amongst First Nations would seem to indicate there wasn't the job that needed to be done in terms of ensuring that involvement, ensuring that engagement, Mr. Speaker, by the Government of Saskatchewan with First Nations, on the possibilities that exist under this new field of production and commerce.

Anyway, Mr. Speaker, there are a number of other points that I'm sure my colleagues will canvass more thoughtfully and fully than I. But for the time being, I am prepared to move adjournment on the debate of Bill No. 121, *The Cannabis Control (Saskatchewan) Act*.

**The Speaker:** — The member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre 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 Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

**Mr. McCall:** — Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. It's always great to join the debate, and certainly when the debate is of great consequence, as this is the case certainly with consequential amendments to *The Cannabis Control (Saskatchewan) Act, 2018*. Or as they might say in French, *corrélative de la loi intitulée*. And I'd look to the member from

Cannington for better instruction on la langue française, comme ça. [Translation: on the French language like that.] But peut-être un jour en français, monsieur le Président. [Translation: Maybe one day in French, Mr. Speaker.]

But certainly consequential amendments, of course, for those folks following at home, are those that are required by changes in main legislation that cascade through other pieces of legislation. And of course the main mover, the main impact, comes in Bill No. 121, and then these consequential amendments flow through on Bill No. 122.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I think I've said my piece as regards this topic generally under my intervention for Bill No. 121. And with that I would move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 122, *The Cannabis Control (Saskatchewan) Consequential Amendments Act, 2018*.

**The Speaker:** — The member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre 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. 72

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

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

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to rise this afternoon and add my two cents into the debate for Bill No. 72, *The Privacy Amendment Act*. A few of my colleagues have already had the opportunity to speak to this bill. I don't have much to add to their wise words but I will add a few, and I'll leave it to you to decide whether or not mine are also wise.

Mr. Speaker, this bill introduces additional options for an individual who has had intimate images of themselves shared with others without consent. This was referenced in the fall 2017 Speech from the Throne and has been winding its way through the legislative process ever since, Mr. Speaker. I know my colleague, the member from Saskatoon Centre, when he was speaking to this bill, provided quite a bit of historical information and discussion around privacy and the importance of privacy and how that interplays with this particular piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker. It's a very important step forward in terms of ensuring that we're able to protect our privacy in a new way.

There's already some criminal provisions regarding distributing intimate images without the consent of the individual who is in the photo, but this one will allow a victim to pursue a civil claim, a civil action, Mr. Speaker, which is under our provincial jurisdiction. It's an important addition to what's already in place in terms of a criminal provision. It allows for another layer of action against an individual who is a perpetrator in this

type of circumstance, Mr. Speaker. And it also allows for the potential for the victim to receive some sort of a financial recourse.

Also when you're talking about a civil claim, the burden of proof is much lower than it is in a criminal claim. So potentially, if someone is found not guilty, not legally guilty pursuant to a criminal action, that doesn't necessarily preclude them from pursuing this new civil action, Mr. Speaker.

One interesting thing about this bill, Mr. Speaker, is that it's a reverse onus. That's usually quite rare, and it's also unique for this particular type of action. I believe . . . And I don't have my research in front of me. I think when I was looking into this bill, I think we might be the only jurisdiction that has this reverse onus in a bill like this. But it will allow the individual to . . . It requires the accused to establish that they were given permission and consent to produce the image rather than placing that onus on the victim, Mr. Speaker. When I did my consultations with respect to this bill — and I'm interested to hear from the ministry officials what their consultations were and what they heard with respect to this bill — this reverse onus was welcomed by those that I had spoken to. I'm interested to hear if there are folks who have any concerns about that reverse onus, but I have yet to hear any, Mr. Speaker.

So with that, I will have some questions for the committee — for the minister at committee rather — and as such I am prepared to move Bill No. 72, *The Privacy Amendment Act* to committee.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

**The Speaker:** — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the minister that Bill No. 72, *The Privacy Amendment Act, 2017* be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

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

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

**Hon. Mr. Brkich:** — I designate that Bill No. 72, *The Privacy Amendment Act, 2017* be committed to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

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

#### Bill No. 75

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 75 — *The Electronic Communications Convention Implementation Act/Loi de mise en œuvre de la Convention sur les***

***communications électroniques*** be now read a second time.]

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

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise this afternoon to add to the debate around Bill No. 75, *The Electronic Communications Convention Implementation Act*. Mr. Speaker, this bill moves to make the *United Nations Convention on the Use of Electronic Communications in International Contracts* law in Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, the convention that I just spoke of was adopted by the United Nations committee on international trade law back in 2005. And its purpose was to clarify some rules respecting electronic formation of contracts for international parties, if those parties desire to use it.

So it's designed to facilitate an extra level of ease in international business, and it's an opt-in sort of provision. No one is obligated to use it if they do not wish to use it, but passing this bill into law in Saskatchewan would allow those businesses to use it should they choose, Mr. Speaker.

So I will have a few questions with respect to this bill at committee. Otherwise, I look forward to having the opportunity to ask those questions to the minister. So as such, I'm ready to move Bill No. 75, *The Electronic Communications Convention Implementation Act*, to committee.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

**The Speaker:** — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the minister that Bill No. 75, the electronic communications implementation Act, 2017 be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

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

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

**Hon. Mr. Brkich:** — I designate that Bill No. 75, the electronic communications implementation Act, 2017 be committed to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

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

#### Bill No. 87

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 87 — *The Data Matching Agreements Act*** be now read a second time.]

[15:00]

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

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to rise and provide some further debate on Bill No. 87, *The Data Matching Agreements Act*. Mr. Speaker, I look forward to having the opportunity to ask the minister some questions at committee.

I'm hopeful, Mr. Speaker, as I know, as being the critic of Justice, for Justice there are quite a few bills that end up being Justice bills, so they end up being the bills that I talk to at committee. But there are some great, hard-working committee members on the government side as well, and I look forward to the member from Kindersley, one of the new MLAs, to ask some hard-hitting questions on, in particular, Bill No. 87, *The Data Matching Agreements Act* when this bill comes to committee, Mr. Speaker.

I'm not sure if he knew that that was part of the rule that when a new MLA is sworn in, that his job is to be the individual on the government side who asks questions about legislation in committee, but I'm looking forward to hearing his thoughts, in particular on this bill. But there's plenty of other Justice bills that I know it'll give him the opportunity to cut his teeth at the always exciting and always wonderful IAJ [Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice] committee, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, Bill No. 87, *The Data Matching Agreements Act*, talks about some very large pieces of information and some expectations for security. It allows for the act of using some software to track and analyze large amounts of data, and this Act outlines how that would happen and some efforts to ensure that privacy and good practice occurs.

This bill further outlines how an organization would ask for this information, expectations of security, and that they also have to destroy the data within two years. Mr. Speaker, the organizations participating, that wish to participate, also have to provide a report to the government access coordinator, and individuals would also be able to request information collected. And then these government coordinators will also be legislated to provide information regarding this process.

Mr. Speaker, this bill also provides for a fine for an amount not more than \$50,000 for any individuals who contravene this Act, Mr. Speaker. When we're talking about access to information, we're talking about sharing of information. And I was speaking just about a different bill, but that bill dealt with privacy. We're talking a lot about access to information and privacy as well, Mr. Speaker. There's a lot of questions and there's a lot of concerns that we need to ensure are addressed when we're talking about these two issues and when the government is involved, and particularly this government, Mr. Speaker.

I'm looking forward to asking some questions of the minister, like I had said, about this bill at committee. As I have already said, I encourage, I look forward to seeing my fellow committee members at committee again and looking forward to hearing their questions as well. As such I am prepared to move Bill No. 87, *The Data Matching Agreements Act*, to committee.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

**The Speaker:** — The question before the Assembly is the motion of the minister that Bill No. 87, *The Data Matching Agreements Act*, 2017 be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

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

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

**Hon. Mr. Brkich:** — I designate that Bill No. 87, *The Data Matching Agreements Act*, 2017 be committed to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

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

### Bill No. 92

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Hargrave that **Bill No. 92 — *The Saskatchewan Telecommunications Amendment Act, 2017*** be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. McCall:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Again, good to join debate this afternoon, and this one's a relatively short piece of legislation with a lot of impact, Mr. Speaker. And certainly members opposite will be interested to know that this one involves a half a billion dollars in terms of import for this legislation, Mr. Speaker.

And I don't know if it was the member from Weyburn-Big Muddy drafted this one up and then left it on the doorstep for the new Minister for SaskTel, in terms of raising the debt limit for . . . He's casting his mind back. He's thinking about it. I don't know if I'm going to get any letters from him later today about this but anyway, we'll see how that goes, Mr. Speaker.

I was going back over committee from spring of 2017, Mr. Speaker, and it was kind of painful. It was kind of painful. It brought up a lot of painful memories for me, Mr. Speaker, in terms of the plans for this government on the part of our Crown corporations.

And I guess the one thing I appreciate about this particular piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker, is that it's crystal clear that they're looking to raise the debt limit for SaskTel from \$1.3 billion to \$1.8 billion. And you know, and I guess I'll be interested to see how it comes in terms of getting answers to the questions for that.

Certainly we'd had some questions about that during the annual report briefing from the officials at SaskTel, and we always

appreciate that, Mr. Speaker. And in terms of it being since 1991 — that that was the last time they'd raised the debt limit for SaskTel — and that there's a requirement for that greater flexibility that debt limit allows, you know, relatively straightforward things to figure out.

But it's also interesting to figure out how that relates in turn to things like the wage mandate that again is a bit of a moving target on the part of this government as regards how they're going to wring that out of, in this case, SaskTel's employees, Mr. Speaker. What that amounts to, you know, and it's also . . . And I see I've caught the interest of the Finance minister now. Of course, what was the quote on the Public Service Commission, Mr. Speaker, from the Minister of Finance? I think it was, "I don't care what they say. It's just so much blah, blah, blah," I think is what the Finance minister once had to say about the Public Service Commission.

And again, Mr. Speaker, you know, it's one thing for that minister to think that about the Public Service Commission and the public servants that are along for the ride, that are subject to the decisions that she and her colleagues make, Mr. Speaker. But there are real-life employees out there that are very interested to know if they're going to have a job or if this government is going to persist in selling off 49 per cent of their corporation or if they're going to use the debt limit to squeeze out dividends to keep the crapshoot of finances floating over there, Mr. Speaker. You know, those men and women are very interested in all these questions and here we've got like half a billion dollars of reasons why these are all important questions.

But, Mr. Speaker, we're certainly going to have a lot of questions for this one in committee. I look forward to, you know, what the new minister has to say there. You know, maybe they'll bring the Finance minister along so she can explain how the mandate's going to impact those men and women, Mr. Speaker, what dollars are going to be taken out of those hard-working employees' pockets, Mr. Speaker, what the rationale is for applying it equally across the public service and the Crown corporations, Mr. Speaker, you know, public service entities compared to commercial entities. You know, the mind sort of staggers in terms of all the questions that this action raises on the part of this government. So again, Mr. Speaker, that's something that we'll look forward to, you know, I'm sure what's going to be an interesting debate at committee. But for the time being, Mr. Speaker, I'd invite my colleague across the way to move this bill to committee so that we might have that more fulsome discussion.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

**The Speaker:** — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the minister that Bill No. 92, *The Saskatchewan Telecommunications Amendment Act, 2017* be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

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

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

**Hon. Mr. Brkich:** — I designate that Bill No. 92, *The Saskatchewan Telecommunications Amendment Act*, be committed to the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

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

### Bill No. 93

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Hargrave that **Bill No. 93 — *The Saskatchewan Telecommunications Holding Corporation Amendment Act, 2017*** be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. McCall:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Again this one is sort of a variation on the consequential amendment theme in terms of a need arising with the debt limit to address the attendant changes in *The Saskatchewan Telecommunications Holding Corporation Act*.

Again all the same concerns attach to this as well, Mr. Speaker, in terms of raising that debt limit from \$1.3 billion, Mr. Speaker, to \$1.8 billion, a half-a-billion-dollar debt limit increase, Mr. Speaker. And again there may be some perfectly valid reasons why this change is required on the part of the corporation, on the part of the normal functioning and best operations for the corporation. But, Mr. Speaker, it's being brought forward by a government that again is having a negative impact on people's lives to the tune of billions, Mr. Speaker, in terms of tax increases and service cuts and fiscal mismanagement.

Again it begs some comment, Mr. Speaker, that this change in debt limit is going up at this time. And I'd add parenthetically, Mr. Speaker, that this is alongside increases in debt limits to others of the commercial Crowns, Mr. Speaker, over the last five years in terms of what this government has done — the increase to the debt limits that they will allow the universities to carry, Mr. Speaker, the increases to the debt limits that they will allow municipalities to carry, Mr. Speaker.

And again it speaks to a broader pattern on the part of this government where the problems, you know, they're not about sort of shouldering the pain, Mr. Speaker. They're very much about sharing the pain. You know, they're very much about making the decisions that result in pain, Mr. Speaker. But when it comes to paying the price and paying the consequences, they'll certainly, they'll pass that along as fast as you can get through a debate on a consequential amendment.

Mr. Speaker, in this case again with SaskTel, moving . . . increasing the debt limit by half a billion dollars . . . And again there's a lot of interest in that magical word over there,

“billion.” You’d think that they’d spend some time looking in the mirror, Mr. Speaker, in terms of what their own fiscal house looks like. But you know, maybe they’re in a glass house that’s a mirror, and that would serve a couple of purposes, Mr. Speaker, because they certainly shouldn’t be throwing stones at anyone, given their record, Mr. Speaker, in terms of the finances of this province.

And again we’ve got a piece of legislation here increasing the debt limit by half a billion dollars — from \$1.3 billion to \$1.8 billion — against a backdrop where they’re going to the workers, the men and women who make that corporation, provide a great service for Saskatchewan, that’s expanding and needs to, that provide a good cost service to the people of Saskatchewan, that do it for Saskatchewan people in Saskatchewan. You know, they’re such a Saskatchewan corporation their headquarters is located at Saskatchewan Drive, Mr. Speaker. All of these things are taking place against a backdrop of they’re going after the men and women for wage concessions at the bargaining table. They’ve got some kind of convoluted, you know, gymnastics routine in terms of what is a mandate and what are cuts to the men and women working for that corporation, whether they’re going to go at it through attrition or what they were once referring to as Wallidays, Mr. Speaker, or however else that’s going to get carried out.

And they’re also looking for, I’m sure, a nice dividend to keep the finances floating come budget time, Mr. Speaker, because if you can be sure of anything, you can be sure of this: this government is going to be looking to squeeze the Crowns like lemons, Mr. Speaker, to try and get the juice into their budget and keep things afloat over there. And again, Mr. Speaker, if that’s in line with a return on equity in house, matches alongside industry standards, that’s one thing. And if they can make that argument and it’s not without breaking into, you know, nervous laughter, we’ll see if that’s the case, Mr. Speaker.

[15:15]

But again this is a government that’s got a profound and fundamental antipathy towards the Crown sector that, you know, just as late as this past spring and fall, Mr. Speaker, where they went through the whole 49 per cent and somehow it doesn’t constitute privatization. You can sell off 49 per cent of a Crown, Mr. Speaker, and by the magic of passing a law and, you know, clicking your heels together three times and wishing hard enough, apparently, Mr. Speaker, 49 per cent sell-off wouldn’t constitute privatization.

And again, Mr. Speaker, when you’re that much at odds with the laws of reason and rationale, Mr. Speaker, maybe it’s time to pack it in. And you know, that’s I think part of why the Premier took the long, hard look into the TV screen and said, yes, maybe I’ve stayed at the dance too long, Mr. Speaker; maybe it’s time to head on to other things. And of course passed it on to other folks like the member from Martensville and member from Weyburn-Big Muddy to soldier on, to carry forward. So who knows if they’re going to come forward with some kind of piece of magic — like 49 per cent of a sell-off, you know, that’s not privatization. I’d like to think that they wouldn’t be, they wouldn’t be up for that kind of exercise in, you know, oh, creative fiction, Mr. Speaker. But we’ll see

what’s to come in the budget that’s looming ever larger.

Anyway, Mr. Speaker, I know that other of my colleagues will have things that they want to say on other bills in this debate. And I know I for certain have got a lot of questions as regards the functioning of one of our most valued Crown corporations, SaskTel, and its proper functioning and the great work that the men and women do in that corporation, Mr. Speaker. And those are better addressed at committee. So with that, I would invite my colleague opposite to do what needs be done to move this bill on to committee so that we might have that broader conversation.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

**The Speaker:** — The question before the Assembly is the motion by the minister that Bill No. 93, the Saskatchewan telecommunications corporation amendment Act, 2017 be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

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

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

**Hon. Mr. Brkich:** — I designate that Bill No. 93, the Saskatchewan telecommunications corporation amendment Act be committed to the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

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

### Bill No. 101

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

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

**Ms. Beck:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my pleasure today to rise and enter into debate on Bill No. 101, *The Agricultural Implements Amendment Act*. As the title would suggest, Mr. Speaker, this is a bill that proposes to change an Act, *The Agricultural Implements Act*, that was last updated, I believe it was 14 years ago, Mr. Speaker, which . . . In the normal course of events in this Assembly, sometimes we see bills in front of us that are being updated for the first time in 70 years or 40 years. Fourteen years is a relatively short period of time, unless we’re talking about the ever-changing world of privatization and Bill 49.

But this bill, I think the minister noted in his second reading

comments, there's some reason after 14 years to make some amendments to this bill, and the main reason there being the really fast-paced changes that we're seeing in agriculture and the rise of the use of technology and the implications that that has for agricultural implements in the province, Mr. Speaker. And I think that there is certainly no denying that. Anyone who's had the opportunity to be on a tractor recently might not recognize it as being the same beast as the cabinless old Massey that some of us might have been accustomed to back in the day, Mr. Speaker.

So since this Act was last amended, of course, the advances in agriculture really have been staggering with regard to technological changes. I know I had the opportunity to meet with agrolologists, as did a number of members on both sides of this Assembly, at the start of session and had a number of really fascinating conversations with just some of the technological changes that are being realized in fields all around this province — a specific application that's being guided by satellite technology on fields, mapping, use of aggregate data to inform choices around inputting moisture for example, Mr. Speaker, and temperature to inform choices around things such as fertilizer application. So this is certainly not the same thing that we saw back in the '90s or even in the 2000s, the early parts of this century, Mr. Speaker. So I do understand the need to update the legislation.

In second reading comments the minister did note that there was an ongoing discussion and there was some request on the part of industry for this legislation, which is always a question I like to ask, Mr. Speaker. What is the reason that we're seeing this bill in front of us? I understand that to be at least part of the genesis of this bill coming from producers themselves.

So they pointed out, as the minister has said, that agriculture is evolving at an unprecedented rate and that today's farmers need access to the latest, most cutting-edge equipment available. And I think, Mr. Speaker, as soon as you pull it off the shelf something new is there waiting right in its place — as some will understand my Simpsons . . . I think it's *The Simpsons* reference — and that flexibility is essential if implement manufacturers are expected to be industry-leading innovators. And that is certainly something, a goal that we share on both sides of this House, Mr. Speaker, that ensuring that producers have access to the technology and support that they need to ensure that we are taking our rightful place in the world, being on the cutting edge of agriculture and technology on the planet.

And I think of, you know, some of the work that goes on in the fields, at the universities, and boy, if we could just get that product to port at this point we would be a lot further ahead. So I look for some progress on that part as well, Mr. Speaker, because we can do everything we need here, but still need to move product to port. And hopefully we'll be hearing some progress on that front, because it has cost producers billions. And so it really, really does need to move to a top priority to ensure that we are not using technology and increasing productivity and being innovative in the province, and then stagnating when it comes to actually getting that product onto cars and to port.

So, Mr. Speaker, that's a bit of a digression, but I think that this is a part of the whole piece that we see here in terms of looking

to the future of agriculture in our province. And you will get no debate, as I said, from me on the importance of that industry to not only the current economic situation in the province but to our future.

Mr. Speaker, some of the other changes that are proposed in this legislation include doing away with the Agricultural Implements Compensation Fund. My understanding, Mr. Speaker, that that is necessitated or that's made . . . That suggestion is put forth because of the move to summary financials, that there is no need to keep a distinct fund for those implement compensation payments as it no longer serves that purpose.

Another change that I found a little bit interesting here, Mr. Speaker, is around the amount of time that a dealer has to make parts available. Currently there's a 72-hour request, which remains the same, but there previously was an exception for Sundays. It is proposed in this bill that that Sunday exemption is removed, so that at any point during the week — I know that farmers don't take the weekends off, particularly in seeding and in harvest time — that that Sunday doesn't actually turn into an extra day, which I think makes good sense.

One of the things though that I do point out there, that one of the ways that those parts did get around this province, Mr. Speaker, was STC. And certainly during one of the last days of STC, my colleague from P.A. [Prince Albert] Northcote had the opportunity to go down to Weyburn and speak with people who were using the bus there and the person who ran the depot in Weyburn. And what we saw coming off of that bus were implements, parts, veterinary supplies, of course in addition to passengers. And those buses did run on Sundays, and I do remember many times my mom being sent into town to pick up parts from the bus. So I think that's another piece that, yes we've gotten rid of Sundays, but hopefully we have figured out the ways that we are going to ensure that those parts can move freely and in a timely way around the province.

There are also some changes, fairly significant changes as you might expect . . . With all of this technology comes an increased cost for all of these implements, so there's some substantial changes to compensations for farmers under section 10. For example, increases penalties from 10,000 up to \$50,000. The maximum penalty for distributors who fail to pay an amount to the board required by section 12 is increased from \$5,000 all the way up to \$25,000. Penalties for distributors under section 24 increased from \$5 a day all the way up to not more than \$25,000.

So those increased penalties I think, Mr. Speaker, do reflect the increased pressure that producers are under, but also the increased cost of many of these implements. And there are a number of reasons why we might see that. I would have some questions in committee, you know, how that number was arrived at and how many people are currently paying those fines. Sometimes if, you know, someone is fined because you have a part that's late, that's great, but it doesn't get you that day back in the field, or those two days back in the field.

So those would be some of the questions I might have of the minister in estimates. And I do look forward to talking with the minister in committee about this bill, and hopefully there's a lot

of points of curiosity, so just some very interesting facts about agriculture in the province and how that runs. So hopefully, you know, I'll have some members join in from the other side of the table and ask some questions about it. The officials always are there to answer those questions, and it is a great opportunity to ask questions on behalf of our constituents and in our critic areas as well, Mr. Speaker. But with that, I think I will move to move Bill No. 101 to committee.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

**The Speaker:** — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the minister that Bill No. 101, *The Agricultural Implements Amendment Act, 2017* be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

**Principal Clerk:** — Second reading of this bill.

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

**Hon. Mr. Brkich:** — I designate that Bill No. 101, *The Agricultural Implements Amendment Act, 2017* be committed to the Standing Committee on the Economy.

**The Speaker:** — This bill stands committed to the Standing Committee on the Economy.

### Bill No. 102

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Stewart that **Bill No. 102 — *The Agri-Food Amendment Act, 2017*** be now read a second time.]

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

[15:30]

**Ms. Beck:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And continuing with the theme, I'm going to move on to another bill that deals with sort of another aspect of agricultural production in the province and that is Bill No. 102, *The Agri-Food Amendment Act*, Mr. Speaker. This Act was introduced in November of last year by the minister. It notes that the current bill provides a framework for Saskatchewan's 20 agri-food agencies, Mr. Speaker, so this Act does have a lot of impact to those agencies around the province.

To date this Act, as noted by the minister, is a tool for growth and development and again is one of those Acts that is 13 years old. So in the life of this Assembly, not a terribly old piece of legislation, but again we've seen so much that has changed and continues to move rapidly. And I think it is reasonable to be responsive and ensure that we seek to be ahead of the curve with regard to the agri-food industry in the province, and certainly is an area for diversification and for growth within our province, and those 20 agencies that do so well serve those

goals in our province.

I was pleased to see that the minister noted that he had consulted with all 20 of the agri-food agencies as well as including the milk producers and the province's two poultry producers. Mr. Speaker, I think that that consultation is important. It's appreciated by not only those in those industries, but it's important to the working of this Assembly that we ensure that those voices are heard, and unfortunately that doesn't always happen, so I do commend the minister for those consultations.

There were a number of areas of improvement that were brought forth by industry to promote the principles of accountability, transparency, and efficiency while also looking at flexibility, Mr. Speaker. And that certainly is a balance and something that really does make its way to homes all across this province, to balance the needs of industry with other goals such as consumer protection and food safety.

So I mean that is certainly a balance to be struck and something that I will be asking about in committee to make sure that both of those needs have been considered, and not that there's reason to suspect. I mean I know that producers also have a role or have a stake in ensuring that we have the safest food and agri-business system as possible. Not only those risks . . . If there are risks in the system, it's not only a risk to consumers but it's a risk to producers who might get painted with a brush that they don't want to be painted with or something to go wrong. So this is very important legislation, Mr. Speaker, and it's important to get right.

I'm just going to look down to my notes here. Some of the points, some of the changes in this bill . . . It adds a definition for business day and it allows development boards and marketing boards to be able to change the terms of office of the members of the agency at the board level rather than at the regulation level. So they're able to set some of the rules for their own agencies, which is good to see, Mr. Speaker.

And other boards in the province — I'm thinking school boards, for example — have had a lot of that local power taken away. This is an instance where we're seeing that power being . . . increased powers being given to the board. So it gives me hope that there is room for that in other areas as well, Mr. Speaker. It also allows some other powers such as the number of directors elected to the board and the terms of those directors, which seems reasonable, Mr. Speaker, that those bodies be able to govern themselves in that way.

It also gives agencies the power to develop or deliver traceability, animal welfare, and food safety strategies, programs, and initiatives, Mr. Speaker. I do have some interest here and I'll be asking the minister in committee, you know, the decision to leave those powers at the board level rather than at a provincial level. Certainly that traceability and animal welfare and food safety strategies, as I've described, has implications right across the province and really internationally in terms of reputation and things like that. So we'll be watching that with great interest and be asking some questions there. And maybe the members opposite will have some questions as well in committee, you know, just about these 20 agencies and what they do and what the future is of those agencies and the

agri-food business in the province.

Again this is an area that holds great potential, has a good history in this province and holds great potential as we move forward as being known for the food we grow and the animals that we also market here in the province both as meat but also for genetics as well, Mr. Speaker. And I think all of this really provides opportunities in the future, opportunities for jobs, opportunity for growth, and of course that very important opportunity for feeding people, not only at home but around the world.

Some other changes in this bill introduces a limit for council, who can serve a maximum of four consecutive terms, Mr. Speaker. Term limits, that's interesting. And it adds some additional responsibilities to the council. It adds responsibility for reviewing agency minutes, board orders and regulations, and providing governance training to new agencies, and working with established agencies to ensure governance practices are best followed.

And certainly there is appetite and opportunity on boards all across the province for that type of training, that type of support. You know, often I think it is believed or it's perceived that board members is something that you go onto a board and you put that on your resumé. But these are important positions that people hold, important oversight positions. And it is reasonable that some of that governance training is available and forthcoming for them, and I think it only serves to strengthen the agencies and really, capacity across our province. The more people that we have that are able to take those roles on boards, really it does provide strength.

That oversight function, I think that it really is an area that can be strengthened and I will have some questions about that as well, and just what type of training is being looked at there and if it's just in financials or policy governance or what exactly that is speaking about.

But I don't want to highlight all my questions here in my second reading speech. I know we will have time in committee, and look forward to that opportunity, as I always do, to sit with the minister and his officials and delve a little deeper into Bill No. 102. But with that I will move to move this bill to committee.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

**The Speaker:** — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the minister that Bill No. 102, *The Agri-Food Amendment Act, 2017* be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

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

**The Speaker:** — To which committee shall this bill be

committed? I recognize the Government House Leader.

**Hon. Mr. Brkich:** — I designate that Bill No. 102, *The Agri-Food Amendment Act, 2017* be committed to the Standing Committee on the Economy.

**The Speaker:** — This bill stands committed to the Standing Committee on the Economy.

### 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 from Saskatoon Nutana.

**Ms. Sproule:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's as always my honour to be able to rise in the Assembly and enter into the debates that have been adjourned and now we're resuming them again. And in this case today we're talking about some proposed changes to *The Residential Tenancies Act*.

And as you know, Mr. Speaker, if you've ever been a landlord or a tenant, the relationship between landlord and tenant has been subject to all kinds of legal applications and interventions over the years to, as the minister indicated in his comments in the second reading speech, is to ensure a balance between the rights of the landlord and the rights of the tenant.

I can only think of . . . What immediately comes to mind is a woman and her son, the McLeods, from Saskatoon who were seeking, desperately seeking help because the living situation they found themselves in was untenable. But because they had cognitive and physical disabilities, they were unable to locate other living arrangements.

The place they lived in, I think the landlord was charging almost \$1000 a month, and it was basically a garage with infestations of insects and a cement floor and negligible plumbing. It was really a disgusting place for these people to have to live. They were constantly having people knock on their doors demanding the rent on behalf of the landlord, and then he was claiming that he wasn't getting the rent. And ultimately it went to the Rentalsman and he was found responsible for his inactions and his demands on these poor people.

Ultimately, through some intervention with, on the behalf of my office through my CA [constituency assistant], and through the journalism of a *Saskatoon StarPhoenix* journalist, their plight became apparent to the public, and actually some good Samaritans stepped in, got them moved, got them established in a housing authority unit. And the frustration we had from our office was that even their social worker did not seem to have the time or the ability to be able to help these folks find a decent place to live.

And, Mr. Speaker, as you know, a roof over your head is always one of the most important things when we're talking about harm reduction, when we're talking about homelessness. And unfortunately for these folks, it even came to the point

where they were forced to leave that place because they couldn't live there anymore, and they ended up on the street and at the Lighthouse. But the rules at the Lighthouse wouldn't allow them to stay together, and the mom was terrified of being separated from her son. It was a horrible situation, and they ended up living outside for a few days before these good Samaritans stepped in. So those are sort of the extreme stories that we hear.

I remember reading another story in *The Walrus* actually, I think it was, about a professional tenant who would basically screw over the landlords over and over and over again. This person found ways to use the *Residential Tenancies Act* — I think it was in Ontario — to abuse landlords to the point of unbelievable proportions. I couldn't believe how clever this fellow was, and how he was able to work the system to the point where landlords were out thousands and thousands of dollars. They would find themselves in court, and their residences were trashed, and it was almost psychotic, Mr. Speaker.

And so I think those are the sort of extremes you can see when it comes to residential tenancies and the landlord and the tenant relationship. I know that when the housing, the rental shortages hit our cities, both your city of Regina and our city of Saskatoon a few years ago, and it was very difficult for people to find even a place to live. The rents were soaring and people were finding it very, very difficult to even pay rent in order to have a roof over their head.

So when the market drives rental prices, it puts a lot of people in very, very difficult situations, because of course rents are going up but their income isn't going up, so it makes a very difficult time for people. And I know that obviously if the market is soft and there's lots of locations, then rents can actually in some cases go down, and I think that has happened overall in Saskatoon at least. So those kinds of things, when people are on fixed incomes . . . I've talked to many seniors who were terrified because they were being basically booted out of their apartment of 20 years because of rent increases.

[15:45]

There's a building right across the street from my constituency office where it had been managed for 20, 30 years by some local Saskatoon businessmen. Elderly women, widows had lived there for 20 years. I'd go visit them when I was door knocking, Mr. Speaker. And all of a sudden they sold the building to a developer from Vancouver, and it was completely gutted. These folks were told, if you're not prepared to pay twice the rent, you have to leave.

They all did leave. They couldn't afford to live there anymore. And then ironically this developer went bankrupt because he had overextended himself, and then Block 1 took over, and so it just seemed like a greedy situation, Mr. Speaker. And a lot of good people who had lived in my constituency, Nutana, for 20, 30 years as retirees, living on fixed incomes, were forced to relocate in the city.

And so those kinds of stories I think we hear about a lot. And *The Residential Tenancies Act* is the intervention of the government and of law to try and balance those types of

relationships.

So in this particular bill, there's a couple of things that are being attempted. And the very first one I find is really kind of curious because there's a change being made to the right of the landlord to impose rules. Now as you know, Mr. Speaker, landlords can impose a lot of rules. You know, I mean, they can't really tell people how to live, but this clause actually sort of does tell people how to live, in particular in relation to the use of cannabis. So a change is being made.

The existing clause is section 22.1 of *The Residential Tenancies Act*. So I'm just going to share that right now. The original clause reads:

Subject to subsection (2), in addition to the obligations set out in a tenancy agreement, a landlord may establish and enforce rules about:

(a) the tenant's use, occupancy or maintenance of the rental unit or residential property; and

(b) the tenant's use of services and facilities.

So, Mr. Speaker, that seems to be a very straightforward clause. It does give the landlord a lot of power in terms of telling tenants what they can or cannot do when you think about their rules about their use, occupancy, and maintenance of the rental unit. So that's a pretty heavy ability for a landlord to be able to impose on tenants. I never really experienced, as when I was a tenant, too many requirements from my landlords. I think they generally were pretty hands off.

But the change that's being added to this clause reads this — I'll read the new section, 22.1(1):

(a) the tenant's use, occupancy or maintenance of the rental unit or residential property, [and here's the change] including rules prohibiting the possession, use, selling or distribution of cannabis or the growing and possession of cannabis plants in the rental unit.

So that's the change that's being added, Mr. Speaker. And I really am struggling with the public policy reasons for this clause. It seems pretty vague, and I'm not really sure what the attempt is here to deal with because, if you think about it, if you're a medicinal user of prescribed marijuana your landlord can now tell you and create rules about how you're taking that medicine.

I think that's a pretty invasive power to be giving to landlords, and I'm not sure if that was intended by this section or not. There's no sort of talk in here. It just says cannabis. It doesn't say medicinal marijuana. It doesn't say medicinal cannabis. It doesn't say recreational cannabis. So there's no distinction in this clause about what type of cannabis we're talking about. So I think that raises a whole host of questions and issues that would be very concerning for individuals who, for whatever reason, have medicinal marijuana. It's becoming more and more used as a powerful tool for pain relief for a lot, a lot, a lot of people suffering.

So what is the intent here? What is the public policy intent for

this government to give landlords the right to tell medicinal marijuana users how they can use medicinal marijuana? I'm not sure if that's overreach. I would call that an overreach, and I'm not sure if that's the overreach that the government intended or not. But I think it's loose wording and it's going to raise a lot of concerns.

On the flip side of that, Mr. Speaker, as you know, when marijuana is being smoked it's an acrid-smelling substance, right? It's like cigarettes, and many people are sensitive to those types of odours. So I can see why a landlord would want to be able to tell cannabis users who smoke cannabis that they can't use it in the rental building. I know there'd be lots of complaints if people were allowed to light up marijuana when they aren't able to light up cigarettes, for example. However, this clause doesn't restrict cigarette use; it only restricts cannabis use. So again, I question what the intent of this clause is.

I was talking to my colleague from Saskatoon Fairview and we thought, well maybe there's concerns about hydroponic growing, using hydroponic tools and methods to grow marijuana in a tenancy unit. And again, we've seen horror stories about the damages that illegal marijuana growing has caused in a number of housing units. Houses have been destroyed, extreme use of power — there's all kinds of things that could go wrong when somebody is illegally growing . . . grow ops, I guess, is the term that's used. And so maybe that's what this clause is attempting to deal with.

But it's not specific to grow ops. In fact, grow ops aren't even mentioned directly. It does say, growing and possession of cannabis plants. But if an individual has one cannabis plant sitting on their, you know, piano, I mean, is that what the landlord's . . . is that what the intent of this is to deal with, is to give landlords the right to tell people they can or cannot have marijuana plants when it's a perfectly legal substance once it's legalized. So those are some interesting concerns.

Now my colleague from Regina Elphinstone-Centre just pointed out to me a story that was published yesterday in the *Regina Leader-Post*, and this is an important case. This case establishes the right to protection for all tenants from harmful second-hand smoke. And the article goes on to say, the case stems from complaints of four tenants of the Regina Housing Authority buildings that allowed smoking after they suffered health complications. And it says:

For the first time in Saskatchewan, a court has upheld the right of tenants to be free from “unreasonable” second-hand smoke — even in a building that allows smoking.

And it goes on to talk about the case at hand. But again, you know, when you're a tenant, you don't want to be made sick by something that's happening in the apartment next to you or in the housing unit next to you. And certainly second-hand smoke is a major concern.

So from a public policy perspective, I can see why the government would want to allow landlords to make those rules. But it seems to me it should be limited to second-hand smoke concerns or hydroponic damage to the rental unit. That seems reasonable. But to merely possess cannabis, and it doesn't

separate medical use or recreational use, that seems to go a little too far, Mr. Speaker. And I don't think the government in their second reading speech has given us any indication what indeed is the true intent of this.

And then I ask myself, Mr. Speaker, well why wouldn't we then allow landlords to make rules about possession, use, and selling or distributing homemade wine, wine kits? Those are similar. Alcohol, as we know, is a drug of sorts, so why would they single out cannabis here and not tobacco or not alcohol? And I just don't understand where these changes are coming from. I know we're going to have to ask questions about that in committee once we get an opportunity to do that.

So that particular clause seems kind of out of nowhere; it seems not thought out well at all. It certainly doesn't provide for medical users of marijuana and cannabis for prescribed health treatments, and I don't think that's something this government really intended, although maybe they do intend that. But I think this is a very poorly written clause and it's one that will be, I think, attacked and subject to attack if it's left in its current form.

I'll just move on now, on to other changes that are being proposed. There's some, I think some balancing that's happening here in changes to section 70(14). So currently section 70 — have to find the right clause again, Mr. Speaker — section 70(14) tells us that the director . . . The context of this clause, it's a very long clause. This is applications to the director for a dispute. So this is going to the residential tenancies director for a dispute between a landlord and a tenant. So these are all the rules for the hearings when there is a residential tenancies hearing. Section 14 as it currently exists says:

The director may refuse to issue a written notice of hearing to, and a hearing officer may decline to make an order respecting, a landlord who:

is in contravention of an order made pursuant to this Act; or

has failed to forward a security deposit and any accrued interest to the director pursuant to section 33.

So in this case this only applies to landlords. And it says if you, the landlord, are in arrears or contravention to any order or fail to forward a security deposit to the director, you cannot apply for a hearing. So I think it's a pretty effective tool to ensure that landlords make the payments, follow the orders, and basically behave.

The minister indicated that this is imbalanced because we didn't have a countervailing clause that would apply to the tenants. So I think the intent here now is to add a new clause, subsection 70(14.1). And now this clause will read:

“The director may refuse to issue a written notice of hearing to, and a hearing officer may decline to make an order representing a tenant who is in contravention of an order that was previously made pursuant this Act and that is currently in force”.

So I think, Mr. Speaker, this balancing clause will deal with those tenants who are not behaving, who are not following the orders, where they've done something wrong and there's been an order issued against them. They won't be able to go to the director for a hearing for another matter if they haven't followed the orders that have been made against them in previous matters. And I think that would help deal with the tenant I was talking about earlier who worked the system so well and got a lot of people, landlords, in serious trouble because he was just working the system. So this at least is, I think, an attempt to ensure that those types of tenants don't get away with that kind of behaviour.

There's a change in the appeals section. And again this is whether or not someone who's unhappy with a decision made by the hearing officer or the director can go to court and get an appeal. This is being changed a little bit in clause (1.3), where it's being repealed and there's a new clause being substituted. So the previous clause talks about, under the regulations, subject to the regulations, I'll actually read the clause, Mr. Speaker. It's (1.3):

Subject to the regulations, if a tenant is appealing from an order issuing a writ of possession pursuant to subsection 70(13) with respect to a failure to vacate a property in accordance with a notice served pursuant to subsection 57(1), the appellant shall deposit with the local registrar:

the equivalent of one-half of one month's rent; or

proof satisfactory to the local registrar that the tenant's rent is fully paid.

So here we have the situation where a tenant has an order against them for whatever reason and there's a writ of possession. So the landlord is taking back the tenant's unit or rental space.

Then the appellant, if the tenant wants to appeal that, right now he has to give the equivalent of one-half of one month's rent or proof of payment of rent. The changes that are being proposed here are as follows. The new clause will read:

Subject to the regulations, a tenant may appeal an order issuing a writ of possession pursuant to subsection 70(13) with respect to a failure to vacate a property in accordance with a notice served pursuant to subsection 57(1) only if [and here's the change] the tenant continues to pay to the landlord the rent required to be paid pursuant to the tenancy agreement.

[16:00]

So this means that no longer does the tenant get away with only paying one-half of the rent. They have to actually pay the full rent to the landlord, even though they're appealing a decision of the board. And again, I think this will deal with those situations where tenants work the system and take advantage of the loopholes to refuse to pay rent and they're still living in the unit. In the current situation, they would only have to pay one-half of their rent. So I think that's a balancing act that the minister's attempting to do here, and it seems to make sense.

Section 85 is also being repealed and substituted. And what's happening here, this is the removal and disposition of abandoned goods by a landlord. Mr. Speaker, the other day I was hearing on the radio about a new thing that's happening where people are . . . There are storage units, there's a new style of storage unit where you can actually have wine tasting parties. It's sort of like a chi-chi storage unit. And the problem is, is that people have too much stuff. They simply have too much stuff.

And I know when I moved into the rental place that I stay here in Regina, the previous tenants left behind all kinds of stuff and the landlord had to deal with that, including beds that actually had bed bugs in them, Mr. Speaker. So that is a real problem for landlords.

And people acquire so much stuff now, and if they downsize and move to a smaller space or just . . . I know I have too many books and they just keep growing in the bookshelves in my home. So there's an accumulation of stuff, I think, that is happening in North America in particular, and I'm not sure about other parts of the world, where we just consume so much and we acquire so much stuff, we either leave it behind when we move or we have to get these fancy rental units, storage units, to go and visit our stuff, I guess. I mean it's just a bit strange.

Anyways, this whole section is a long section, and it deals with removal and disposition of abandoned goods by the landlord. So if a tenant takes off and leaves things behind, there are a number of provisions here which allows the landlord to get rid of this stuff that's been left behind, abandoned goods.

Now there is some new sections that are being added. And it's a new subsection 4, subsection 5, and subsection 6. And I'm just going to refer to the explanatory notes that have been provided as well so that we can understand what the intent of these changes are. Basically it makes it clear, and this is from the explanation on page six of the explanatory notes:

The new section 85 makes it clear that a landlord can dispose of abandoned property of a tenant without an order from the ORT if the value of the property is less than \$1,500. The landlord continues to have the obligation to attempt to locate the tenant prior to disposing of the property.

In all other cases, if it's obviously more than \$1,500, the landlord is obligated to get an order from the Office of Residential Tenancies, the ORT, before disposing of the abandoned property. And of course, the landlord can deduct their expenses from the proceeds of the disposal, and then the rest has to go to the ORT to hold for the tenant for six months. And if the tenant hasn't claimed those funds, they go to the Minister of Finance.

So I think that's an interesting clause, Mr. Speaker. When you think about it, tenant abandons goods; the landlord has to go to all the effort and work to clean it up, try to sell it, try to make money from those goods. And if the landlord makes more than what the landlord's efforts are, that money goes to the GRF [General Revenue Fund], the Minister of Finance. It's kind of a good deal for the government when they get to collect that money. I'm not sure it would be a huge amount of money. And

now I'm curious. I wonder exactly how much money does go to the Minister of Finance from the sale of abandoned goods. And I guess I'll be able to ask those questions in committee as well.

And of course if the landlord disposes of the property in accordance with the provision, they're not responsible to the tenant for the removal, sale, or disposition of the property. So this is a clause, I think, that again adds more of the balance that the minister was referring to in his second reading speech comments. So, again, people abandoning their stuff are going to have to make reasonable efforts to get rid of it or claim it. Otherwise, the landlord is being given additional authority to get rid of it, especially if it's less than \$1,500.

And, you know, I think it's hard to imagine a situation where someone might leave behind something worth more than \$1,500, but I am probably a little naive in that, Mr. Speaker, as who knows what people walk away from. And sometimes they just get overwhelmed by all the things they have and if they have to move to another city, they're forced, if they don't have a way to move their stuff, they're forced to leave it behind. So it may so happen that there's a number of instances where people have to leave stuff behind that's worth more than \$1,500.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think I've pretty much covered the changes that are being proposed here. I really am truly concerned about the intent of the insertion of allowing the landlord to dictate to the tenant how they may use cannabis. And we don't know if it's medicinal cannabis or residential cannabis. We don't know if it's intended to be directed to hydroponic activity or sales. Of course those would be illegal sales if they're not sold properly, and I would imagine that would be criminal activity. So of course a landlord can deal with criminal activity. But for recreational users who are growing one plant, why would that be any different than growing your own tobacco, or preparing homemade wine, or even having alcohol, Mr. Speaker? So it's a very strange clause, and I think we'll have some questions for the minister at the time when this bill is being considered in committee.

But at this point in time, I know that other of my colleagues will want an opportunity to speak to this bill, and I've exhausted my comments, so I move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 115, *The Residential Tenancies Amendment Act, 2017*.

**The Speaker:** — The member from Saskatoon Nutana 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 Saskatoon Fairview.

**Ms. Mowat:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to enter into debate today on Bill No. 94, *An Act to suspend Grant Payments pursuant to The Saskatchewan Advantage Grant for Education Savings (SAGES) Act*.

My colleagues across the aisle were chuckling a little bit as I was grabbing a different piece of paper. But the reason I was doing so, Mr. Speaker, is I wanted to read the full title of this Act and not the short title, because the short title of this Act doesn't have the word "suspend" in it. And I feel like that is a key piece to the legislation that's being proposed here. It's simply called an amendment Act, so I was looking for the full title to give people a full idea of what we're going to be talking about here today.

And the interesting thing about that title, Mr. Speaker, is it contains the words "Saskatchewan Advantage," which are two words that we heard quite a bit of, and I heard quite a bit of a number of years ago before I ever entered this House, before I knew I'd be entering this House, Mr. Speaker. The Saskatchewan Advantage. And this is what was being pitched to us and people across this province. So I think that there is something somewhat poetic about the fact that there's a suspension to this grant right now, Mr. Speaker, considering the language that they chose to employ with it.

So some of the changes that are being proposed here are related to the fact that this suspension is taking place. I'll provide a little bit of a background on what SAGES is. I don't know whether to say "is" or "was" because we're talking about a suspension which, you know, could very well end up as a permanent suspension, Mr. Speaker.

So in the 2017-2018 budget, the Sask Party announced that SAGES would be suspended as of January 1st, 2018. This is a program that provided a grant that would match 10 per cent of subscribers' RESP [registered education savings plan] contributions to a maximum of \$250 per child per year and a lifetime maximum of \$4,500. So the Sask Party announced that they would be cutting this grant. And this is, of course, one of the many cuts to advanced education that we've seen with the Sask Party in their budget. So this is making it harder for families to be able to save for education, which we know is quite costly. So I'm going to spend a little bit of time talking about some of these concerns, Mr. Speaker.

So from the explanatory notes that were provided — we get explanatory notes any time it's an amendment to a piece of legislation — we find that the SAGES eligible contributions are going to be suspended as of January 1st, 2018, that are made into RESPs. The program is going to continue to operate because there's existing money in that program, Mr. Speaker, and it needs to be managed, but this is what we're looking at.

I sort of missed the press conference on this. I didn't see a grand announcement coming from the members on the opposite side, but I guess this is something you would want to be downplaying a little bit more, Mr. Speaker. I missed the press conference on stopping this program here, suspending this program, just like I missed the press conference on a number of other cuts to education that we've seen — you know, cuts to our secondary education as well, you know, kindergarten through grade 12, and cuts to post-secondary, the elimination of the

tuition credit, which is also a big concern, Mr. Speaker.

And we're talking about the fact that this tax season is going to hit people quite a bit harder this year. So students are being cut so much harder this year, Mr. Speaker. They're being hit so much harder and at a time where they're finding out that they're not getting that tuition credit, it's quite difficult for them and, you know, it's just showing . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Just allow people to be calm a little bit here.

And in addition to the elimination of the first home plan, Mr. Speaker, which was a carrot that was dangled in front of a number of graduates, that they were going to be able to have \$10,000 toward an interest-free loan to go toward the down payment of their first houses. And I know this has hit a number of people personally, Mr. Speaker, and to share a personal situation, hit my family directly.

My partner and I were looking to buy a house last year. We were counting on this additional \$10,000. You know the down payments are not easy to come up with and it took us — we're in a lucky situation — it only took us a year to be able to get to the point where we could make up that money ourselves, but we were very much looking forward to using the first home plan and didn't have that as an option. We went through all the steps and checked out all the paperwork and heard right as the budget was dropping. You know, it was in tax season, about a month prior that we'd been looking into it and really exploring the fact that we were going to be moving last year.

So in our case in particular, absolutely prevented us from being able to buy our home together, which I know is something that people can relate to, is an important step, and it definitely pushed that back for us.

And of course we've seen cuts to the University of Saskatchewan — 5.6 per cent overall — the \$20 million cut to the College of Medicine that was only reversed, you know, after we saw that the med school was in danger, and cuts to our K to 12 [kindergarten to grade 12] education system as well, \$54 million that was cut from K to 12. Now the Premier's offering back \$30 million, which is definitely not the full amount, expecting people, that they're going to be very excited about that, by way of providing 7.5 million. So the numbers just don't add up.

Those jobs are gone. Those positions have been cut. You know, people have lost their livelihoods because of these cuts. And you can't just simply reverse it and hope that it's going to go away, especially when you're not providing that full amount. So this goes right in line with all of the cuts that we've seen.

My colleague from Athabasca, when he was providing his thoughts on second reading, Mr. Speaker, he talked about a press release that the Sask Party government provided on May 22, 2017 that said, "Our government's focus is on students. . . . We must ensure that they continue to have access to high quality . . . education." So one would assume that the focus being on students would mean that this would still be seen as an investment, Mr. Speaker. So the question becomes, why were the Sask Party motivated to make this change?

And I put in some written questions — question no. 96 and 97 from last session, Mr. Speaker — and I asked about what the overall value was of the provincial government contribution from 2013 to 2017. I found that in the 2013-2014 fiscal year, it was under \$1 million that was provided in total SAGES payments, and it moved up to 10.6 million in 2016-2017, and nearly 6 million for the first portion of 2017 to 2018 up until November of 2017. So that would be about halfway through the fiscal year, leading us to believe it would've been about \$12,000 total.

So I had a look at Public Accounts 2016-2017 to look at estimates to see what the Sask Party was estimating they would spend on this. And they had estimated for 2016-2017 that it would be 6.5 million when in fact it was around \$9 million. So I think, I suspect they were spending more than they had anticipated and that that led to a little bit of the concern over why a suspension should take place.

Now I also asked a question about the total number of SAGES recipients at the end of each year. Of course, these are cumulative numbers. It's not necessarily a different person that's benefiting the next year as did the year prior. But in 2017-2018 there were a total of 64,441 students that stood to benefit from these RESPs — 64,000. So this is that many families who were saving for their kids' education, who were doing what many believe to be parental duties in looking out for their children and their children's future, and doing so, you know, one would suspect quite proudly, Mr. Speaker.

So I'm not sure why these investments were viewed to be a priority when they were introduced, when this program was introduced, but are not a priority now, and why they're not seen as an investment. So it's curious that this would be the direction we would be going in, would be to choose to cut these programs. I submit that we need to invest in education, Mr. Speaker, that education leads to jobs.

And I have a report that specifically looks at some of these ideas, Mr. Speaker, and it's put forward by C.D. Howe Institute. It's called *Risk and Readiness: The Impact of Automation on Provincial Labour Markets*. And of course as job critic I'm quite concerned with what the labour market looks like right now, what's being done in the province, Mr. Speaker. So I read this report with enthusiasm back in the wintertime to look at where we were at in Saskatchewan and the automation of labour. And I promise you it directly relates to this piece of legislation.

So in the overall summary of this study, it talks about the fact that, as the demand for skills in labour markets continues to grow, there's room for public policy to moderate the effect of technological change on the labour market in a number of ways. This is perhaps a different view than the Economy minister has that he was voicing in question period today, Mr. Speaker, that we should let it be. But there are some occasions for government intervention that can be most beneficial to the province and our provincial economy.

So maybe this is one of the areas we should be looking at is our investment in education. So this commentary assesses the risk that in each province workers could be replaced by machines and the readiness of those workers to adapt to technological

change. So on page 4:

In this context . . . workers in New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador and Saskatchewan are the most susceptible to disruption due to technological change, while those in Ontario, British Columbia and Alberta face the least risk of labour market disruption due to technological change.

On page 11, Mr. Speaker, it summarizes what the two measures were to be able to make this assessment, and so the first measure was core skills. So the indicators were literacy, numeracy, problem solving in a technologically rich environment, many of these skills, Mr. Speaker, which can be learned through the K to 12 education program. The second indicator was simply and directly, advanced education, Mr. Speaker. So the per cent of the population with a post-graduate degree and employment rate for people with a post-graduate degree. So whether people have education and whether they are able to find employment in their line of work.

So this directly points to the fact that education levels are the key to the future of our economy in Saskatchewan, are going to make such a difference for us, and we should be seeing advanced education as a way to help us through technological advancement in the future and to help us through coping with these changes.

So having been through a lot of post-secondary education myself, we were discussing this a little bit before . . . As I was preparing for the bill, I was discussing with some of my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, I've spent, it's hard to believe, 13 years receiving post-secondary education. And it wasn't all in one degree so don't worry, it wasn't like I was trying the same class over and over again. But through the University of Saskatchewan getting an undergraduate degree in sociology and getting a master's degree in sociology, and then through the Royal Military College getting a master's in public administration, I have spent a great deal of time in a post-secondary institution paying tuition, Mr. Speaker. So I know first-hand how expensive it can be to be in these situations. My parents are fantastic people but absolutely did not have the money to be putting away for my education. And I know that if they had an opportunity to participate in a program like this, they would have been very happy to be able to do so.

And so many people like myself, Mr. Speaker, end up relying on student loans which are a great system for us. But at the end of the day, when you start paying back your student loans as I have been doing, the interest rate is quite high. It's prime plus 5 per cent which is quite a high interest rate on a loan to be faced with. You end up paying so much money in interest and not paying down the principal. And it really, especially if you don't have a good-paying job right when you get out of post-secondary, it can be very, very difficult to be able to make those monthly payments.

And they even have, you know, set-ups for deferred payments and that sort of thing. And they send you a letter right away saying if you can't make these payments, call us and we'll work with you because, I would assume, of how frequent it is that people have trouble paying those back. So student loans are challenging and shouldn't be the only option.

And if we are really looking at the value of education in saying that we prioritize education as the government has done, I cannot understand how we would be suspending a program that encourages families to save money, that encourages and leads to 64,000 future students having money to pay for their advanced education at a time where we need that, our economy needs it. It's a chance for us to be able to stimulate our economy and intervene where appropriate.

So I will leave more comments on this . . . I've been quite long-winded. I will leave more comments on this to my colleagues, and we'll have more questions in committee for sure. But with that, Mr. Speaker, I would move to adjourn debates on Bill 94.

**The Speaker:** — The member from Saskatoon Fairview has moved to adjourn 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 from Saskatoon Riversdale.

**Ms. Chartier:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's always my pleasure to enter into debate here in this House, today on Bill No. 95, *The Miscellaneous Statutes Repeal and Amendment Act, 2017*. We often have miscellaneous statutes repeal and amendment Acts before us, Mr. Speaker, usually every year. As the minister points out in his second reading speech, this particular legislation repeals legislation that he says has become outdated and obsolete. And I would argue sometimes it's not that the legislation has become outdated or obsolete. In some cases it has, but in some cases it's been a different direction the government has taken, particularly in this case one of the bills being amended is around the film tax credit. But I'll get to that in a few moments, Mr. Speaker.

But the minister does point out, just interestingly enough around some obsolete legislation, he talks about legislation that existed even before he was in law school, Mr. Speaker, which I suspect was a very, very long time ago. I'm not one to comment on those kinds of things but he did acknowledge that. But some of the legislation that is being repealed or amended here, there's . . . This proposed legislation repeals several Acts and proposes housekeeping amendments to others, so for example *The Child and Family Services Amendment Act, 2003* is repealed. New amending legislation to *The Child and Family Services Act* was introduced this particular session, and that's the same for *The Income Tax Act* and *The Penalties and Forfeitures Act*. Certain Acts appear to be directly repealed, like *The Closing-out Sales Act*, *The Community Bonds Act*, and *The Home Energy Loan*

Act. A section of *The Forest Resources Management Amendment Act* had a section repealed related to public disclosure and the confidentiality requirements in the Act. And this is definitely something that our critic and our caucus office will look into a little bit further.

There's some housekeeping to clean up a section never proclaimed in *The Enforcement of Money Judgments Act*, 2010. The bill repeals a section of *The Power Corporation Amendment Act*, 2001 that relates to recourse for payments owed. And I know I've had some colleagues who've been around a little bit longer than me, Mr. Speaker, who've been interested in the repeal of the Enterprise Saskatchewan bill. We know that actually the government stopped funding Enterprise Saskatchewan in 2013 and we do know from times before me in this House that Enterprise Saskatchewan was a particularly fond project of the premier of Saskatchewan, the previous Premier Wall. You could perhaps even say that it was his pet project, so it must be very hard for this government to see it go.

We need to point to an article in 2007 by the now retired reporter Bruce Johnstone who wrote for the *Leader-Post*: "Enterprise Saskatchewan, Premier-elect Brad Wall's vision of how to manage the province's economic development, could be the biggest achievement of his administration. Or it could be the biggest flop."

So I guess if we're repealing that, Mr. Speaker, it's pretty clear where we landed on that particular issue, Mr. Speaker. I know my colleague from Elphinstone-Centre had quite enjoyed, or put many good remarks on the record regarding this particular bill, around Enterprise Saskatchewan.

But I think for me, as a former Culture critic, I couldn't help but be drawn to part 2 of this particular bill. And under consequential amendments it still is referring to the film employment tax credit. It's being amended in a few different ways, Mr. Speaker, so I would suspect because you can't . . . Even though the program is dead, there is still the possibility, I suppose, of people filing tax on that. But I think it takes me to the policy question of whether or not we should have cut the film employment tax credit.

I think I've been quite clear where I and our caucus have stood on this over the years, but it's been six years now since that budget where the government cut the film employment tax credit. That was in the spring of 2002, and I can tell you and I know, Mr. Speaker, that you know people who have left this province due to that cut. I want to talk a little bit about . . . And I would say that was an incredibly short-sighted cut.

[16:30]

I'm not alone in that. The Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce actually at the time put out a report with SaskFilm. And I just want to point you to an article on CBC News, CBC Saskatchewan from October 30th, 2012, when we were in the legislative session at that point in time. And in this particular report commissioned by the chamber it found the net cost to taxpayers of the film tax credit was lower than the government had said, at just over \$1 million a year. But the net economic benefit of the film tax credit was \$44.5 million.

The CEO of the chamber, Steve McLellan, said, "In this case it is very clear that the processes used by the province to cut this program had many flaws. Key facts were missing and no consultations were done before the announcement of what some thought would be a simple program cut." He went on to say that the decision showed the provincial government lacked "sector-specific knowledge" and transparency. And he went on to say that the chamber would have approved spending \$1 million per year in return for the 850 jobs it supported.

This was a real issue, not just for New Democrats on this side of the House, but people all over Saskatchewan. I know that there were many people who wrote to the premier and the minister responsible at that time who weren't New Democrats or weren't partisans. They were simply people who knew that the film industry reaped many benefits for the people of Saskatchewan, including things like pride of place. It's always pretty cool to see, even if your community is portrayed as somewhere else, it's pretty cool to recognize, hey, I know that building and that building is in my hometown community.

So that pride of place, the opportunity to tell our stories, there were many . . . We did do some service productions from the United States, Mr. Speaker, but there were a lot of opportunities and some really, some award-winning producers who made productions that reflected Saskatchewan stories, Mr. Speaker. *Corner Gas* I believe was in over 100 different countries around the world, Mr. Speaker.

Economic spinoffs, that's something that we really need to talk about right now and it's important to recognize that having a film tax credit right now, although not a panacea — it wouldn't be the silver bullet for our diverse economy — but it certainly would help at a time where we hear about major job losses here in Saskatchewan. We continue to hear this. In the last couple of days, the story around mortgage arrears, the number of families in Saskatchewan, close to 1,000 in this last little while, who've gone into mortgage arrears because our natural resource economy has had some challenges. We've got a national rate of mortgage, or a provincial rate of people in arrears for their mortgages three times the national average.

So you think about what having a more diverse economy like supporting the cultural sector through the film industry could have done to help level some of that out. We can look to places like Manitoba, for example, which has a very similar population, Mr. Speaker. I'm just going to use some technology here to take a look at some news stories as of very recent actually, looking at the Manitoba film industry. So we have the Manitoba film industry who is on track, so the film industry and film workers, the rate has grown by about 4.3 per cent per year according to a CBC [Canadian Broadcasting Corporation] article with the headline, "More Manitobans working in film industry, census shows." And actually someone who is quoted, his name is Mr. Freeman, he is a . . . I need to start wearing reading glasses; I really do, Mr. Speaker.

Anyway, Alan Freeman, a retired cultural economist who had been reviewing the data around the size of the creative industries in Canada and the provinces says about Manitoba, he talks about the growth rate of the Manitoba film industry or the workforce by 4.3 per cent, and talks about the Canada-wide average. So Manitoba was lower, but he points out that:

“Those provinces that have big urban centres, so B.C., Ontario, Quebec, always do better. If you look at the rest of the pack, then Manitoba is up on the top,” he said. “We have 2,700 people working in the industry — for whom the industry gives employment . . . If you go into the micro-detail of what the industry’s doing, it’s a real success story.”

We could be that success story, Mr. Speaker. And instead there’s been an exodus of film workers over the years since that cut in 2012, to places like BC, places like Manitoba, places like Ontario. I believe Manitoba is on track, I think close to . . . I think it was \$130 million that I read, or \$137 million, in film production this year. It was a record year for them. And they’re estimating that . . . I believe it was 130 or 137, but I closed the story that said that and I won’t take your time in searching for that.

But I think it’s also important to look to the Saskatchewan numbers and the government’s argument at the time, why they cut the film tax credit. So in 2004, here in Saskatchewan, according to a *Globe and Mail* article . . . And I used to have these numbers on the tip of my tongue when I was the Culture critic, but I had to look them up. So in *The Globe and Mail* article in June 2012, it points out that the peak of the film industry in Saskatchewan was 67 million, and then in the fiscal year ’10-11 it dropped to 28.5 million. But there were some economic challenges here. We had just a couple of years prior to that a global economic meltdown, Mr. Speaker. We had a high Canadian dollar which made Saskatchewan and other provinces, to be quite honest, less appealing to those service productions from out of province. So I think it was unfair of the government.

The government did talk about falling film production rates, but I don’t think they talked about it in the context of what was going on in the rest of the world, Mr. Speaker. And to think if we would’ve held on, I mean where our Canadian dollar is right now . . . You look at, like I said, Manitoba, BC, Ontario. BC is at the top of the pack now, and they are busier than they have ever been. I just spoke with someone, a gaffer in the film industry in BC a few days ago, and he was telling me he’s had his record two years in work, the busiest he’s ever been in BC right now.

So I can’t help but think this government was stubborn and made a bad decision. And unlike their rhetoric around being willing to revisit decisions, Mr. Speaker, they buried their head in the sand and ignored the evidence, ignored evidence from folks like the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce. They heard what they were hearing. They ignored what they heard from people across the province, from small towns, from larger centres. They ignored what they heard about the film industry’s impact on restaurants, on hotels, on clothing shops, on lumber yards.

I had the opportunity to hear from a restaurateur about . . . well probably now a couple years ago, but he said his business had never recovered and never reached the levels it had. He’s a person in downtown Regina who said that, since the cut to the film tax credit had happened, that his business had seen a very noticeable decline in business and it was frustrating to him. It’s frustrating to people all across Saskatchewan, especially when

we see where we’re at with some challenges with our economy, Mr. Speaker, and we see how other provinces are really reaping the benefits of a strong film industry supported by a film tax credit that helped generate that economic benefit, Mr. Speaker.

So I know the minister talked about outdated and obsolete legislation in his speech. And again that language, sometimes the legislation is obsolete or outdated, especially when it perhaps is as old as the minister’s . . . long before the minister was in law school, perhaps. But I can tell you that this kind of legislation, these miscellaneous statutes Acts, often deal with unfortunate policy decisions this government has made. In this case we’re having an amendment to the film tax credit Act as it pertains to *The Income Tax Act* and it is just a shame that Saskatchewan is missing out on the booming film industry in the rest of Canada, Mr. Speaker.

I think about one of my dearest friends. Her daughter who is very interested in the film industry, she did a program in Saskatoon at Evan Hardy in grade 11, media school. She knew she wanted to be a producer. She loves the film industry. We do still have a film school here in Regina, but she knew that she needed to go somewhere where she could make contacts in that industry so she could actually be hired. So my good friend’s daughter is at school in Ryerson right now, in Ontario, which is sad for my good friend, my dear friend. But it’s also super expensive to live in Toronto, so she’s supporting her daughter, helping support her daughter to go to school in Toronto because this government cut the film tax credit.

This is a government who bragged about attracting young people here, but we chased young people away when we did this. So I just think about people I know in my life and how it’s had an impact on them. And those stories, I think we all have those stories, Mr. Speaker.

Anyway, I know that there are other bills to speak to today and the film tax credit portion is just a small piece of this bill. But again it’s a shame that the government was short-sighted six years ago. And I hope after our last budget last year, Mr. Speaker, that was incredibly damaging to so many people, that we see better from the government in the next few weeks when they present their budget.

But with that, I would like to move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 95, *The Miscellaneous Statutes Repeal and Amendment Act, 2017*.

**The Speaker:** — The member from Saskatoon Riversdale 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 Nutana.

**Ms. Sproule:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and I am pleased to be able to rise and enter into the debate today on *The Arbitration (Family Dispute Resolution) Amendment Act, 2017*. Reading through this bill brought me back to my law school days in the early '90s when the whole notion of — they used to call it ADR — alternative dispute resolution was just starting to take hold in the legal world.

And I think there are many reasons for looking at alternatives to dispute resolution as opposed to the court process, and first and foremost was the horrible cost of going through litigation within the civil court system. And so it was just sort of catching on. This was in the early '90s. So by '94 I was able to take a class in law school called the alternative dispute resolution class. It was a seminar and it was a great class, co-taught by Dan Ish from Saskatoon and Dan Hamoline. And it was actually one of my favourite classes that I took because it was a refreshing new look at how disputes are resolved in society and what the role of the court is in that process.

So when you talk about resolution of disputes . . . And you think this can apply in so many circumstances, Mr. Deputy Speaker. But the dispute arises, and the first thing we always talk about in dispute resolution is whether or not that dispute can be resolved amongst the parties without help from anyone else or without resorting to a third party to resolve the dispute.

And so, Madam Deputy Chair . . . Welcome to the Chair. Nice to see you there and pleased to be able to see a woman sitting in the seat. That's a wonderful thing. I'm not sure, Madam Deputy Chair, if you're the first female Deputy Chair but . . . No? I'm informed there have been other members in that spot, but look forward to addressing you.

So in the dispute resolution, they called it a continuum. So the first matter in a dispute is obviously to talk to that person, and in this context we're talking about family dispute resolution. As you can imagine, Madam Deputy Chair, the disputes for families are some of the most difficult and heart-wrenching disputes that ever I think we can think of, when children are involved, when there's acrimony involved. And we've all heard examples of family disputes that have been heart-wrenching and very, very difficult, many in our own families or our friends' and our neighbours'.

The courts have struggled with this for a long, long time. And I think the first sort of recognition that this was a unique form of disputes that perhaps the law and the courts needed to respond to was the establishment of the family law court. And in Saskatoon there was a pilot project headed up by Judge Mary Carter, and this was a revolutionary approach to attempting to deal with those very, very difficult family law disputes which people struggle with so much. And I remember going . . . being involved through a friend in a family law dispute when I was in law school, and it was so emotional and so heartbreaking. And I was just a friend of the people that were arguing and in conflict.

[16:45]

So I think the establishment of the family law courts was a great

start for looking at family disputes. It's a very different thing than perhaps two businesses in a squabble about a contract. So it was a unique way for those disputes to be looked at. And when I go back to the continuum of dispute resolution, obviously if a couple can sort things out themselves and don't have to resort to the courts, that's a good thing. And I'm fortunate to say that I was able to do that with my ex-husband, and we never needed to resort to the courts. So that's good. And I feel fortunate that I had a spouse . . . and also an ex-spouse, the father of my children. It was also something we were able to resolve amicably. And that's the beginning.

If you cannot find that resolution amongst yourselves, then there are a number of legal tools that we can go to. And even in any dispute, not necessarily a family dispute, your next step could be something called mediation, and courts use and mandate mediation now in many ways. I think people get a misconception of what mediation is supposed to do. It's not intended to be solving the problem. Mediation is just an opportunity for people to explore to see if there is a win-win or a way for them to get to an agreement where their needs are met.

And I think, as you can imagine, Madam Deputy Chair, in many family dispute situations, the raw emotion that's still there is something that makes mediation very, very difficult. However there are highly trained and very skilled mediators who can allow the parties who are in conflict to find a space where they can see some common ground and move forward, and then take forward their dispute to a place where they can resolve it amongst themselves again. So there's the role of mediation.

The next step we always talked about, and you'll find this in union disputes, is conciliation, where that's a form really more unique to labour disputes which have their own body of law. And then we talk about arbitration before you go to court, so . . . Well farewell, Madam Deputy Chair, and welcome back, Mr. Speaker. Madam Deputy Speaker . . . We now have Mr. Speaker back in the Chair.

And when you talk about arbitration, that is a unique form of dispute resolution again that I think has been used in very specific circumstances for many, many years. And most often I think it's being used in the labour laws scenario where the party's union and the management cannot come to an agreement. But if their collective agreement provides for binding arbitration, this is something they've negotiated in the past and saying, we agree that if we ever get to a point where we cannot come to a resolution, we will go before an arbitrator.

And you might ask yourself, what's the difference between an arbitrator and a court? Arbitration resembles the court process in many ways, but it takes away some of the formalities and the evidentiary rules that I think quite often . . . In a court situation, the legal counsel become embroiled in procedural disputes which sort of side rail or detract from the actual conflict itself. So arbitration has been seen as a very useful tool for large groups, for example, unions. And also I think it's being applied in a whole host of other ways, Mr. Speaker.

So what we see here in this Act to amend *The Arbitration Act* is the introduction of a whole new concept, and this is called

family arbitration. And apparently there are family arbitrators. This is a change that I think has evolved.

When you talk about dispute resolution law, as I said, in the early '90s that was becoming very popular, and then mediation was seen as a way to facilitate resolution disputes and even . . . Well I want to get into the conflict management, but conflict resolution. Not all disputes can be resolved, Mr. Speaker, and that's okay. That's the human condition. What we need to do is be able to manage those conflicts so that people can move forward with their lives.

So we saw in the early '90s the evolution of what they called ADR, alternative dispute resolution, which in my mind, really there shouldn't have been an "A" in front of it. It's just dispute resolution and there's a whole host of tools available. In more recent years, we've seen a movement within the practices of law in various provinces, something called collaborative law. And this again is an approach by legal counsel who recognize that courts are not always the best place to go for resolving a conflict or resolving a dispute, and often you can find ways collaboratively to come together and resolve the dispute.

And it brings to mind, Mr. Speaker, the words of our new Lieutenant Governor, Thomas Molloy, because he talked today about as a society, some of the teachings of other people that we share the land with, and some particular First Nations in the North, where they called it the common bowl. And this is a place where we can all come together and collaborate to find resolution of disputes or manage disputes.

I mean again we cannot ever resolve all the disputes and I could think of, you know, my friends and my family and my colleagues and there are often disputes that exist and we don't always agree or don't always see eye to eye. But it's being respectful about that and working together collaboratively for the better good to ensure that we leave this place better than we found it, or that we treat each other with respect and kindness. And I guess as humans that's an aspiration that is honourable and desirable. So family arbitration seems to be a new fallout from this notion of collaborative law.

And I just want to read into the record a description of what family arbitration is because this is a paper from the United Kingdom. And for *Hansard* I'll just give you the title: it's from the Institute of Family Law Arbitrators, and it's called *A Guide to the Family Law Arbitration Scheme: An Introductory Guide for Family Arbitrators, Judges and Professional Referrers, Third Edition*. So obviously it's focusing on family law in the UK [United Kingdom] but I think it's applicable to these changes to *The Arbitration Act* we see here today.

So on page 3 it reads:

Family arbitration in a nutshell

#### 1. Definition

Family arbitration is a form of private dispute resolution in which the parties enter into an agreement under which they appoint a suitably qualified person (an "arbitrator") to adjudicate a dispute and make an award. It can be used to resolve financial disputes and disputes

concerning children.

Family arbitration is thus akin to court proceedings in that a family arbitrator will produce a decision after hearing the evidence and each party's case. In financial cases the decision is called an award and in children cases it is called a determination.

They go on to describe the particular laws in the UK that give the authority for this family arbitration, and then they go on to say:

Family arbitration is distinct from mediation in that a decision on the substance of the dispute between the parties may be imposed by the family arbitrator or arbitral tribunal. It is therefore binding upon the parties to the dispute.

Mediation can take place in parallel with an on-going family arbitration: sometimes a family arbitrator may consider mediation would benefit a couple and he may suggest this. Conversely, mediators may recommend family arbitration if it seems clear that a dispute, or one aspect of it, cannot settle in mediation.

I'll just read one more part of this, Mr. Speaker:

#### 2. Background

Arbitration is widely used in commercial disputes. In England and Wales, the domestic framework is provided by the Arbitration Act 1996 . . . [And of course we have comparable legislation here, Mr. Speaker.] The Act has a number of distinctive features, but is broadly comparable to arbitration legislation and regulation in other European states and the US, and to the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) 'Model Law' which has provided the basis for regulation of arbitration in Scotland and many other parts of the world.

And then it goes on to say:

The Act seeks to draw an appropriate balance between allowing parties freedom to determine the procedure for resolution of their dispute, while at the same time maintaining adequate supervision by the courts.

And I'll just stop there for a second. I think when you think about it, it seems to be necessary in family law disputes sometimes to have supervision, and I don't know why. Of course we like to think as adults we can all get along and resolve these disputes, but we know darn well that's not the case, Mr. Speaker, and so people need protection.

And I think in a lot of family law disputes there is often an imbalance in power, imbalance in economic power, imbalance in emotional power. And so quite often people can become victims if the system isn't attuned to that. And of course in many family law disputes some of the people that become victims would be children involved in the family breakdown or the marital breakdown anyways. So this is a vulnerable place for many people to find themselves in, and so having an ability

to reach out to the court system, to the larger society to give you those protections you need . . .

And I mean one doesn't have to look much further than some of the marital property laws that came into Saskatchewan. I remember hearing professor Ellen . . . I forget the last name, already. She was one of the original judges . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . No, this is Schmeiser. Ellen Schmeiser was one of the people who brought in the matrimonial property law regime in the province of Saskatchewan in the 1970s. And I'll never forget because the thought . . . and I think Louise Simard also mentioned this to me as well. She was very involved as a legislator when that law was brought in. And everyone thought that this would help younger women, like younger women would be the ones who would be coming forward with these matrimonial property law resolutions. What happened is that women who had been married 30, 40 years were the first ones to come forward because they'd been economically trapped in a marriage that they did not want to be part of, but they had no way to get out of.

So when you think about the role of the courts, the role of society in assisting economic freedom and protection for women who were otherwise very, very vulnerable, it is certainly laudable and, I think, a sign that as a society when we come to the common bowl that we can look after women, we can look after children and provide them the supports, they need to not be caught up in this.

So just specifically to the bill, Mr. Speaker, there's a few definitions now being added such as "family arbitrator" and "family law dispute." The regulations clause is being amended to allow the government to decide who is allowed to hang up their shingle as a family arbitrator and I think that's a very . . . As a new profession, I think we have to pay a lot of close attention to make sure that people who designate themselves or hang up their shingle as a family arbitrator have the proper qualifications and experience to make those kinds of decisions because these are final decisions.

Of course there is provision being made in this bill to ensure that if a decision was improper or unfair, there still will be an ability to go to the courts to make sure that there isn't something that's unfair happening. So courts can intervene in certain circumstances and set aside their arbitration agreement if they're satisfied that one or more of the circumstances as set out in the Act are met.

So I think there's a lot of good changes being made here and, as I see this, this is a continual evolution of the role of courts in our society, the role of dispute resolution particularly when parties aren't necessarily equal, particularly when there are children involved.

The minister didn't indicate where these changes were coming from or who was recommending them. We don't know who he's consulted with or whether this is just something that he came up with on his own or it's something that was proposed by his officials. So I think we'll want to know a little bit more in terms of how this evolution is happening. What's the involvement of the Law Society? Are there other people involved that would be interested?

So I think at this point, Mr. Speaker, I know other of my colleagues will want to speak to this bill, but I will move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 97, *The Arbitration (Family Dispute Resolution) Amendment Act, 2017*.

**The Speaker:** — The member from Saskatoon Nutana 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. It now being 5 p.m., this Assembly stands adjourned until tomorrow at 10 a.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 17:00.]



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