



SECOND SESSION - TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

of the

**Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

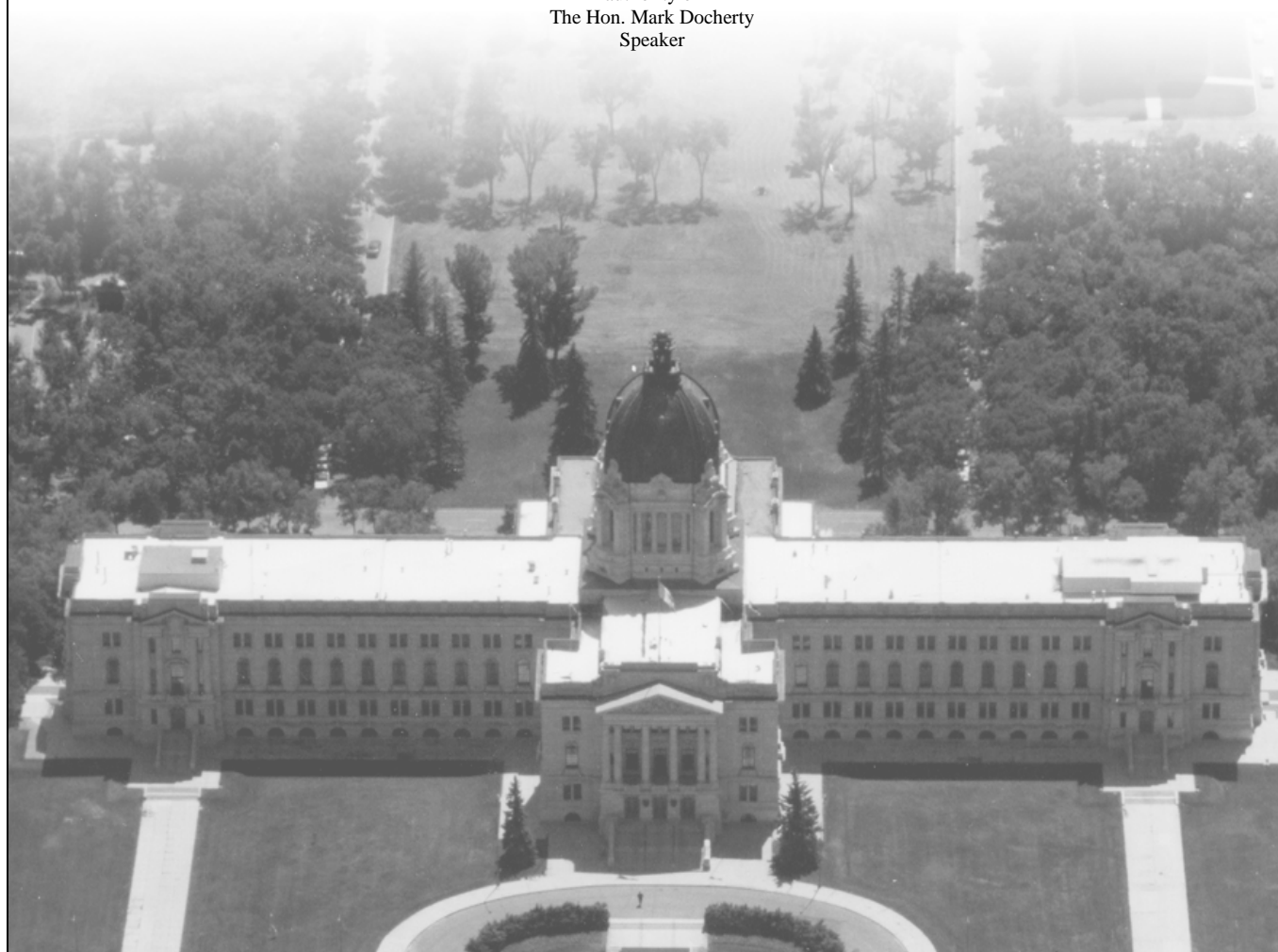
---

**DEBATES  
and  
PROCEEDINGS**

---

(HANSARD)

Published under the  
authority of  
The Hon. Mark Docherty  
Speaker



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

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

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

Vacant — Regina Northeast

---

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

**Clerks-at-the-Table**

**Clerk** — Gregory A. Putz

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

**Principal Clerk** — Iris Lang

**Clerk Assistant** — Kathy Buriaynk

**Sergeant-at-Arms** — Terry Quinn

**Hansard on the Internet**

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

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

[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

## STATEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

### Imputing Motives

**The Speaker:** — I have a statement about the line of questions asked by the member for Saskatoon Centre during yesterday's question period. The questions raised the spectre of a connection between the private interest of a minister, political donations, conflict of interest, and the motivation of cabinet with the possible sale of government real estate.

"These are serious questions about the motivations of the Saskatchewan government's front bench," the member said before going on to link that statement with a statement referring to the Minister of Central Services' personal stake in commercial real estate and the political donations he took from real estate companies.

Beauchesne's *Parliamentary Rules & Forms*, 6th Edition, paragraph 484(3), states in part, and I quote, "... a Member will not be permitted by the Speaker ... to impute to any Member or Members unworthy motives ...". To impute is to assign by inference. After reviewing the *Hansard* verbatim, it is clear to me that the questions insinuated that the minister and cabinet might be motivated by personal interest and political donations.

The *House of Commons Procedure and Practice*, 3rd Edition, page 619, states the following: "Remarks which question ... integrity, honesty or character are not in order."

I want to point out what Speaker Hagel said in this Assembly about question period on May 27th, 1998: "... it is never, ever appropriate that, engaging in political cut and thrust of debate in this Assembly, that members would draw into question the character of another member."

The questions asked yesterday by the member for Saskatoon Centre imputed unworthy motives on the part of the minister and questioned the character of cabinet ministers to make honourable decisions. For this reason, I rule the questions to be out of order.

I repeat what I said yesterday. This House is honourable. I expect you to have your questions with that frame in mind, please.

I now ask the member from Saskatoon Centre to rise, withdraw, and apologize for the statements he made in question period yesterday.

**Mr. Forbes:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise and withdraw and apologize.

Thank you.

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

## INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to the Assembly, I wish to introduce 23 grade 8 students in the west gallery from the Redvers School. With them today are their teachers, Kayla Henderson and Robert Duncan, as well as parent chaperones Todd Garnier, Cheryl Ohnander, and Murray Aulie. Earlier this morning we did a mock parliament here on the floor of the Assembly with the school, and they did a very good job, Mr. Speaker. And Mr. Speaker ably chaired that meeting.

**An Hon. Member:** — Ice cream.

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — It's already too late. They ate. I would ask members to welcome them to their Assembly.

**The Speaker:** — Where are you from? I forgot where you're from.

**An Hon. Member:** — Regina Rochdale.

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

**Ms. Ross:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to rise in the House today and acknowledge some very hard-working, community-minded individuals seated in your gallery. We have the organization committee from Spring Free from Racism here today. And it's wonderful to see the kind of work they do within the community to ensure that people understand that everyone is welcome and everyone is to be treated equally in the province of Saskatchewan.

And so with great pleasure we welcome Barb and her committee here today that work so diligently to ensure that there's a very successful event on Spring Free from Racism. Thank you so much.

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

**Ms. Beck:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to join the member from Regina Rochdale in welcoming these members of the Spring Free from Racism steering committee to your gallery. With us today we have Barb Dedi, Brian Sklar, Kai Hutchence, Tamara Bailey, Jackie Krasko, and I also see Shelley up there.

As the member opposite noted, they work hard year round. In fact I'm sure they're already working towards planning the 20th anniversary of their very successful Spring Free from Racism event, Mr. Speaker. And I would invite all members to join me in welcoming them to their Assembly and thanking them for their hard work over the last 19 years.

## PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

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

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

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by citizens of Shellbrook, Leask, Parkside, and Debden. I do present.

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

**Ms. Beck:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise again today to present a petition calling on the government to stop the cuts to our children's classrooms. Mr. Speaker, those who have signed this petition today wish to draw our attention to the following: to the fact that this government saw fit to take an additional \$67 million, Mr. Speaker, in additional property tax into the GRF [General Revenue Fund] but at the same time cut \$54 million from our children's classrooms.

As might be reasonably expected, Mr. Speaker, these cuts have had a devastating impact to classrooms all across this province, including cuts to programs, to staffing cuts, as well as the loss of busing for kindergartners and the loss of specialized pre-K [pre-kindergarten] programs for kids with special needs, including autism and those who are deaf and hard of hearing. 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 system 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 Centre.

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to raise the petition I've been raising for several weeks in this House, and that is to get big money out of Saskatchewan politics.

And we know that citizens here in the province of Saskatchewan want to bring to our attention the following: that Saskatchewan's outdated election Act allows corporations, unions, and individuals, even those outside this province, to make unlimited donations to our province's political parties; and that the people of Saskatchewan deserve to live in a fair province where all voices are equal and money can't influence politics.

Mr. Speaker, we know the past Sask Party leader, Brad Wall, was the only premier in this country who collected a special cash bonus paid for by taxpayer-funded subsidies and a portion of millions of donations they collected from corporations and

big-money donors, including from those outside this province. And over 10 years, Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan Party has received \$12.61 million in corporate donations, and of that, \$2.87 million come from companies outside of Saskatchewan. And we know that Saskatchewan politics belong to Saskatchewan people.

Mr. Speaker, the federal government and the provinces of Alberta, Manitoba, Quebec, and British Columbia now have moved to limit this influence and level the playing field by banning corporate and union donations to political parties, leaving us virtually the last wild west of Canada when it comes to political donations. Mr. Speaker, I would like to read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Government of Saskatchewan call on the Sask Party to overhaul Saskatchewan's campaign finance laws, to end out-of-province donations, to put a ban on donations from corporations and unions, and to put a donation limit on individual donations.

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

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

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition calling for critical workplace supports for survivors of domestic violence. Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan has the highest rates of intimate partner violence amongst all of the provinces, and we all know that we must do so much more to protect survivors of domestic violence.

Mr. Speaker, for many of those who experience domestic violence, the violence follows them to their workplace. And all these petitioners are asking for is that five paid days leave and up to 17 weeks of unpaid days leave should be made available to workers who are survivors of domestic violence. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call upon the Saskatchewan Party Government to pass legislation to ensure critical supports in the workplace, including reasonable accommodation and paid and unpaid leave for survivors of domestic violence.

Mr. Speaker, the individuals signing the petition today come from Regina. I do so present.

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

**Ms. Chartier:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise again to present a petition calling on the Sask Party government to appoint a seniors' advocate. The petitioners point out that the concerns of seniors have not been a priority for the Sask Party government. They talk about cuts to services for seniors increasing in this last budget, Mr. Speaker, increasing long-term care fees, cutting the hearing aid plan, cutting podiatry services, raising the cost for seniors to purchase medication, taking many

people off the seniors' drug plan.

The petitioners point out that this province does not have a legislated minimum quality of care standard, Mr. Speaker, in long-term care, even with continued reports — we've had an Ombudsman's report; we had an auditor's report just as of last June actually on this issue; and CEO [chief executive officer] reports year after year, including this last February — that point out that staffing levels is a real issue in long-term care that puts at risk safety, quality of life, and dignity for seniors, Mr. Speaker.

The petitioners point out that other provinces have a seniors' advocate and it's worked very well for them to ensure seniors have the supports they need and they deserve; and that a seniors' advocate here would provide vital support for seniors and their families across the province in a proactive way. I'd like to read the prayer:

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

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

#### STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

#### Spring Free from Racism Event

**Ms. Beck:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This past Sunday I was pleased to join yourself and the member for Regina Douglas Park in attending the 19th annual Spring Free from Racism event here in Regina. Spring Free from Racism celebrates and brings awareness to the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination by hosting a family day full of cultural entertainment, food, and displays. This year the event was again held at the Italian Club and, Mr. Speaker, it was a packed house. In fact there were more wonderful things to do and eat than ever before. And, Mr. Speaker, those who have attended the event in the past know that that's quite a feat.

Mr. Speaker, Spring Free from Racism has grown significantly over the years. Nineteen years ago the event was held in a very small room and there were about 150 people in attendance. On Sunday over 5,000 people attended, and there were hundreds of performers.

[13:45]

Mr. Speaker, much of the population growth we have seen in our province in recent years comes from international immigration. People from around the world not only bring their skills and talents to our province, they bring their languages, cultures, and unique identities. Our diversity is what makes this province strong, and it's events like this that bring our community together to celebrate and learn from each other that are so important.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the president of Spring Free from Racism, Barb Dedi, and her whole team for putting on such a fantastic event. Thank you.

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

#### Reopening of Variety Place

**Hon. Mr. Brkich:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On January 16th I was pleased to join community members, dignitaries, and day program participants in Outlook to celebrate the grand reopening of the Variety Place day program building in Outlook. The house was packed with people who came out to see the new look of the building.

I'm proud our government invested in this renovation so that this program could be more accessible and inclusive for all of its clients. Our government provided \$350,000 to cover renovation costs to do the improvements.

Variety Place is an integral part of the community. It delivers supports and services for people with disabilities. This is just one of the many examples that show our government is prioritizing people with disabilities. It is great to see the changes and upgrades made to many areas of the building, such as the improved entry, the locker area, the addition of a sensory room, and a redesigned, more functional kitchen. The clients are also looking forward to spring, when they can have barbecues and get-togethers on the new cement patio.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Variety Place for their commitment to the people of this province. They play a vital role in supporting the Saskatchewan disability strategy as we work together to improve the lives of people experiencing disabilities. I would ask that all members join me in congratulating Variety Place, its employees, volunteers, and community partners in their new beginning. Thank you.

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

#### Provincial Curling Championship

**Ms. Mowat:** — Mr. Speaker, earlier this month I had the pleasure of welcoming curlers from across the province to the 2018 CURLSASK joint masters provincial championship. I was invited to speak at the opening luncheon at the CN Curling Club in Saskatoon. This was a particularly special opportunity for me, Mr. Speaker, as I've been a member of the CN Curling Club for a number of years.

Mr. Speaker, our club hosted over 20 men's and women's masters teams from across the province. I want to congratulate men's champions, Team Hritzuk. The Saskatoon-based team moves on to the national championships after they posted a perfect record at provincials. In the final end, Hritzuk edged out Peter Thiele of Regina with a 7-6 win in extra ends. Team Hritzuk last won the national championship in 2014.

Mr. Speaker, it was a repeat performance for Team Syrota. With a record of six wins and just one loss, Delores Syrota and her Wadena team are once again provincial masters champions. They were able to defeat five-time champion Merle Kopach in

Sunday's final with a 7-5 margin, capturing the title for a second straight year. Both teams will represent Saskatchewan in April at the national championship held in British Columbia.

I ask that all members join me in congratulating Team Hritzuk and Team Syrota for their wins, and a special thank you to the CN Curling Club and all of the organizers and volunteers who made this a success.

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

### Young Athlete Recognized

**Hon. Mr. Reiter:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize an inspiring young man from Rosetown, my home community. Mr. Speaker, Kendall McFaul is a fifth-year defenceman and four-year captain of the University of Saskatchewan Huskies hockey team. In his U Sports career, Kendall represented Canada at the FISU [International University Sports Federation] world Universiade winter games and the U Sports all-stars twice against Team Canada's junior national team. On top of this, Mr. Speaker, he maintains an 88 per cent average in mechanical engineering. Needless to say, this is an incredibly impressive achievement.

Recently Kendall was recognized nationally when he received the U Sports Randy Gregg Award for student athlete community service. That's right, Mr. Speaker. In addition to hockey and school, Kendall still makes time to volunteer with organizations such as the Saskatoon Minor Hockey Association and Recess Guardians, which help to keep kids active.

The following is a quote from a recent *StarPhoenix* news article. Dave Adolph, Kendall's head coach, had this to say:

Kendall has routinely been considered one of the top defencemen in university hockey, has continually been strong academically, and gives back to the community. He is an impeccably mature young man who will continue to reach great heights and follows in a long line of former Huskies who have won this award before him.

Mr. Speaker, the community of Rosetown is incredibly appreciative and respects this young man. Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members join me in recognizing Kendall McFaul for his outstanding work as a leader and a role model. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### SustainTech 2018

**Ms. Lambert:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last Thursday I brought greetings to the SustainTech 2018 conference in Saskatoon. This conference was hosted by the Saskatchewan Environmental Industry and Managers Association, or SEIMA, highlighting the latest environmental practices and technologies.

Over 180 participants, including regulators, industry professionals, and consultants, came together to discuss advancements in oil and gas, mining, agriculture, and other

sectors important to our province. The conference also included regulatory sessions with officials from the Ministry of the Environment. The sessions discussed the ministry's compliance audit program, decommissioning and reclamation guidelines for industrial waste works, and regulatory approaches to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Mr. Speaker, the government's new *Prairie Resilience: A Made-in-Saskatchewan Climate Change Strategy* was also discussed in these sessions. Those in attendance showed their support and commitment to this plan and are looking forward to this government moving forward with real and measurable climate change action.

I'd like to thank those involved in the industry for continually being at the forefront of results-based regulation, environmental protection, and innovation in our province.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members in this Assembly please join me in congratulating SEIMA and everyone involved in SustainTech 2018 for making it such a successful event. Thank you.

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

### Hockey Team Captures League and Provincial Title

**Mr. Francis:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise in the House today to acknowledge the accomplishments of some of my younger constituents. The West Central AA Bantam Wheat King hockey team is comprised of 14- and 15-year-old players from the communities of Dodsland, Eston, Fiske, Kindersley, Luseland, Macklin, Rosetown, and Unity. They compete in the highest calibre bantam hockey available, a league boasting of 22 teams province wide.

I'm proud to report that the Wheat Kings have captured the league and provincial title this past weekend, a very impressive feat, and a first for this team in its young history. They defeated teams from Northeast, Prince Albert, Saskatoon, and Regina in their playoff run.

Mr. Speaker, this accomplishment is especially meaningful for myself as I have had the pleasure of not only watching most of these boys but also having the opportunity to coach some of them as recently as last year, including Kindersley products Brody Gasmol, Tylin and Ethan Hilbig, and Logan Linklater. As a west central resident, volunteer, and coach, I take pride in not only knowing these young athletes but also witnessing and sharing in the successes their hard work and dedication have provided.

Mr. Speaker, the team is now off to Kamloops, BC [British Columbia] this weekend to vie for a medal in the Western Canadian AAA Bantam Challenge. On behalf of everyone in this Assembly, including the Minister of Health and the member from Cut Knife-Turtleford who are also represented, I would like to congratulate all those affiliated with the team on their successes so far and wish them all the best in Kamloops. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Estevan.

### Opposition Claims Regarding Conflict of Interest

**Ms. Carr:** — Mr. Speaker, different leader, same old NDP [New Democratic Party]. Same old drive-by smear tactics based on nothing but innuendo and complete lack of understanding of how government works.

Yesterday the NDP falsely suggested that the Minister of Central Services may have some sort of conflict because — get this — Central Services owns property and the minister owns property. Mr. Speaker, that is not a conflict.

But in the interest of transparency, here are some other ministers that may be in a conflict according to the NDP: The Minister of Agriculture owns a farm. The SaskTel minister owns a phone. The Finance minister has money. The Minister of Advanced Education went to university. And the Minister of Education went to school, albeit a long time ago. The Energy minister uses gas in her car. And here is one the NDP may not be aware of: before he was elected, the Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport actually made a living playing a sport.

Mr. Speaker, of course none of these are conflicts, but it just shows the ridiculous NDP phony allegations are. The fact is we have conflict of interest laws; we have a Conflict of Interest Commissioner. We have a conflict of interest and interest disclosure requirements that ensure ministers are not in a conflict of interest. The only real conflict is between what the NDP leader says about his new style of politics and what he actually does, which is the same old NDP smear tactics.

### QUESTION PERIOD

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

#### Conflict of Interest Legislation

**Mr. Meili:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And we have been talking about doing politics differently. The integrity of our democracy, Mr. Speaker, it depends on the people of Saskatchewan having full trust in the actions of the members in this House. And there can be no doubt that the members work for the best interests of the people of Saskatchewan.

People are watching this House with great concern, Mr. Speaker, and it is indeed time that we do politics differently. That means all of us having the courage to shine a light on our own actions so that we can uphold this place as you describe, Mr. Speaker, as a place of honour. It's about re-establishing the trust and confidence of the people of Saskatchewan in our legislature. It's not about any one member, Mr. Speaker; it's that we can't afford even the appearance of conflict of interest.

My question is, Mr. Speaker, my question is: will this new Premier do what his predecessor would not? Will he strengthen *The Conflict of Interest Act* to ensure that the commissioner can, and I will quote the Deputy Premier, "... investigate any future potential conflicts of interest more thoroughly and resolve them more quickly"?

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

**Hon. Mr. Moe:** — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

And with respect to conflict of interest in this House, Mr. Speaker, there has been numerous advances made over the last number of years with the agreement of both sides of the House, Mr. Speaker, in the formation of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner.

And let's be very clear, Mr. Speaker. It is not a conflict of interest for a minister to have business interests, or own a property in the province of Saskatchewan, nor should it be a deterrent for individuals to own a business or own property to run for public office, Mr. Speaker. It's only a conflict . . . We need to be clear. It's only a conflict if the minister uses his or her position to advance those interests, Mr. Speaker. There are numerous laws. There are numerous processes and public disclosure statements, requirements that prevent just that, Mr. Speaker. There is no conflict of interest, Mr. Speaker.

So if the member of the opposition or any member of the opposition feels it's their purview and they have any specific accusation to make, they should have the courage to make that accusation, Mr. Speaker, instead of throwing out these gutless drive-by smears that they're getting so good at.

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

**Mr. Meili:** — Mr. Speaker, thank you, Mr. Speaker. The reality is that we have a lot of people in this province looking at this House and asking serious questions. Whether that's about conflict of interest or the political donations that do come in, the donations that come in from corporations out of this province, corporations with no limits on what they can give.

And so I've heard a lot from these members across the way. I've heard a lot from these members across the way that they were interested in this conversation of doing politics differently, Mr. Speaker. And I want to know, Mr. Speaker, are they serious about that? Do they want to do politics differently? Do they want to join us, get rid of corporate and union donations? Will they support our bill to get rid of big money in politics?

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

**Hon. Mr. Moe:** — Mr. Speaker, as I said, we have strong conflict of interest rules in the province of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. As I said, we have strong electoral finance rules here in the province of Saskatchewan as well, Mr. Speaker, that are mirrored in many of the leadership . . .

[Interjections]

**The Speaker:** — Order. We went through something at the start of proceedings today. Things have started to go off the rails. Okay, let's get back on. Right? Respectful dialogue, please.

I recognize the Premier.

**Hon. Mr. Moe:** — Mr. Speaker, as I said, we have conflict of interest legislation here in the province of Saskatchewan. It's conflict of interest legislation that was worked on, Mr. Speaker, by a multi-party committee, Mr. Speaker, here in the province of Saskatchewan. There's conflict of interest legislation and disclosure that each and every member in this House discloses

to the Conflict of Interest Commissioner each and every year, Mr. Speaker, so that we're not left with debating conflict of interest on the floor of this Assembly or out in the rotunda, Mr. Speaker.

And again I reiterate, Mr. Speaker, if there's members opposite that have an issue, have an issue that they feel that someone in this House, Mr. Speaker, has violated in any way that conflict of interest, Mr. Speaker, they should bring that issue to the commissioner, Mr. Speaker, in the way that it's expected, Mr. Speaker. This . . .

[14:00]

**The Speaker:** — Order. Could the members from Nutana and Saskatoon Centre please come to order. Mr. Premier, very quickly.

**Hon. Mr. Moe:** — Mr. Speaker, with respect to doing politics differently in this House, Mr. Speaker, as the very first question that was asked in this Assembly this session, Mr. Speaker, we agreed to work with the members opposite on any opportunity that we could, within the confines of the budget, Mr. Speaker. I think I specified a specific opportunity where we would be willing to do that, Mr. Speaker. But it's very concerning as I have seen it slip in such a short period of time, Mr. Speaker. Reminds me of just over 10 years ago.

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

#### Support for Community-Based Organizations

**Mr. Meili:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Shortly after being elected by his party, the Premier spoke to reporters and he said that he understood and recognized the need to address the root causes underlying crime and other challenges in our communities, Mr. Speaker, and these are encouraging and welcoming words. And I think there's a lot of opportunity for us to find some common ground there.

And the Premier will also know, Mr. Speaker, that many of the most vital programs that help vulnerable people are delivered by our community-based organizations, or CBOs. We can't underestimate the value of the work that these organizations do nor the importance of secure and stable funding for their success. In last year's budget, Mr. Speaker, the government threatened to cut 10 per cent of the funding of those health CBOs [community-based organization] in particular.

In his first budget, will the Premier back up his words on the importance of addressing upstream causes? And will he provide certainty for our CBO sector, make sure that their funding will not be cut in the year ahead?

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

**Hon. Mr. Merriman:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I thank the member opposite for the question. Mr. Speaker, I think that the member was here when we brought the budget down last year, Mr. Speaker. We increased our budget by 6.9 per cent, in challenging fiscal times, to all of our income assistance, Mr. Speaker. We have increased income assistance over \$250 million and, Mr. Speaker, we have also worked with all of our

community-based organizations to make sure that they are able to meet the needs of our clients, Mr. Speaker. The community-based organizations across Saskatchewan are doing some great work, Mr. Speaker, and we're happy to partner with them. Is there more work to be done? Absolutely, Mr. Speaker, and we look forward to that work to come. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Meili:** — Mr. Speaker, in the last budget we saw significant cuts to the most vulnerable people in this province, and you just can't, you just can't balance your budget, Mr. Speaker, on the backs of the most vulnerable. It's not kind. It's not fair. And it doesn't work.

Now I'm no ophthalmologist, Mr. Speaker, but this government clearly has a vision problem. They can't see far enough ahead to recognize how much smart, upstream investments would grow our economy and reduce costs in Health, in Justice, in Social Services. This has been the big problem, Mr. Speaker, from day one. This is a government that has a short-sighted approach that costs us big in the long term.

So my question is: in this year's budget, are we going to see the Sask Party try the same trick? Are we going to again see them try to cut their way out of a downturn and stifle the economy, or will they invest in people and stimulate the economy as it's much needed?

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

**Hon. Mr. Merriman:** — Mr. Speaker, I think the member opposite is very well aware that the budget's coming down on April 10th, and I would encourage him to wait for that.

But what I can talk about, a few numbers that may be pre-budget, Mr. Speaker, is the 112,000 people that we took off the tax rolls. I'm sure the member opposite would recognize that that is a significant investment in the most vulnerable in our province. Mr. Speaker, we've also had 1,000 child care spaces that we've created, Mr. Speaker. We've also seen . . . Some other fabulous numbers that we have, Mr. Speaker, is our \$250 million that we've absolutely invested in our community-based organizations. And another number is three times, three times we've increased the seniors' income plan, Mr. Speaker, and I think that's very significant.

Another number that the member might want to remember is the 440 wait-list that they created while they were in government in the 16 years and didn't seem to care that much about the people for vulnerable. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### Shelter for Youth in Swift Current and Area

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Mr. Speaker, this week Swift Current received news that there would be no provincial funding for Dories House, a community initiative that provides housing and supports for youth at risk. Just today, Mr. Speaker, the community of Swift Current came together and rallied to fight for Dories House, to fight for what's right, and to fight for



supporting homeless youth.

Mr. Speaker, these are teenage kids that are now being forced back into homelessness, forced out of opportunities, forced out of stability and out of hope, pushed into unsafe living conditions. Mr. Speaker, will the Sask Party do the right thing and commit funding to Dories House to provide shelter for homeless teenagers?

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

**Hon. Mr. Merriman:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member for the question. One of the first things that I did after being appointed into the Ministry of Social Services was go out on a tour across the province, Mr. Speaker. I did have the opportunity in mid-September to meet with Dories House, the board, and the media of Swift Current to talk about this.

When Dories House was created, Mr. Speaker, there was no promise or commitment from the government on any funding, Mr. Speaker. This was supposed to be a community-based organization funded by the community, Mr. Speaker. They have approached us for funding, Mr. Speaker, and our analysis of the situation in southwestern Saskatchewan is that we do have adequate support for the youth there, Mr. Speaker.

But again if there is somebody out there in the Swift Current area that is seeing somebody that is vulnerable, I wish that they could contact our office so we can help that individual. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Mr. Speaker, the beds are full. All Dories House wanted was \$350,000 for eight beds, Mr. Speaker. Homelessness itself costs Canadians, costs Saskatchewan people \$50,000 per year per person. Last year Dories House served 25 young people, kept them out of homelessness. That saves over \$1.2 million in one year alone.

Yet the Sask Party says that the coverage, as we heard here today from the minister, is adequate in Swift Current. They think that only four overnight beds only for men in Swift Current is adequate. Teenage girls are being left out in the cold all throughout the Southwest. This is anything but adequate.

Mr. Speaker, Swift Current saw a problem; they stepped up with a solution. Now it's time for this government to step up also. Will the Sask Party do the right thing, support this smart investment in order to prevent homelessness, save money and likely lives, and make sure that there's opportunities for young people, young girls throughout the Southwest and in Swift Current?

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

**Hon. Mr. Merriman:** — Thanks again, Mr. Speaker. I think our commitment to people in the province hard to house is outstanding, Mr. Speaker. I think we've done a great job. We've invested over \$780 million to repair or rebuild 16,000 units. The NDP record, Mr. Speaker, for seven years was they only did 909 units. That's a dismal shame, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, when we looked at Dories House, we considered all options. We worked with local community-based organizations that were in place. Our analysis of that area is, not much has changed as far as youth at risk, Mr. Speaker.

Again as I say, if there is somebody in the Swift Current area or in any area of the province, Mr. Speaker, that needs some help, I would encourage them to contact Social Services so we can provide either those services outside the house, or we could also provide those wrap-around services in home, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

### Funding for Autism Supports

**Ms. Chartier:** — At-risk youth aren't the only ones left waiting as the result of the Sask Party's inaction. Families can't count on the Sask Party. Two years ago they were promised much-needed supports for autism that still haven't materialized.

Mr. Speaker, joining us today in the Assembly is Christina Noubarian. Christina and her husband have three young children and their two youngest are on the autism spectrum. Christina, like so many other parents, believes it is completely unacceptable that this government is making them face this burden alone.

To the minister: does he recognize there's a spectrum of needs for children with autism? And can he guarantee that children who require more intervention and support actually get the help that they need?

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

**Hon. Mr. Reiter:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we take this issue very seriously, as the member knows, as all members know, that this was part of the platform in the last election, to move towards individualized funding for children with autism, Mr. Speaker, \$4,000 per child. Mr. Speaker, it was deferred during last year's budget but, at that time, it was clearly indicated it would be moving forward in the upcoming budget. It was part of the Throne Speech last fall, Mr. Speaker.

Certainly, you know, I welcome our guests here. If they'd like to meet after session, I'd be happy to do that.

Mr. Speaker, again to reiterate, we do take this very seriously. We will be moving forward with the promised commitments in the upcoming budget. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Chartier:** — This government has a pattern of breaking promises, Mr. Speaker. Two years, families have been waiting. They've been waiting a lot longer than that, but this government committed to it two years ago.

They slash funding to education and then they take credit for restoring just a portion of what they cut. There's a serious gap in services for lower functioning children with autism over the

age of six. Mr. Speaker, in 2016 the Sask Party promised, in its election campaign, to introduce individualized funding, an improvement that other provinces are already offering.

Christina's family is having to choose between the basics and autism supports. Nearly two years later, that promise has not come to fruition and, according to Christina, the proposed plan will not come close to meeting the needs of families with autism.

To the minister: when this government has already broken their promise and is lagging behind other jurisdictions, why is Saskatchewan's ultimate goal to offer less than other provinces in individualized funding?

**The Speaker:** — Recognize the Minister of Health.

**Hon. Mr. Reiter:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I clearly indicated in the earlier answer, we are moving forward with our commitment. It was deferred one year, Mr. Speaker. We take this issue extremely seriously, that's why it was part of the platform commitment, Mr. Speaker. It's \$4,000 per child under six. And in the out years, we intend to increase those amounts, Mr. Speaker.

But if the member opposite wants to talk about underfunding, I think she should do a little bit of history, Mr. Speaker. Prior to us forming government, the entire funding for all autism services and supports, Mr. Speaker, was \$500,000 when the members opposite . . . A number of them were in government at the time, Mr. Speaker. Today, Mr. Speaker, it's just about \$8 million. Mr. Speaker, we take this very seriously. We will move forward with this in the next budget, Mr. Speaker, as committed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### Management of Global Transportation Hub

**Ms. Sproule:** — Mr. Speaker, for more than two years we've seen headline after headline about how Saskatchewan taxpayers are having to pay for the Sask Party's mismanagement at the GTH [Global Transportation Hub]. The most recent headline reads, "Regina city councillor says taxpayers getting shafted by the GTH for millions of dollars." That city councillor went on to say, "The Global Transportation Hub, by all accounts, is a financial disaster."

Now for several years the city of Regina has been waiting for a deal with the GTH that the Sask Party has failed to deliver. Payments for water, wastewater, utilities, drainage, and fire have not been made. Now in December the GTH agreed to pay \$3.3 million for these services as an initial payment, but the city of Regina has yet to see that money, Mr. Speaker.

Now given this financial disaster, how on earth is the GTH going to be able to pay its outstanding obligation of \$3.3 million to the city of Regina? And where's the money to pay this going forward?

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, we have no intention of negotiating with a single councillor on the city of Regina city council. We have no intention of negotiating matters through the opposition. We have no intention of debating those matters on the floor of the Assembly or in the rotunda.

We have officials that are working with the city of Regina. I understand those discussions are ongoing. Nobody's come to us and asked us for a specific direction on anything. We'll continue to let that process do it. But, Mr. Speaker, for the benefit of the members opposite, I think we should look carefully at what takes place every day at the Global Transportation Hub.

Mr. Speaker, at the time of construction, there were 1,800 people working there full time. There was \$485 million in private investment. Now on an ongoing basis there are 860 full-time jobs . . . Well the member opposite shouts, Loblaw. Of course it's Loblaw. It's the largest building by way of footprint in the province of Saskatchewan. It is a million square feet and it's got 860 people working at it. If the members have more questions, I've got more figures for them.

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

[14:15]

**Ms. Sproule:** — I've got questions, all right, but I'm looking for answers, Mr. Speaker. Let's remind ourselves of all the ways they've used public money to prop up the GTH. And the member from Moose Jaw should be listening to this as well. \$700,000 in cash from the province just to get things started. Land acquisition costs, Mr. Speaker, \$14 million. And don't forget another \$11 million on lawsuits on every piece of land purchased at the GTH except, of course, the infamous east parcels. There's no lawsuits there, Mr. Speaker, and Mr. Marquart was paid well above the inflated appraisal value.

Now \$25 million from SaskPower, taxpayers' dollars, to buy a plot of land four years ago that now sits empty. What's next? Are they going to move SaskEnergy's head office out there? Are they going to force SaskTel to take up shop at the GTH? The minister himself admitted yesterday that the GTH footprint was an overreach.

So, Mr. Speaker, people work hard. They pay their taxes. So how can this minister justify this overreach to the hard-working taxpayers of Saskatchewan?

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, the people in our province do work hard. They work hard for their money. And every day at the Global Transportation Hub, 860 of them show up for work; 860 of them receive a paycheque; 860 of those people likely live in the city of Regina. Mr. Speaker, we're pleased that those people are continuing to work each and every day. And it's through the benefits provided by the Global Transportation Hub that those people have good, on-time jobs. Mr. Speaker, each and every week at the Global Transportation Hub, 4,800 trucks come and go, bringing in groceries, bringing in other food. Where is it consumed? In the city of Regina, Mr.

Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the GTH was originally developed with 1,800 acres. Seven hundred acres have been sold and, Mr. Speaker, there's about 1,100 acres left to sell. As with any real estate development, you pay for your expenses first. You pay for the cost of land, the cost of roads, the cost of putting in utilities. That's what's taking place out there. And, Mr. Speaker, the economy is slow right now, sales are slow, but it will rebound.

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

#### **Cost of Power for Saskatchewan People**

**Mr. Belanger:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday the SaskPower minister said that, and I quote, "Power rates are the exact same regardless of where you live in the province of Saskatchewan." The facts just don't back that up, and the minister should know better. The rate in the North for power is 14 cents per kilowatt hour. The farm rate for electricity is as low as five and a half cents per kilowatt hour, less than half of what we pay in the North. And northerners are also forced to pay a higher basic monthly charge than people living in the South.

Why is Sask Party forcing northerners to pick up the tab for their carbon capture project with massive power bills?

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

**Hon. Mr. Duncan:** — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, I think the member opposite knows that by class the rates are the same. So if we're comparing residential rates to residential rates, the rates are the same. If you're in a different customer class, then your rate would be different, Mr. Speaker.

But with respect to what the member opposite is asking about, he was asking about residential rates. What I said yesterday is that the rates are the same, and that would be true across the province. If you're a residential rate customer, your rate is the same across the province. I think he's been here for a few years; he might know that already.

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

**Mr. Belanger:** — Mr. Speaker, people are struggling to pay their SaskPower bills because of that government's carbon capture scheme. Northerners are paying more for your mismanagement, and it shouldn't have to be that way, Mr. Speaker. It is time for fairness. We can all agree that someone living on a remote farm and someone living in a remote community, northern community, should have to pay a similar rate. But the rate most rural residents pay in the South is less than what we pay in the North.

Mr. Speaker, the extra costs are compliments of the Sask Party and their carbon capture tax. How can the Saskatchewan Party explain this additional cost to all of our power bills, and this total lack of fairness? And when can northerners expect to see lower power bills?

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

**Hon. Mr. Duncan:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's interesting that that member would advocate for this policy that would see different rates for residential customers depending on where they live in the province, Mr. Speaker. I don't recall that that was the position of the NDP when that member was a member of the cabinet of the Government of Saskatchewan for, I don't know, how many years? A lot of years, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, with respect to power rates in this province, we're working hard to ensure that we have competitive rates, that we keep those rates low, Mr. Speaker. I'll tell you what will not help those rates is adding a carbon tax, Mr. Speaker, which the members opposite and their new leader is advocating, that we have a carbon tax in this province, Mr. Speaker.

We're not going to allow that to happen, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that's why we've determined that we're going to have our own plan, Mr. Speaker, that's going to see us reduce our own emissions in our province without a carbon tax, Mr. Speaker. And that means that if the federal government is going to impose a carbon tax on this province, Mr. Speaker, that that is not, Mr. Speaker, that's not some sort of crusade, a costly crusade as the Leader of the Opposition says. That's the right thing to do for the province of Saskatchewan, and we hope the members opposite would get on board with that.

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

#### **Saskatchewan Employment Numbers**

**Ms. Mowat:** — Mr. Speaker, new numbers from Stats Canada today show that the Sask Party is continuing to fail Saskatchewan workers. There were 300 fewer people working in January compared to December, and 600 fewer compared to last January. Saskatchewan was one of only two provinces to see a decline in the number of people working.

The thousands of people looking for work don't want to hear more spin from the member from Meadow Lake. They want real action and to create good-paying jobs. What is the Sask Party's plan to create more good jobs in this province? And when will the minister do his job so other people don't lose theirs?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the minister of trade and export development.

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Well the NDP might not want to hear the facts, Mr. Speaker, but here they are: Saskatchewan has the third-lowest unemployment rate in the entire country; 63,000 new jobs have been created in this province over the course of the last 10 years, Mr. Speaker, which is the second-best job creation record in the entire country.

We know what their job creation record was as well, Mr. Speaker, which was dead last. And, Mr. Speaker, if you want to see a prescription for disaster from the good doctor opposite, he's put it forward. And what is that prescription, Mr. Speaker? A carbon tax, a job-killing carbon tax that he supports — Justin Trudeau's plan to impose a job-killing carbon tax on this province, Mr. Speaker. He's made it very clear that that's

something that they support.

You know, Mr. Speaker, what he actually called our opposition, our standing up for this province? A pointless crusade, Mr. Speaker. The people of this province are not going to forget his prescription which is that carbon tax, his calling this government's decision to stand up for this province, his calling that a pointless crusade. Mr. Speaker, we will stand up for this province. This Premier will stand up for this province every single day of the week, even if he wants to wave the white flag.

**The Speaker:** — Just before ministerial statements, the students of Redvers were involved in a mock parliament. I'm not sure whether or not this mirrored what they learned earlier.

### MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

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

#### Saskatchewan Signs Canadian Agricultural Partnership Agreement

**Hon. Mr. Stewart:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure today to recognize the signing of the new Canadian Agricultural Partnership agreement, or CAP, for the province of Saskatchewan.

Through CAP, Canada and Saskatchewan will invest \$388 million over five years in strategic initiatives that will help farmers, ranchers, and agribusinesses continue to innovate, expand, and advance Saskatchewan as a world-class agri-food producer and supplier.

This federal-provincial agricultural policy framework provides a strong suite of programs to take us from 2018 through 2023. We have worked closely with industry in the development of programs that align with the priorities of Saskatchewan's agriculture industry.

CAP programs focus on six key areas, including science, research, and innovation; risk management; value-added agriculture and agri-food processing; public trust; markets and trade; and environmental sustainability. The range of programming in CAP includes programs to support on-farm water projects and animal health, as well as programs to further develop value-added processing and build public trust. CAP also emphasizes research and technology transfer to ensure farmers and ranchers have the latest agronomic tools. Individual program details and applications will be made available in the coming weeks.

Additionally, CAP provides business risk management programs, including crop insurance, AgriStability, AgriInvest, and western livestock price insurance to help farmers and ranchers manage risks such as weather and price volatility.

The agriculture sector is an important and key contributor to our province's diversified economy. Saskatchewan producers harvested nearly 35 million tonnes of crop last year and livestock cash receipts reached around the \$2 billion mark. Our province exported over \$13.5 billion worth of agricultural agri-food products to the world. Saskatchewan is an agriculture leader in Canada. CAP will build on the success of the previous

agreement, Growing Forward 2, which has helped the agriculture industry grow and prosper over the last five years.

I am pleased for Saskatchewan to officially sign CAP. The Canadian Agricultural Partnership will help position the industry for continued success for years to come. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Beck:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the minister for his comments and his statement. I just wanted to enter some comments on the record. Of course, this is a long-awaited framework agreement, as mentioned by the minister. The CAP agreement is the third iteration after Growing Forward 1 and Growing Forward 2, and is a five-year agreement that will see \$3 billion nationally, but \$388 million, as the minister noted, in strategic investment in the agriculture industry within the province. And of course this agreement is something that is much needed to support a very important industry within this province and across the nation.

I had the good fortune yesterday to be up at the APAS [Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan] priority policy conference yesterday, and of course this was top of mind for folks there as well. We heard a lot of research and concerns around just the increasing volatility within agriculture and the need for these agreements to be updated, and that there's constantly updating of information based on the conditions that our producers are experiencing, everything from increased volatility within weather patterns . . . We've seen increasing number of catastrophic weather events over the last little while, increasing rainfall amounts, and increasing drought amounts, Mr. Speaker, and sometimes in the same year. I heard from one producer who had put in both drought and flood claims in the same year. So of course our producers are dealing with this complexity on a daily basis, and it has very high stakes.

One of the other things that producers are dealing with is just the increase in costs. We've seen of course high numbers of ag receipts, but the increase in those receipts hasn't kept pace with the net farm income, Mr. Speaker, and that's a concern that farmers have. It makes for a very stressful situation when you have hundreds of thousands and millions of dollars in on inputs, and increasing volatility with regard to the return that you might see on those investments.

I know that there was a lot of work that went into GF1 [Growing Forward 1] and GF2 [Growing Forward 2]. There were some outstanding concerns that were expressed, and I look forward to seeing the details of the risk management programs.

One of the things that we heard yesterday was particularly around the AgriStability program, Mr. Speaker, and there was an inability to predict coverage, Mr. Speaker. Hopefully some of those things have been rectified within this new agreement. And also a need to ensure that the benefits are realized equitably across the types of farms, mixed farms, those ones that we heard perhaps didn't see the same benefit, and that might be taking away from diversification. We also heard the need for equity, Mr. Speaker, in benefit for producers across the lifespan, so not only for those who are established farmers, but those who are new to farming and are looking to make this a

way of life for themselves and their families. So I do await some of the details there.

[14:30]

As much as things have changed, Mr. Speaker, there are a number of things that haven't changed with regard to agriculture in this province: first of all, the importance of agriculture to our economy and the world-class product and the world-class producers that we have here in this province. And it's heartening to hear this level of support for those producers. I hope that some of their concerns are reflected in this new agreement and that we have taken the opportunity to take this important program and improve it with input from those producers.

So I thank the minister for his statement. And I look forward, as I know producers do, to looking at the finer details of the program and those risk management programs within the new CAP. Thank you.

#### 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 am instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 72, *The Privacy 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:** — I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this bill and that the bill be now read the third time.

**The Speaker:** — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 72, *The Privacy Amendment Act, 2017* 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. 72 — *The Privacy 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. 72, *The Privacy Amendment Act* 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. 75, *The Electronic Communications 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 the bill be now read the third time.

**The Speaker:** — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration of Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 75 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. 75 — *The Electronic Communications Convention Implementation Act/Loi de mise en œuvre de la Convention sur les communications électroniques*

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

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 75 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. 87, *The Data Matching Agreements Act* 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 the bill be now read the third time.

**The Speaker:** — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration of Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 87 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. 87 — *The Data Matching Agreements Act*

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

**The Speaker:** — It's been moved by the minister that Bill No. 87 be now read a 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.

### ORDERS OF THE DAY

### WRITTEN QUESTIONS

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

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

answers to questions 182 through 185.

**The Speaker:** — 182 to 185 tabled. I recognize the Government Whip.

**Mr. Lawrence:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to order the answer to question 186.

**The Speaker:** — Question 186 ordered. I recognize the Government Whip.

**Mr. Lawrence:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the answers to questions 187 through 190.

**The Speaker:** — Questions 187 to 190 tabled.

### GOVERNMENT ORDERS

### ADJOURNED DEBATES

### SECOND READINGS

#### Bill No. 121

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

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

**Ms. Chartier:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to enter the debate today on Bill No. 121, the cannabis control Act here in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. This bill is coming forward obviously to create a regulatory framework for legalized cannabis, stemming from the federal Liberals' promise back in 2015 to make cannabis legal.

I think I want to start with that place, Mr. Speaker, going to the place . . . Cannabis will be legal in Canada here in just a few months, Mr. Speaker. And it's just a few months out, and we're debating that bill in a very short period of time here, Mr. Speaker. In my experience in this place, we usually have the opportunity, legislation is introduced in the fall, and there's an opportunity to review it and then it's usually passed in the spring. So this timeline is pretty tight, Mr. Speaker.

And this is a government who has known since 2015 that this was coming, this was imminent, and you would have thought that they would have done much of the legwork by then, Mr. Speaker. So I think it's important to note that we are the last province to bring legislation forward. So we've been delayed, which impacts people who are interested in this as a small business or as an opportunity. By the government not bringing their plan forward sooner, it leaves everybody in limbo on what the system is going to look like, Mr. Speaker.

I think too, I want to walk back to the fall, to October of 2017, and the government actually did an online survey trying to get Saskatchewan residents' wishes around what they expect this framework to look like and how that should roll out here, Mr. Speaker. I know that back in October there were some concerns

flagged around people. I know the government points out when they released this survey that there were 34,681 respondents, and of those 26,199 were complete surveys. They point out that this is the highest response rate received for any Saskatchewan survey, and I suspect that's the case because this is a whole new . . . This is a new bill. We're charting brand new territory here, Mr. Speaker, and many people are engaged and interested to see what this is going to look like, Mr. Speaker. For Saskatchewan and for Canada, it's a very different way of doing things.

But just taking us back to that survey in the fall, I know that there were some concerns that people from outside of Saskatchewan could participate in the survey. There was some concern about privacy. I remember reading a news story about privacy. This is not in my wheelhouse, but in terms of the URL [universal resource locator] or when you submit a survey, apparently there were some issues that survey respondents could be in fact identified if the government wished. And I know some people flagged some concerns around that.

The government has followed some of the recommendations or followed some of the wishes of people in Saskatchewan, but I think it's important to point out — and I'll get to that around what this bill will be proposing, Mr. Speaker — but it's important to point out that one of the questions around the model of wholesale distribution and retail sales, one of the questions was asked, if retail stores are considered, who should sell retail cannabis? And actually 45 per cent of respondents, the highest number of people responding, thought that government-run retailers was the way to go, similar to SLGA [Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority] and alcohol right now. Thirty-seven per cent did also agree with small-business retailers, but 45 per cent thought that the government should have a role in retailing cannabis because we see the benefit actually through SLGA that's accrued to the people of Saskatchewan in terms of the ability to make money to support things like health and education and highways and all the things that we value so much, Mr. Speaker.

So the government has chosen not to go that route, Mr. Speaker, but that's in complete opposition to what 45 per cent of Saskatchewan residents, the highest number of respondents actually wish, Mr. Speaker.

As we walk through this bill, so we've talked about some of the concerns around it being delayed and not necessarily listening to all the things that people in Saskatchewan had wished for this new world, Mr. Speaker. But this Bill No. 121 in particular, so again it creates that regulatory framework. So what are some of the things that it does?

So it prohibits consuming cannabis in public spaces, not dissimilar from smoking cigarettes, Mr. Speaker. So as per the wishes of 88 per cent of survey respondents, the rules for smoking cannabis in public spaces will match the rules for smoking cigarettes in public spaces.

Possession of more than 30 grams and more than four plants will be prohibited, I believe. And for a minor under the age of 19, it's illegal to possess marijuana; 19 has been set as the legal age. And possession of more than 5 grams for a minor would result in a criminal charge, while smaller amounts would be handled through ticketing and seizure up to I believe \$2,000,

Mr. Speaker.

That age of 19 is an interesting one. I don't envy the government, but this is the role when you tackle . . . When you want to be in government, when you want to serve, you have to do the tough jobs, Mr. Speaker, and creating this regulatory framework is one of them. And coming to the right age at which cannabis should be consumed is one of those things. I know that they've chosen to take 19 as the legal age, matching it with alcohol, and we're supportive of that position.

I know that there are others. There's the Canadian Medical Association I believe had recommended the age of 25. I know the Canadian Cancer Society had been vocal about this and had talked about the possibility of different ages. You didn't necessarily . . . There are jurisdictions where age limits don't match up for everything for which we have age limits, Mr. Speaker, but I understand that need to strike the balance between suppressing the black market, Mr. Speaker, and ensuring that cannabis won't end up in the hands of young children. So I know that it's been a difficult decision, but 19 was the age that this government has come upon.

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. That's an interesting one, Mr. Speaker, and that actually matches alcohol and firearms. I think a lot of people wouldn't realize that, that that actually matches alcohol regulations. I know lots of people probably don't realize that and will maybe run many errands with maybe their first stop is the liquor store, and they put their purchase in the trunk and go on to the next few places in their errand running. But that in fact is illegal, and this will be the same rule for cannabis.

But in fact I'd argue it's quite unenforceable. It is incredibly unenforceable. So I'm not sure the point of putting in place legislation that is for all intents and purposes unenforceable. But that is one of them. Cannabis in a vehicle is prohibited except when it's going from the place that it was obtained to the place it will be consumed.

They've established rules for retail stores selling cannabis in this. There were some interesting dos and don'ts actually, and some of these are in this bill and some of them are reflected in *The Traffic Safety Act* that will be amended.

If you are a non-smoker and want to consume cannabis, you'll have to wait until July 1st, 2019. On the one-year anniversary of cannabis legalization, edibles and concentrates will be legalized.

[14:45]

We can expect to see public education campaigns surrounding safe consumption of cannabis relating to issues such as impaired driving laws, health risks, addictions, and pregnancy. I think this piece around public education is really important. When I had the opportunity to sit on the Traffic Safety Committee, not only did we talk about the importance of legislation, but legislation is not as effective unless people know what the legislation is and what the legislation and what the consequences of breaking that legislation are, and what public harms can come to people from consuming certain

products. So that public education campaign will be very important.

I'm interested to see actually from which ministry or where that public education support will come. Will it come from Health? Because it is very much a health issue, Mr. Speaker, or there is no doubt there is a health component to this. Or will it come from SGI [Saskatchewan Government Insurance] around impaired driving? That is a good question, Mr. Speaker, and we don't know that.

I think the one piece . . . And this isn't in this legislation, but it's in the legislation that goes along with this around smoking cannabis and driving. So do not smoke cannabis and drive. The province has taken a zero tolerance approach for all ages and all experience levels.

But this is a little tricky here, because I know that, again from my experience on the Traffic Safety Committee — and granted, it's been a while, but I had understood that there was no really reliable test for THC [tetrahydrocannabinol] in the human body, Mr. Speaker. There wasn't a roadside test that you could do. And actually, a quick look on Wikipedia, which I would be the first to say shouldn't be the be-all and end-all for your source for information, but just on Wikipedia, one can find quickly, cannabis drug testing. So I'd like to quote it:

Cannabis drug testing describes various drug test methodologies for the use of cannabis in medicine, sport, and law. Cannabis use is highly detectable and can be detected by urinalysis, hair analysis, as well as saliva tests for days or weeks.

Unlike alcohol, for which impairment can be reasonably measured using a breathalyser (and confirmed with a blood alcohol content measurement), valid detection for cannabis is time-consuming, and tests cannot determine an approximate degree of impairment. The lack of suitable tests and agreed-upon intoxication levels is an issue in the legality of cannabis debate, especially regarding intoxicated driving.

The concentrations obtained from such analyses can often be helpful in distinguishing active use from passive exposure, elapsed time since use, and extent or duration of use.

So I do know the one thing that people use, or one thing that police use to detect impaired driving, whether it's other drugs, Mr. Speaker — it might be prescription drugs that someone has taken a large quantity or in fact cannabis — is drug recognition experts. And I know in 2013, when we had the traffic safety advisory committee, we learned that Saskatchewan had a very low number of drug recognition experts. And I would argue that we're going to need a heck of a lot of them come legalization, so I don't know where that's going to fall.

I know when we figure out the taxation regime, I know that the feds will be giving the provinces 75 per cent of taxation, but I know the province has yet to announce how that's going to all roll out. And I know that the Justice minister has said that the province isn't going to revenue share that revenue with the

cities, the cannabis revenue, from what I recall reading, Mr. Speaker. And that is a bit of an issue.

The minister, in the same comment, said that it's the province who's still responsible for training drug recognition experts. But if the province is responsible, I'm interested in committee to know how many have been trained, how many do we currently have, and what kind of expense has the minister budgeted for to get us up to speed to fully utilize drug recognition experts on the road, Mr. Speaker.

I know some of the other issues here that my colleague has, one of my colleagues has mentioned, the Justice critic actually, she points out that the retail sales, the permits actually that are going to be sold will . . . The application process closes on April 10th which is the same day we learn about the taxation and what that's going to look like. And that puts businesses at a disadvantage. She's also flagged that she's concerned that this will shut out, the process will shut out small local businesses, Mr. Speaker, and have a . . . because of the process and the business, the financial stress test may rule out some smaller businesses in favour of large corporations that have much more capital. So that is a concern that she's flagged as well, and we'll be watching that.

But I do know that once we get to committee, there will be many questions on all of this. This is an important bill. This is a huge change in landscape here in Canada and here in Saskatchewan. And undoubtedly, I suspect that this bill may be before us again in the coming year or couple of years as we see what it looks like and how things might need to change. Well hopefully maybe there'll be some good questions . . . Well I know there'll be good questions in committee but maybe there's an opportunity for amendment. I don't know what that will look like, but our critic, when we get to committee, will ask many questions. And with that I would like to move to adjourn debate on Bill 121, the cannabis control Act. Thank you.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

## Bill No. 122

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 122 — *The Cannabis Control (Saskatchewan) Consequential Amendments Act, 2018/Loi de 2018 corrélative de la loi intitulée The Cannabis Control (Saskatchewan) Act*** be now read a second time.

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

**Ms. Chartier:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm happy to wade into the discussion on Bill No. 122 which is a companion Act to Bill No. 121 to which I just spoke. It makes consequential amendments to other pieces of legislation so they align with the



changes that we see in Bill No. 121. Obviously it's important to ensure when you make changes or create a new piece of legislation that affects other pieces, that all needs to be tied together and connected.

So I think that the one change that is happening here in *The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Act, 1997*, it's amended to, section 12 is repealed and the following is substituted, where with respect to responsibilities:

The authority is responsible for the regulation and control of:

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

It's also always good to see that when a new piece of legislation, a brand new piece of legislation, comes out that it's in its bilingual form and we have that as well with Bill No. 122 as well. But with that, Mr. Speaker, I would like to move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 122.

**The Speaker:** — The member from Saskatoon Riversdale has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 122, the cannabis control consequential amendments Act, 2018. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

#### Bill No. 95

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

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

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to rise this afternoon to join in the debate around Bill No. 95. Mr. Speaker, this bill largely repeals several different pieces of legislation and also proposes some housekeeping amendments on others. For example, *The Child and Family Services Amendment Act, 2003* is being repealed. The new amending legislation to *The Child and Family Services Act* was actually introduced this session. Similarly for *The Income Tax Act* and *The Penalties and Forfeitures Act*.

There's also some Acts in this legislation, Mr. Speaker, which are being repealed directly like *The Closing-out Sales Act*, *The Community Bonds Act*, and *The Home Energy Loan Act*, Mr. Speaker. Also there's a section of *The Forest Resources Management Amendment Act* that has a section repealed related to some public disclosure and some confidentiality requirements in the Act, Mr. Speaker. And we're flagging this as something that needs some further dialogue around why this change was made and what the thought was when this decision was made.

Mr. Speaker, there's also some housekeeping to clean up a

section of *The Enforcement of Money Judgments Act* that was actually never proclaimed, Mr. Speaker. And I'm not too sure why that section was never proclaimed, what the purpose was for it originally, and why the change had occurred now that it's been deemed unnecessary. Mr. Speaker, also the bill repeals a section of *The Power Corporation Amendment Act* that relates to some recourse for payments owed, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, one of the pieces of legislation that's being repealed pursuant to this bill, that I know several of my colleagues have already weighed on and have highlighted, is the repeal of the Enterprise Saskatchewan bill, Mr. Speaker. A lot of my colleagues had some very, very eloquent things to say about this, Mr. Speaker. And this repeal is in section 6 of this bill, Mr. Speaker.

From what I understand, this was a pet project of our former premier and it's a bit surprising to see it go, although the government stopped funding Enterprise Saskatchewan back in 2013, which is before my time. But my colleagues tell me that this was touted as a really exciting step forward that ended up ultimately being a bit of a flop, Mr. Speaker.

And it's interesting to see . . . From what I understand we're one of the few jurisdictions that don't fund local enterprise, and that's to our detriment, Mr. Speaker. And seeing it go at this time is interesting and it sort of allows us the opportunity to take a step back and think about promises that were made or grand ideas that were presented back maybe a decade ago, and how far we've come and how the supposed mighty have fallen, Mr. Speaker.

In 2007 Bruce Johnstone wrote for the *Leader-Post* about Enterprise Saskatchewan, and when he did — I want to quote him directly — he said, "Enterprise Saskatchewan Premier-elect Brad Wall's vision of how to manage the province's economic development could be the biggest achievement of his administration, or it could be his biggest flop," Mr. Speaker.

And I think now, looking back over a decade later, we know which of the two that bill was, because now we're seeing it in this miscellaneous statutes repeal and amendment Act, Mr. Speaker, where apparently legislation goes to die, Mr. Speaker. Not to sound so morbid, but the truth is in the content, Mr. Speaker.

There are many, like I said, many pieces of legislation that are being repealed. A few of them that I haven't mentioned yet include *The Home Energy Loan Act*. That's being repealed. *The Lord's Day (Saskatchewan) Act* is being repealed. *The Marriage Settlement Act*, Mr. Speaker, is being repealed. *The Parents' Maintenance Act*, Mr. Speaker, is being repealed. *The Rural Electrification Act* is being repealed. I believe that was an NDP government that first electrified and brought electricity to the rural locations in the province, and dare I say that it was Tommy Douglas who was premier at the time when that happened. I know the folks on the other side like to pretend that the province didn't exist before 2007 and everybody was living in the dark ages prior to that, but we know the truth, Mr. Speaker.

Similarly, Mr. Speaker, *The Trading Stamp Act* is also being repealed. And I don't have much to add about that but I

encourage, if anyone watching wants to learn more about that, they should review the wise comments made by the member from Prince Albert Northcote when she had the opportunity to add her 2 cents — or I don't know how much a stamp is worth now, 51 cents — to this bill, Mr. Speaker. She spoke quite eloquently on trading stamps and I learned a lot.

With that I am looking forward to having the opportunity to ask some questions at committee of the officials and, as always, spend some time with the Minister of Justice learning more about this bill and, like I said, having some questions answered. So at this time I'm prepared to allow Bill No. 95 to move to committee.

[15:00]

**The Speaker:** — Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion? The question before the Assembly is a motion by the minister that Bill No. 95 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. 95, *The Miscellaneous Statutes Repeal and 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. 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 for Regina Douglas Park.

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to rise and join in the debate around Bill No. 97, *An Act to amend The Arbitration Act*. Mr. Speaker, this is a fairly interesting bill that I'm curious to ask some more questions about while we are at committee with the officials and the Minister of Justice.

This bill does a few new things, Mr. Speaker. It sets out a definition for a "family arbitrator," as well as "family law dispute." Mr. Speaker, it retains an original definition of "arbitrator" and "arbitration agreement." Mr. Speaker, it also adds a section that allows for arbitration for family disputes, and then also talks about the different pieces of legislation that would fall under what would constitute a family dispute, Mr. Speaker.

I understand that this is a trend to divert family disputes to arbitration, Mr. Speaker, and I do know that there are some good folks who are doing family mediation services, both family mediators, family arbitrators, and lawyers who are especially qualified to do a dispute resolution in family law. But, Mr. Speaker, this mediation doesn't work for everybody, especially in family law where you see a large amount of conflict.

Oftentimes you'll see both sides or one side not wanting to participate in the process. You can see there's potential that there are some folks who have reached a stage in their relationship with the opposing party that they will never be able to mediate out an issue. For the folks where mediation is appropriate, where mediation can happen, then this is a step forward.

And I do know we already have Family Matters which exists, and I'm hopeful that the committee will be prepared to provide me some details on the Family Matters project: how that's going, how many people are accessing that service, and what the level of income is of the people who are accessing the service.

Mr. Speaker, I come from a background of working in the non-profit sector around access to legal services. I can tell you that my former employer, Pro Bono Law Saskatchewan, experiences the highest level of calls around the area of family law. And as someone who still volunteers in the area of family law at the Regina Free Legal Clinic, it's what we see the most often. It can be a wait of several weeks before you're able to see a lawyer.

But when I do see clients and when I used to see clients before being elected, oftentimes the folks that would come through those doors would never be able to access a family law arbitrator. There are some folks who we are able to refer to mediation services, which have existed and continue to exist through the Dispute Resolution Office on a sliding scale for those who choose to use it. But there were many people who, for a variety of reasons, mediation was not an option for them and would never be an option for them.

And I know that, Mr. Speaker, it was a change that happened well before my time, so I am used to having mandatory mediation for civil litigation matters. My hope — and based on what I've heard from other lawyers while I was doing consultation on this bill — is that mandatory mediation would not move to family law proceedings. There are some legitimate concerns around accessibility for folks. And there are some legitimate concerns around delay, Mr. Speaker, and the additional delay that any sort of mandatory mediation could impose.

So I'm curious to know from the committee: questions around Family Matters, how that's working; and consultation, what sort of consultation was done with respect to this bill; as well as whether or not there is any plan if this is going to be mandatory; and if this isn't mandatory at this time, if there's a desire to move it forward to mandatory mediation.

There's some times when, Mr. Speaker, mediation sounds good on paper. And it does because it means pulling things out of the

court process, making things more affordable for people. But there are some real reasons why it doesn't work for everybody, Mr. Speaker, and we need to be cognizant of the fact that a one-size solution doesn't fit all, Mr. Speaker, especially when we're dealing with something as complicated and messy as family law disputes, Mr. Speaker.

So there are several new positions, Mr. Speaker, that allow for a broader level of access to arbitration and to family law mediators. So I'm curious to know what sort of decision this is. I believe what this legislation is doing is adding a bit more power to an arbitrator. I've been using all of those words, but typically a mediator cannot reach a decision between the two parties unless both parties agree to it. Now that's similar, Mr. Speaker, also to a pretrial where two parties go in front of a judge and the clients negotiate out a solution.

An arbitrator has a little bit more power in terms of actually reaching a decision, so I'm curious to know how that's going to look. I think that that would allow people to facilitate an arbitrator rather than a judge in Queen's Bench, should they have a family law dispute that they can't reach an agreement on, that they want someone to make that decision, and they want it to have some force, Mr. Speaker. So I'm curious to know what the judiciary, how does the judiciary feel about that, if they've welcomed this change or if they're not happy with this change, Mr. Speaker.

Who is going to be a part of this arbitration tribunal? And I understand that there is an appeal allowed, and it looks to me like it's potentially being treated more like an administrative tribunal, Mr. Speaker. I'm curious to know if there's other jurisdictions that have done something like this and what that looks like. We want to make sure that decisions that are being made are still being made in a way that respects the rule of law, and at the same time provides accessibility and access to the court systems, Mr. Speaker.

So as I said, I have a lot of questions about what this is going to look like, and the consultation that was done with respect to this bill. I'm looking forward to having the opportunity to ask those questions in committee. So as such, I'm ready to allow Bill No. 97 to move to committee.

**The Speaker:** — Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion? The question before the Assembly is a motion by the minister that Bill No. 97 be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

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

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

**Hon. Mr. Brkich:** — I designate the Bill No. 97, *The Arbitration (Family Dispute Resolution) 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. 98

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

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

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to rise today to add my 2 cents into the debate around Bill No. 98, *An Act to amend certain Statutes respecting Family Dispute Resolution*. Mr. Speaker, this bill makes some changes to *The Children's Law Act*, and I think that's the only legislation that this is making changes to, Mr. Speaker. I'm just checking one more time. Oh, it is also making some changes to some other pieces of legislation like *The Family Maintenance Act*, Mr. Speaker, and *The Queen's Bench Act* as well.

Mr. Speaker, this again, similar to the last bill that I was talking about, deals around the area of family law and discusses some changes which provides more power to family arbitrators, and actually creates the definition of family arbitrator, Mr. Speaker. And it does some interesting things. And I want to point to, in particular, the amendment to *The Children's Law Act*, which is section 2 of the bill, which repeals and replaces section 10 of *The Children's Law Act*. And it says:

(1) On an application by an applicant or a respondent pursuant to this Part or Part III or IV, the court, by order, may appoint a family mediator to mediate a matter that is:

(a) dealt with in the application; and

(b) in dispute between the parties.

(2) No person shall be appointed as a family mediator without that person's consent.

Mr. Speaker, this is an interesting change that I think is new. I'm not too sure if the courts have been asking for this, if this is something that they're looking for. But the fact that the court may deem that if they're hearing an application that they can now appoint a family mediator to mediate a matter, it's interesting. Because still, when you're going through the mediation process, it's mediation, which means that the mediator can't force an agreement between the two parties. The two parties have to reach an agreement that satisfies both of them. It's not like a judge making an order and hearing both sides and then ultimately making an order, and then that's what the order is whether you like it or not — which, you know, is beneficial in some ways; in other ways it can be a bit problematic.

Mediation is fully available right now to anybody who is experiencing or may experience a family law dispute. The Dispute Resolution Office offers that service on a sliding scale, Mr. Speaker, and it's right now a voluntary process. So I'm

curious to know and I'm curious to hear the consultation that went into this provision and what the thought is about having a mediator ordered. I could see the benefit to that if both sides were requesting it, but then there wouldn't be a need for an application because they could both go to the Dispute Resolution Office and ask to have a mediator resolve this issue.

So if something is going to the court and somebody's making an application for a mediator, I would assume that that means that the other side doesn't necessarily want the issue mediated, which would make for a very difficult mediation session, Mr. Speaker. So I'm very interested to see how this works in other jurisdictions, if this is a provision that exists in other jurisdictions, and what level of success is received from this.

[15:15]

Mr. Speaker, it also creates another new section; it's section 10.1 and this deals with arbitration. And it says:

(1) A family arbitrator may conduct an arbitration in relation to a matter that is in dispute between the parties and to which this Act applies.

(2) Before initiating arbitration, a family arbitrator must . . .

And then it talks about entering into a written agreement, which sounds sort of similar to what exists for family law lawyers who practise collaborative law — not exactly, but similar — in that everyone enters into a contract understanding the process. So I'm curious to know again if there is any part in the legislation that allows or that provides for any mandatory family arbitration, if a judge can order that that somebody can move to family arbitration, if whether or not, or despite receiving consent, or whether or not they have a consent from both parties or if it's just one party who is requesting it, because it looks . . . I'm not entirely sure.

There's also a new provision as well called a "parenting coordination order," and they provide a definition for parenting coordinator which is "... a person who is recognized by the minister of meeting the requirements prescribed in the regulations for parenting coordinators." So I'm interested to see who that, what that person is, if that's just another word for a mediator or if that's a completely separate type of person, if that results in some different training that's required for those people, or if it's largely mediators who are going to be filling that role.

It also has, like I said, section 21.2 that talks about parenting co-ordination orders and says that, "On an application by an applicant or a respondent pursuant to this section, the court may make a parenting coordination order."

And (2), "The court may specify in an order made pursuant to subsection (1) the amount of the parenting coordinator's fees and expenses that each party is required to pay."

In subsection (3):

The court may order that one party pay all of the parenting coordinator's fees and expenses if the court is satisfied that

payment would cause the other party serious financial hardship.

And then moving on to section 21.3(1):

A parenting coordinator may assist parties to a dispute respecting a matter to which this Act applies:

(a) only if there is a parenting coordination agreement or order in place; and

(b) only for the purpose of implementing an agreement or order respecting:

parental responsibilities;

access; or

other matters prescribed in the regulations.

Mr. Speaker, I am curious to know . . . Mr. Speaker, there's a lot of cases that come before family law judges that are dealing around parenting and access orders, and that can sometimes delay the court system. And you sometimes hear frustration from judges who are seeing individuals access the court to spend thousands of dollars to fight over what's largely a difference between a few hours of access time, Mr. Speaker. So I'm guessing that the thought process here is that it would remove some of these things outside of the court system and into a more, I suppose, a more accessible system, and hopefully a more affordable system, Mr. Speaker.

However I believe that this sort of thing already exists through mediation and through the dispute resolution office that has, like I said, mediators on a sliding scale that can provide this sort of thing. Unless the parent and co-ordinator is capable and has the power to make an order in the absence of having consensus between the two parties, Mr. Speaker, and if that's the case then the hope is . . . Oh well then there's some questions about training of the parent and co-ordinators and what the appeal process looks like should those decisions be . . . should an individual wish to appeal those decisions. Like I said before, mediation is great as long as both parties want to come to the table, and if that's not the case then mediation goes sour very fast.

So it's very important that we are asking these questions and we're making sure that we're helping as many people as we can through this process, and that we're helping not just those who are of middle, higher income. It's those folks who are in the lower income brackets that we really need to make sure that we're assisting. There's many folks out there who can't afford lawyers and don't qualify for legal aid, and either choose not to make a family law application because of that or they try to struggle through the court process on their own. And it's very difficult for them to do, Mr. Speaker.

And I'm worried about . . . You know, you can put these sorts of things in. I'm worried that it will not be able to help those who are in low income, those folks who are working two full-time jobs trying to make ends meet and can't even get to the court process, let alone know that these are potential orders that could exist, Mr. Speaker.

And when I see the Minister of Justice just last Friday, in a press release attached to a whole bunch of other fine and tax increases, on a Friday afternoon, Mr. Speaker, include in those fine and tax increases . . . I think the language was something like, and other fines added to the court application process, which we still don't know what that means. We still don't know how much the fine increases are . . . or not the fine, the fee increases are, Mr. Speaker, for the filing fees that were increased, and what fees were increased. And it sounds like some new fees were added, Mr. Speaker, and we still don't know again what those fees are. The Minister of Justice hasn't provided us with any of that information.

So I think the concerns we have around accessibility to courts is legitimate and this isn't going to help anybody if they can't afford to pay the filing fee for their petition, Mr. Speaker.

It was \$200 to file a petition for divorce before, Mr. Speaker — I don't know if that's changed — \$100 to file a petition for any other family matter that does not include divorce, Mr. Speaker. And then there's filing fees for filing counterpetitions. There's filing fees for making an application to the court, and we don't know yet how much that is increased.

But I've seen people choose to not file for a divorce because it's too expensive. Because they're trying to decide whether or not they can . . . They have to choose between whether or not they can feed their kids or whether they can file for divorce, and it causes some serious problems down the line when folks can't access the family law courts in a timely manner. Unfortunately this isn't going to help that and when the Sask Party keep jacking up fees and making it more difficult for people to access the court system, it doesn't solve the problem and it doesn't make the problem any easier, Mr. Speaker.

So I'm curious to know some of those answers. It would be nice if the Minister of Justice could provide us with the details around these filing fees, which court fees were increased and what are the new court fees, Mr. Speaker, and for what types of applications, Mr. Speaker, because it is a problem.

And you can apply to ask for having your filing fee waived. It's not the easiest process in the world, Mr. Speaker. Typically you need someone to assist you through that process but some folks don't even know that that is an option and then they just see the filing fee and they choose not to go through with the process, Mr. Speaker.

And if this government would properly fund Legal Aid so that more people could access legal aid for their family law disputes and maybe actually properly fund Legal Aid so we could include property division in the services that are covered by Legal Aid because right now it's really difficult for an individual who has a low income, who qualifies for legal aid but then has property that needs to be dealt with. But then they can't have their property division dealt with, which is a very complicated process, very confusing process. All of a sudden they're unrepresented for like a third of whatever their legal issue is. It causes confusion in the courts. It causes confusion for the judges, and it causes confusion for the lawyers, Mr. Speaker. And frankly it causes confusion for the clients.

So maybe when we're looking at all these different ways we

can increase access to justice and we can improve the justice system, let's look at the program that exists now. Let's look at legal aid. Let's see how we can prop up Legal Aid and better fund it, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to see that happen for once, Mr. Speaker.

So with that, I know I'll have the opportunity to ask some more questions at committee. So at this time, I'm ready to move Bill No. 98 to committee.

**The Speaker:** — The question for the Assembly is a motion by the minister that Bill No. 98 be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

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

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

**Hon. Mr. Brkich:** — Designate that Bill No. 98, *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Family Dispute Resolution) 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. 107

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Makowsky that **Bill No. 107 — *The Provincial Emblems and Honours Amendment Act, 2017*** be now read a second time.]

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

**Ms. Rancourt:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I often say there is very few days that go by in this legislature that I don't learn something new. There's oftentimes we get an opportunity to learn about all different kinds of things in this legislature, Mr. Speaker. And until I had to make remarks with regards to Bill 107, I didn't realize that Saskatchewan was going to have a new provincial fossil and that the Tyrannosaurus rex, it is going to receive the official honour of becoming Saskatchewan's provincial fossil, Mr. Speaker. And I'm pretty happy about that; the giant, ferocious, meat-eating predator that the T. rex is.

I have to admit that the Tyrannosaurus rex is one of my favourite dinosaurs. And I don't know if it's because it's one of the few dinosaur's names I could actually say and pronounce, or else if it's one of the few dinosaurs I know how to imitate when I'm playing with my little grandsons. They love it when we play dinosaurs.

But apparently I'm not alone in Saskatchewan by thinking the T. rex is a pretty amazing dinosaur. Apparently in 2016, the Royal Saskatchewan Museum held a contest for people to vote

on what the province's official fossil should be and the T. rex won handily despite its very short arms.

So, Mr. Speaker, there was 14,208 votes and there was six other contenders that the T. rex had to go against. And Scotty, the T. rex — they've affectionately named him Scotty — he had 4,923 votes, so that was 35 per cent of the votes that were cast were for Scotty.

The reason why Scotty has that name is there was . . . In 1991 there was a discovery of the T. rex bones. He's 65-million-year-old fossil, and that was found in southwest Saskatchewan, and I believe that's around Eastend, Saskatchewan. And because Scotty was found there they have the Scotty skeleton on display at the T. rex Discovery Centre in Eastend. So, Mr. Speaker, that's another thing that I was not aware of. And when I think about dinosaurs I often think about Drumheller, but right here in our own province we have our own museums. And so I look forward to checking that out one day so that I could myself see Scotty the T. rex.

Other provinces, Mr. Speaker, also have fossils as an emblem. Manitoba and Nova Scotia do, and there's many other states that do in the United States. But none of them have the Tyrannosaurus rex, so this is a first for Saskatchewan. So it's pretty exciting.

[15:30]

So Scotty's going to join some of the other provincial emblems that we have in Saskatchewan which include the provincial bird which is the sharp-tailed grouse; provincial animal, it's the white-tailed deer. The provincial tree is the paper birch, and the provincial sport is curling, and the provincial flower is the western red lily, and the provincial mineral is the potash. So that is pretty exciting.

There's not a lot within this bill, Mr. Speaker, just the changes indicating that we're going to include the fossil and species known as the Tyrannosaurus rex and called T. rex, is the fossil emblem of Saskatchewan. That is the only addition to this bill. I'm really excited to hear what is going to be discussed within committee, and I know the critic will talk to the stakeholders and see how they feel about this. And there'll be some interesting discussion around this. But one thing to note, Mr. Speaker, is that it might have taken 65 million years for the Tyrannosaurus rex to win a popularity contest, so let that be a lesson that it's never too late to win a contest.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I don't have much else to add with regards to my remarks on this bill so I'm going to let my other colleagues have a little bit more . . . They could add their own remarks to this bill. And I'm going to adjourn debate on Bill No. 107, *The Provincial Emblems and Honours Amendment Act*.

**The Speaker:** — The member from Prince Albert Northcote has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 107. Pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

## Bill No. 110

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Stewart that **Bill No. 110 — *The Animal Protection 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. A pleasure to join debate today, particularly given the topic at hand under this particular piece of legislation, Bill No. 110, *The Animal Protection Act, 2017*. Good to join debate on the heels of a stirring discussion of the provincial emblems Act by my colleague from P.A. [Prince Albert] Northcote, with some good commentary from the member from Cannington. Certainly, we are, I think, united across this Assembly floor in terms of wondering, you know, if we had run him for the dinosaur contest, how would've he have finished against Scotty. I imagine he would have put up a pretty good fight, not just in terms of dinosaur credit, but I've also seen him around a steak, Mr. Speaker, and he can tear it up almost in T. rex fashion certainly.

But anyway moving on to more germane matters under Bill No. 110, *The Animal Protection Act, 2017* . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Now I'm getting some encouragement from Weyburn-Big Muddy. It's hard to know if the ill wind is blowing out of Big Muddy these days. I'm not sure what's happening over there, but ask him about . . . No, we'll leave that be, Mr. Speaker. We'll leave that for my planning and development speech, discussion of the taste of individuals in socks and whatnot.

But all joking aside, Mr. Speaker, it's good to see this particular piece of legislation come forward because certainly it's not been too long ago that the Animal Defence League . . . The Animal Legal Defense Fund annual survey ranked laws across the country. They put this out in June 2016, Mr. Speaker, and not only were we beat in ranking by nine other provinces, Mr. Speaker, we also finished behind the Yukon. We're 11th out of 13 Canadian provinces and territorial jurisdictions.

And again, Mr. Speaker, having listened to some of the debates that have taken place over the years in this Assembly, I well remember the member from Arm River having a pretty hefty interjection on this topic on earlier iterations of legislation. But I'd invite folks to look that up in *Hansard* if they want to find out more about that. But certainly, Mr. Speaker, this legislation comes forward at a good time. I'll be very interested to see how Saskatchewan ranks after this legislation takes effect.

Again you can't do much worse than 11th out of 13, but sometimes this government tries; sometimes they're always striving. I don't know if the motto's "you can always do worse" over there. But you know, and so whether this would move it up the rankings and then we could say finally we're ahead of the Yukon in terms of animal protection.

You know, Yukon, home of *The Call of the Wild*, stories that that involved, but . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . I'm getting egged on here by Cannington again. I'll try to avoid it, Mr. Speaker. But anyway surely to goodness you'd think we'd

finish ahead of the Yukon. But whether . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . I don't know what the member from Cannington's saying, something about Diamond Tooth Gertie over there, but again I'll resist the call of the wild, Mr. Speaker, and focus on the legislation.

But in terms of where this legislation weighs out, in terms of the ranking of Saskatchewan as regards the protection of animals in this province, let's take a look at the overview from the Animal Legal Defense Fund where they discuss what it takes to get to the bottom tier of provinces and territories, Mr. Speaker.

They list a number of potential improvement, including better definitions; standards of basic care; broader range of protections; prohibitions related to animal fighting; recognition of psychological harm; narrower — more narrow I think would be the way to put that — but narrower activity, use-based exemptions; increased penalties for repeat offenders; mandatory terms of incarceration for certain offenders; mandatory fines; mental health evaluations and counselling; warrantless entry into dwellings under certain circumstances, animal protection officer may request person in dwelling to produce animal for inspection; mandatory seizure of mistreated animals. Again these are under the list of potential improvements that could be made in the legislative regime.

Broader inspection powers for animal protection officers; possible on-site detention of seized animal. Officer may order owner to take action and provide care on site. Prejudgment forfeiture of animal if owner is unfit, animal may be harmed if returned. Mandatory forfeiture of animals and restrictions on future ownership or possession of animals upon conviction. Mandatory reporting of suspected animal cruelty by veterinarians and select non-animal-related agencies. Immunity for anyone who reports an animal in distress and assistance in the enforcement of animal protection legislation. And the duty of peace officers to assist in the enforcement of animal protection legislation.

Now again, Mr. Speaker, that's the list provided by the good folks at the Animal Legal Defense Fund. And in terms of fleshing out what it takes to make it to the 11th worst out of 13 Canadian jurisdictions, Mr. Speaker, in terms of animal protection . . . And again, this one has got us finishing behind the Yukon. I don't know how the sled dog racing figures into that regime, Mr. Speaker. But however that goes, it's apparently enough to get them finishing, mushing ahead of us, Mr. Speaker.

And so in terms of the legislation that's been brought forward, what impact will this have on the ranking of Saskatchewan? And in all seriousness, Mr. Speaker, I recognize that there's a broad array of interaction by humans and animals in the province of Saskatchewan, be it from, you know, the two cats that my wife and I are charged with the care of, Mr. Speaker — or rather, you know, taking the orders from — all the way out to, you know, whether you've got a hundred head of cattle to take care of out on the farm, and all points in between, Mr. Speaker.

So in terms of the range of the impact of legislation, Mr. Speaker, and in terms of the way that this intersects with those service animals . . . I see the member from Battlefords is

looking to get in on the . . . No, I've read the signals all wrong, Mr. Speaker. The member from Battlefords is withdrawing that request and will leave it lay, Mr. Speaker.

But certainly in terms of the impact, the range of this legislation, there are some very valid concerns to be brought forward in terms of what is properly in the questions that come around — I don't know — be it the member from Moosomin's chicken coop that he runs with his daughter or how it impacts the question of service animals and raising animals for food, Mr. Speaker.

Or you know, the deputy . . . No, I guess not deputy premier anymore. No, that turkey couldn't fly. The fixation by the member from Saskatoon Southeast with turkeys, how that all sorts out, Mr. Speaker.

**An Hon. Member:** — Too soon.

**Mr. McCall:** — Too soon, too soon, I'm hearing from some quarters. But certainly, Mr. Speaker, in terms of the way that this all shakes out, again the list of potential improvements that have been listed by the Animal Legal Defense Fund and the changes that are brought forward in this legislation, let's take a look at that, Mr. Speaker, see how it stacks up.

Certainly several pieces of the old Act are maintained, such as the section on the protection of service animals, and again service animals being a relatively new, and by new I mean within the last 20 years — give you that, Mr. Speaker — in terms of their treatment under the law. It expands on the definition for an animal in distress, including conditions that would cause the animal extreme anxiety or impair the animal's well-being over time. It expands animal care duties and what is expected of people who are responsible for animals.

It changes the language from humane societies to animal protection agencies. And again, Mr. Speaker, as a long supporter and interested follower of the work of the Regina Humane Society, I'll be interested to see that getting rolled out. And in terms of including limits on transporting animals who would suffer unduly during that transportation, the inclusion of a section for humane slaughter and euthanasia, the iteration of veterinarians having a duty to report when they have reasonable grounds to believe that someone isn't properly caring for an animal or is perhaps causing them distress — taking that moral duty and prescribing it in law, Mr. Speaker — and where the Act also outlines the ways that animal protection officers can relieve an animal in distress, be it entering premises or vehicles, as well as the rules that apply to animal protection agencies across the province.

Again, Mr. Speaker, a number of those initiatives line up well alongside the prescribed or the potential improvements that are enumerated by the folks at the Animal Legal Defense Fund. We'll be interested to see how they take effect in law. I've seen elsewhere where this legislation has been characterized as giving more teeth to the animal protection regime in Saskatchewan.

And again, Mr. Speaker, there are a lot of people that are very interested in the proper care of our animals in this province, and there are a lot of people that are very cognizant of that duty, that

responsibility that comes to humans in terms of making sure that animals are well taken care of. And you know, from time to time the more sort of heart-wrenching and terrible circumstances that arise, Mr. Speaker, where animals are not properly cared for and are treated horribly and results in death and loss of life, Mr. Speaker, through improper care, through improper attention to the well-being of those animals, we'll be very interested to see if this legislation can significantly reduce the reportage of those kinds of incidents.

[15:45]

Anyway, Mr. Speaker, it's again good to see legislation coming forward on this step. I think the Saskatchewan veterinarians' association referred to this as a good step forward and certainly, Mr. Speaker, we'll not gainsay the good opinion of the veterinarians of this province. But again, Mr. Speaker, in terms of ranking 11th out of 13 in terms of the animal protection regime in this province, here's hoping that we move the right way up that ranking and that this does in fact provide a workable and positive way forward in terms of animal protection in Saskatchewan.

But with that, Mr. Speaker, I know other of my colleagues will have more to say on this particular debate and probably much more wisely and more informed than I, and I look forward to that. But with that, Mr. Speaker, I'd move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 110, *The Animal Protection Act, 2017*.

**The Speaker:** — The member for Regina Elphinstone-Centre has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 110, *The Animal Protection Act, 2017*. Pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

### Bill No. 111

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Doke that **Bill No. 111 — *The Municipal Tax Sharing (Potash) Amendment Act, 2017*** be now read a second time.]

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

**Ms. Mowat:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to enter into adjourned debates today and to speak about Bill 111, *The Municipal Tax Sharing (Potash) Amendment Act, 2017*. My colleague from P.A. Northcote was talking about provincial emblems probably about half an hour ago now, Mr. Speaker, and she mentioned the fact that our provincial mineral is potash. And I'm sort of guided by that idea as I address my remarks today on this particular piece of legislation.

The minister provided background on why this bill was being introduced, or amended rather, when he gave his second reading speech. He provided some information about the history of this piece of legislation and when some of the changes have taken place. And for anyone who's viewing at home, I'll provide some background on what those details are as well.

So this Act was first introduced in 1968 and the goal was to establish a tax-sharing system for municipal taxes on potash mines. So the intent here was to create a system where municipalities that are closest to the mines, and not necessarily only the municipality where the mine is located, would be able to benefit from municipal taxes that are collected from potash mines.

To make sure that the taxes were redistributed properly among participating municipalities, the Act also established a board to oversee this redistribution called the Municipal Potash Tax Sharing Administration Board. So this board still exists now. It's responsible for receiving the taxes that have been collected from the potash mines and redistributing to the municipalities within a 20-mile radius from around the mine.

There were some significant changes to the Act in 1978, but since then the Act has remained relatively unchanged. So there have been some . . . [inaudible] . . . housekeeping changes in 2005. But the bulk of content of the Act has not had much update since before I was born, Mr. Speaker, so it's probably due for a revamp here.

The bill that is being proposed is being designed to modernize the Act, as the minister has identified, and to make sure that it aligns with current mining practices and operations of the board. And there is a number of different components that have been proposed here, but the minister identified that there was an initial interim report that was provided for review, and there was some option for the rural municipalities, rural road infrastructure, to be able to review those proposed changes. And then the minister says that, based on the initial feedback that was provided by the report, the government drafted amendments and further consulted with stakeholders in potash and municipal sectors.

So some of the questions that we'll have are about the extent of those consultations, what the questions were from the different organizations that they were consulting with, and so on.

Some reasons for changing the Act: so the minister argues that one of the primary reasons for amending the Act was to reduce the ambiguity of the potash-sharing calculation and to clarify how mill rates are to be calculated by the Municipal Potash Tax Sharing Administration Board. Apparently there was some confusion with the wording of the previous Act, and we obviously had a lot of time to see that out. There was some confusion with the wording so they wanted to alter that as well.

Another key proposed change to the definition is adding "resort villages" to the definition of urban municipalities. So historically towns and villages were the only urban municipalities receiving benefits from this potash tax-sharing process, and this goes back to the initial nature of the bill. But I understand that resort municipalities were once a place that were seasonal and now that is changing in a lot of cases. So there is an argument to add them into the mix, that they shoulder some of the burden in providing services as well so they should reap some of the benefits additionally.

There are also a number of changes to the administration of the board, the Municipal Potash Tax Sharing Administration Board. So there is some changes to the structure of the board, the terms



of board members. Notably the board has been expanded from three members to five members. There's going to be allowance for a representative from SUMA, Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association, and someone from the potash industry as well, which seems to make sense considering the fact that these organizations are heavily impacted by this agreement.

And finally the minister provides a lot more detail on what some of the additional housekeeping bills are, but argues that the main reason for changes to the Act is to increase transparency. So this is what we will be looking for, in addition to some of the information about the consultations that have taken place. So overall some of the motivations behind the legislation seem to be to increase overall transparency in what the funding agreement looks like, and to modernize especially in the case of housekeeping changes.

There are some pretty thick explanatory notes here, Mr. Speaker, which speak to the fact that there are quite a few changes that are taking place here. Some of them more housekeeping than others. I find it useful to look at the explanatory notes when we're talking about different pieces of legislation because it sort of explains what the difference is between the existing legislation and what's being proposed. It's sort of a guide, and anyone who's watching from home is actually able to look up these explanatory notes as well. Often I have questions about where this information comes from, and you can find it directly on the Legislative Assembly website actually. So if folks are wondering at home, they can look up the explanatory notes themselves. But it is quite a thick document, which is a little bit atypical here.

So I'll just overview what some of those changes are and what some of the explanatory notes are. The first thing is changing definitions. So there are a number of different definitions that change here. One of the highlights is the actual municipal mill rate is changed, is redefined to clarify the definition of actual municipal mill rate to align with the current practices on the board and the original intent of the Act.

So there's argument here that the definition needs to be changed to leave no room for misinterpretation. So talking about the fact that there has been misinterpretation in the past, and there should be changes to reflect that as well, and a whole host of other definition changes as well.

Section 3 has been repealed and rewritten to expand board membership. So we spoke about that with the representatives from the potash industry and SUMA being added. There's changes to other sections. The term of office is changed from one year to two years to improve administrative efficiency. With the expanded number of board members, three board members now constitute a quorum, so the definition of quorum had to change. The rate at which government members are reimbursed based on Public Service Commission rates changed. This was the case previously, but it added words to clarify which rates are to be used.

There's the change in calculation for the mill rate in a revaluation year. So the previous wording was unclear and it led to some confusion. And the section is now separated for ease of reading and to clarify the intent of the legislation overall. And

then there are changes around what's required in the annual report, that the annual report needs to be tabled, and not only the financial statements. There's new provisions around a standard date that is to be set when the board announces the mill rate for the year.

And the explanatory notes go on. And I won't bore our viewers at home by going through all of the pieces. If they are interested in the explanatory notes, they can go through them themselves. But I also just wanted to identify, Mr. Speaker, that this is a pretty hefty package of changes that are being proposed here. So we will have to go through this with a fine-tooth comb to make sure that the government is being diligent with these changes. So some highlights, some overview of highlights of what this bill does, since we delved into it in a little bit of detail.

This Act changes the membership for the Municipal Potash Tax Sharing Administration Board. So it expands the membership from three to five members, now includes representatives from SUMA and the potash industry. This is still quite a small board; it's still only five people. It seems to have been requested that they would have input. So overall that seems like a prudent change from my perspective, Mr. Speaker.

This Act redefines the actual municipal mill rate and we looked at that. The new definition sets a standard formula to be used for all municipalities. They state that a formula is added to make clear how the mill rate is to be calculated for potash tax sharing and to avoid improper calculations in the future. And this is something that we will certainly be investigating further with the minister at committee.

There's new provisions that modernize the Act, like changing miles into kilometres, a new section that outlines a standard date to be set for when the board announces the mill rate each year, and a new section that clarifies that tax tools are prohibited but that incentives are not. Municipalities can continue to apply discounts to tax on potash mine assessments.

So I have a couple of concluding thoughts on this, Mr. Speaker. First, I think it's critical that we get changes to this legislation right. We know that this Act has not been changed in substance since 1978, so I think that there is quite the opportunity here to modernize. But it's important that we get this right.

We need to ensure that there is meaningful consultation taking place. And I know the minister talked about some consultation with SUMA and SARM [Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities], but I think it's important that we reach out, and our critic reaches out to these organizations as well, to make sure that they've been heard in the process, to listen to what concerns that they had in that consultation process, and how these changes are going to impact them. Because ultimately they are going to have a substantial impact on these groups.

We know that sometimes consultation can be a concern for this government. We saw that with the release of the 2017 budget — and how timely that we are expecting the budget to be released right after our Easter break here, Mr. Speaker — where municipalities felt, I would say it's fair to say they felt blindsided by changes to the grants-in-lieu with municipalities.

[16:00]

And we have seen obviously some of the repercussions that have come after those changes have taken place and really a downloading of those costs on to the taxpayer, a lot of reminders coming out that there is only one taxpayer, that we can't simply download those costs to municipalities. So I would say that there has to be a repair in trust between this government and municipalities. And this is an opportunity to make sure that there is strong consultation done. So I would be interested in making sure that we've had those conversations, Mr. Speaker.

We know the importance of the potash industry in our province in terms of jobs, in terms of royalties that are paid back to municipalities. As always, we play a key role in helping farmers to produce food that feeds this world, not just in our province, Mr. Speaker, not just in our country, but internationally as well. We have a huge role to play in our potash industry. We need to make sure that we are being very careful with anything that, with anything that affects the relationship between municipalities and that industry.

And secondly, the whole idea behind this legislation is to have a fair distribution of taxes within a certain radius to those municipalities. So the municipalities who are maintaining roads, who are dealing with water and wastewater, who are providing services as a result of the creation and maintenance of potash mines are adequately compensated. So we need to make sure that those municipalities have the supports that they require to help with the smooth functioning of the industry. There are so many people that flock to these areas for jobs and there is an increased burden on municipalities, but there is also an opportunity for them there. So this sharing agreement is quite important.

So I want to make sure we get this right. I want to make sure we consult properly and make sure this is a fair distribution. I know that the critic will have more questions in committee and my colleagues will have more questions as well. But with that, Mr. Speaker, I would like to move that we adjourn debate on Bill 111, *The Municipal Tax Sharing (Potash) Act*, 2017.

**The Speaker:** — The member from Saskatoon Fairview has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 111. Pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

### Bill No. 112

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Hargrave that **Bill No. 112 — *The Miscellaneous Vehicle and Driving Statutes (Cannabis Legislation) Amendment Act, 2017*** be now read a second time.]

**The Speaker:** — Recognize the member from Saskatoon Nutana.

**Ms. Sproule:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As always, pleased to be able to rise and enter into the debate on bills here in the Assembly. This bill is a very interesting one

and the more I looked into it, the more questions I had about exactly how this is going to work. It's a complicated area that the government's wading into and I think it needs . . . There's going to be a whole level of education that's required for the people in the public once this bill is in place.

Now when the minister rose, he did not give a lot of indication about how this bill is going to be enforced. And I think that's one of the main questions that people in the province are going to have questions about. And I certainly do, Mr. Speaker, and I'll just briefly touch on those concerns here today.

One of the things I want to share with the Assembly is an article that I just found today, and it's regarding — I'm just trying to find out who the author is here — it's B. Platt at postmedia.com. And this was an article that was posted today. The article reads, and I want to share a large part of this article in the *Hansard*, but the article's title is "How much cannabis could you smoke and stay under the proposed legal limit for driving? The answer may be zero." And the article goes on to say:

Last month, at a city council meeting in Kelowna, B.C., the ranking RCMP officer was giving his quarterly update on policing when a councillor posed a question about marijuana.

"I know that when I go out for the evening, I can have a beer, and I know the alcohol content in that beer," said Coun. Ryan Donn. "I know that one would be a good limit for myself to have before getting in a car and driving.

And then he goes on to say — yes, Brian Platt is the author here — and then he goes on to talk about marijuana and he says:

"How long does it stay in the system? . . . I know that I don't have the answers if people ask me on the street."

RCMP Supt. Brent Mundle had little to offer in response, beyond saying public education is generally behind on this and that federal rules are still under discussion.

Well, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think that's a huge understatement when one says public education is generally behind on this. We have a bill here before us that is zero tolerance for presence of drugs in a person's system. Now this may be in reaction to the cannabis legislation that's also being brought forward this time around and the changes to the use of cannabis, but it goes much, much wider than cannabis use.

But just on the cannabis issue itself, it says there's newly released internal government research that indicates that confusion about cannabis is widespread. So here's a survey:

A Public Safety Canada survey conducted by EKOS Research Associates last fall found that although most people understand it's illegal to drive when impaired by drugs, 43 per cent of Canadians don't know how long to wait to drive after consuming pot, and one in six felt three hours was long enough — a significant underestimate.

So, Mr. Speaker, we have a public right now that's about to be told it's legal to consume and use cannabis, and yet 43 per cent

of Canadians figure it's okay to drive a vehicle three hours after consuming cannabis and, as this article indicates, that's "a significant underestimate." So you've got half of the Canadians not understanding what sort of tolerance or how your body stores cannabis, how it's measured, how these saliva tests and these new tests would detect the presence of marijuana or THC. And we are going to have people losing their licence and having their licence suspended.

Now among the marijuana users that they surveyed, 48 per cent of them reported that they had driven under the influence at some point. And then among that group, people who drive while stoned, "... 25 per cent felt it was less dangerous than driving drunk and 17 per cent felt there was no risk to their driving." So there's an attitudinal problem here, Mr. Speaker, particularly when you're bringing in zero tolerance for the presence of this drug in the bodies of the people that are driving.

There's "... a Health Canada survey released last year that found that 39 per cent of marijuana users had at some point driven within two hours of consuming cannabis, and only half of pot users felt the drug affected their driving ability." So again, Mr. Speaker, the notion of impairment varies widely across people in Canada. And when we have these zero tolerance laws being introduced, people are going to be losing their licence and not really understanding the implications of this law for them.

So one of my big questions for this government is, what are you doing to educate people about this bill? We have heard nothing. There is nothing in the minister's comments about how people are going to be informed. This bill takes place upon Royal Assent at the end of May, presuming it passes, and the RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police] can start laying charges on June 1st on these bills and on this bill.

And this means people having their licence suspended without really any sort of education in terms of what the impact is, especially because marijuana will now be legal. So they're consuming a legal substance, they're under the impression that they are not impaired, and all of a sudden, they're getting a suspension in their licence. So I think enforcement is a huge issue and I believe that education is a huge issue.

This article goes on to say:

As any police officer will tell you, this is not a new problem. It's already illegal to drive when impaired by any drug, including legal prescription drugs. Police already use field sobriety tests on drivers to detect impairment ... The rate of police-reported drug-impaired driving has been rising for years.

But Bill C-46, the legislation now being hotly debated in the Senate, would introduce two major changes on this issue.

One is the addition of roadside screening devices that allow police to test saliva for multiple drugs, including THC (the primary psychoactive in cannabis). The justice department has commissioned testing of devices and is expected to approve some for use later this spring.

But the most significant change is the creation of "per se" limits for THC levels in the blood. This is essentially a legal shortcut that allows police to lay an impaired driving charge based on a driver's blood THC level, without having to further prove impairment.

Police already use per se limits for alcohol impairment. But breathalyzers and blood alcohol concentration have been proven to have a close, predictable link to impairment. The same is simply not true of saliva testing and blood THC levels, and this is where things get tricky.

So the author goes on:

Will Bill C-46 in its current form mean non-impaired drivers are nailed with criminal charges? The government points to two main safeguards in its defence.

First, police must reasonably suspect a driver is impaired before ordering further testing ...

And then it goes on to say:

Once an officer has reasonable suspicion, a saliva test or a field sobriety test could be ordered. Based on that evidence ... [the person] could be brought back to the police station for a blood test ...

The government's second safeguard, then, is the creation of a "low blood drug concentration offence" that comes with a fine of up to \$1,000 ...

I'm not going to go on more about this article. I certainly would refer people to it. Again the author's name is Brian Platt, and it was filed on March 28th, 2018 at 12:15 p.m. EDT [Eastern Daylight Time]. It was filed under Canadian politics. So I would recommend people having a quick look at that.

One of the main issues I have with this bill is the definition of "drug" because the widening of this definition means that a significant number of people could be driving impaired under this definition of drug and not even realize that that's the case. The new definition of drug means, and I'm going to share this, Mr. Speaker — this is clause 3(2), and it's a new clause being added to *The Traffic Safety Act*, a new clause 2(1)(h.01) — and the definition is this:

**"‘drug’ means a drug or substance that causes or could cause a driver to be unable to safely operate a motor vehicle”.**

So I started thinking about all the over-the-counter substances that we can purchase when we're sick, things like Sudafed and NyQuil. What about prescription drugs, Mr. Speaker? Sleeping pills, all of those things are now caught by this definition. And if a police officer has a reasonable suspicion that you are impaired, you could actually lose your licence for using Sudafed. I mean, that may be a far reach, but I'm not sure that it is. And I think before this bill is ready to be brought into effect, I really hope that this government has plans for a significant education campaign.

What about legal users of marijuana? We know that THC levels

remain in the body for a very long time. So what is truly impairment? And I think that's the piece that's missing in this bill, is this is a thorny problem that's been around for a long time, but how do you determine impairment when someone is using chemical substances?

And so I think this is opening the door for . . . It will certainly create a lot of work for criminal lawyers, particularly defence lawyers, and our justice system because I think this law's going to be challenged in any number of ways. It creates a lot of problems for police forces as well, and I'd be interested to know how police forces are going to react to this bill, especially with some of these new zero tolerance clauses that are being introduced.

Many of the changes in this bill are to *The Automobile Accident Insurance Act* and then *The Traffic Safety Act*. And the large part is changes to *The Traffic Safety Act*. Under the automobile insurance Act, much of it is focused on referencing the new clauses in the federal Criminal Code that are being introduced. That's the main changes to the automobile insurance Act, new clause in the Criminal Code 253(1)(a) or (b).

So those changes are being applied and added to the list of a number of different Criminal Code offences, particularly in relation to subrogation for insurers, for example. And also in *The Traffic Safety Act*, it's being added to the list of clauses in the Criminal Code where you may not be eligible for insurance if you were operating a vehicle while impaired.

[16:15]

Also there's some fairly heavy penalties now being imposed on new drivers if they choose to partake in substances, drugs as defined under this Act. For example a new driver, as defined in section 149 of *The Traffic Safety Act*, is now subject to a new clause called "New driver zero tolerance — drugs." And this is a new clause 150.11(1) of *The Traffic Safety Act*. And the clause is quite long, Mr. Speaker, but I'll just read the first part of it:

A peace officer may make a demand pursuant to section 149 [which is the new driver clause] if the peace officer has reasonable grounds to believe that a driver drove a motor vehicle having any drugs in his or her body.

And then there's a whole list of things that the police officer can do if they have reasonable grounds. And as you know, Mr. Speaker, reasonable grounds is a topic of great debate amongst the judiciary and members of the legal profession. So that's certainly going to increase the discussion on that. What is reasonable grounds when it comes to having drugs in your system? Again I ask, is Sudafed or NyQuil, you know, if you're drowsy? What about caffeine, Mr. Speaker? Or warm milk in some ways has an effect of putting you to sleep, so is that going to be considered a drug if it affects your ability to drive? And I think these are real questions that our legal counsel in the legal profession are going to be asking.

I'm not sure if this bill deals with that or not, and I think, as I said at the outset, I believe it actually creates more questions than answers. I have a brother who's a criminal law lawyer in Red Deer, Alberta, and he has basically created an entire career

out of .08 offences. I mean, he is an expert. He's been to the Supreme Court. And these kinds of open-ended definitions are really taking us down a path that I think is going to cause a lot of confusion.

And I think people are going to end up with zero tolerance suspensions, some up to three days, for drugs that they had even no idea that they were impaired. And it just has to be in the body. It doesn't matter whether you're impaired or not. With the thing about alcohol, Mr. Speaker, is that we know scientifically what sort of limits people can tolerate before they meet a definition of impairment. We do not have that science for THC. We do not have that science for many of these other drugs.

So I think although I appreciate the intent, and I certainly do appreciate a lot of the zero tolerance clauses that are being introduced as well for alcohol impairment, I think that's much more cut and dried and easier to handle, as is evidenced by the existing state of the law.

The other thing I often wonder is why these zero tolerance rules for drugs were not brought in much sooner. I mean, the fact that people have been driving impaired using drugs has been around for a long time, but it seems strange that it's just being brought in at the moment that cannabis is being declared legal. And I just wonder if there's an anticipation that the number of pot smokers is actually going to leap to great, high proportions now that it's legal. I'm not sure that that will be case, and I would be interested in seeing the numbers on that as well.

There are many, many changes being made in this Act, many of them related, as I said, to the criminal charges and the definitions in the Criminal Code. A large part of this Act is dealing with that, but the zero tolerance rules are ones that are going to have a significant effect, and I think the education piece has really been lacking.

One of the things the minister said is that police will have the ability to lay new charges on Royal Assent. So that, as I said, Mr. Speaker, is coming up very, very soon, and I think there's an onus on the government to ensure that people understand these significant changes to the law.

Again I agree that impaired driving is a terrible tragedy in many cases, and so much can go wrong, and lives are lost as you know, Mr. Speaker. So impaired driving is a serious problem that we have to deal with, but I'm not sure that this bill meets the mark.

Having said all that, I know that other of my colleagues will want an opportunity to weigh in on this bill as well. And so at this point I think I've exhausted my comments and I will move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 112, *The Miscellaneous Vehicle and Driving Statutes (Cannabis Legislation) Amendment Act, 2017*.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member from Saskatoon Nutana has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 112. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

**Bill No. 113**

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Doke that **Bill No. 113 — *The Planning and Development Amendment Act, 2017*** be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. McCall:** — Thanks very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Good to join debate this afternoon on Bill No. 113, *The Planning and Development Amendment Act, 2017*. It's an interesting piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker. And referring to the minister's second reading speech on December 4th, 2017, I note with interest that the minister states the following. The minister of course at that point was then the member from Battlefords, Cut Knife before the member from Melville-Saltcoats took the helm. But, Mr. Speaker, the minister states:

... the Ministry of Government Relations consulted extensively with internal and external stakeholders to prepare this bill. Preliminary engagement sessions were undertaken in 2014 and 2015. In 2016 and 2017, the ministry undertook 25 engagement sessions involving stakeholders representing 59 different organizations.

It goes on to say, Mr. Speaker, that:

As a part of the ministry's engagement strategy, individual meetings were conducted with the following key organizations: Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities, Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association, cities of Saskatoon and Regina, the Saskatoon and Region Homebuilders' Association, the Regina & Region Homebuilders' Association, public and Catholic school divisions, and the ministries of Highways and Infrastructure, Education, and Agriculture.

And then the minister goes on to thank those organizations for participating in what is, you know, we pretty much agree, a fairly extensive engagement and consultation process.

Again, Mr. Speaker, casting your mind back, two years of preliminary engagement and then two years of actual engagement, and then here we are two years after that with legislation. You'd think that, you know, with all that consultation going on, Mr. Speaker, that topics like, oh I don't know, the grants-in-lieu might have come up. You'd think that with all that consultation that things like the Provincial Auditor coming forward on the GTH land assemblage, that her finding that the lack of coordination between the GTH and the Ministry of Highways resulted in a tremendous loss of taxpayers' money, Mr. Speaker, that the right hand didn't know what the far right hand was doing over there, Mr. Speaker, in terms of that particular piece.

And you know, somehow that all managed to happen against a backdrop ... It all managed to happen against the backdrop of all this consultation going on, Mr. Speaker. How the heck does that work? It makes you wonder what's on the agenda. Is this in

fact earnest consultation, Mr. Speaker?

So again, there's all this consultation going on and yet different things going wrong out in the sector that this government, you know, still has to be dragged kicking and screaming to take accountability for, Mr. Speaker. You'd think that with all those meetings, something maybe would be happening at the meetings.

But in terms of this legislation, Mr. Speaker, again there have been a number of changes made to the planning, the development regime in this province over the last decade, Mr. Speaker. And again, in terms of facilitating better coordination of action between different municipalities, in terms of the, you know, smoother, better, faster, stronger planning, Mr. Speaker, that's all well and good.

But the proof of course, as is the situation always, Mr. Speaker, the proof of the pudding is in the eating. And in terms of what this government has had the taxpayer of Saskatchewan choking back on, Mr. Speaker, in terms of what's happened at the GTH in one case, or last year with the budget, with the renegeing on grants-in-lieu in many cases — not just consultation that had been taking place over years, Mr. Speaker, but agreements that had been in place for decades, Mr. Speaker.

And of course everybody's waiting with bated breath to see what will come from this round of consultation on the part of that government when it comes to long-standing agreements that have been in place with many of the very important partners that I'd listed off in the six-year-long engagement process undertaken around this legislation. So again, with all those meetings, Mr. Speaker, you'd think that would rule out some of these developments that we've seen of late. But apparently not.

So you wonder if it's more about better enabling the government to stick municipalities with the cost for joint-use schools. You wonder if that's part of the situation. You wonder if, you know, what sort of impact things like the bypass, and again, the way that's related to the GTH and the things that the Provincial Auditor's weighed in on in terms of the lack of coordination. And again, the term "lack of coordination" doesn't really do justice to the loss of taxpayers' money that went on in the land assemblage around the GTH and around the bypass, Mr. Speaker, and the way that's been ruled on by the Provincial Auditor.

And again the way that, you know, sometimes they take two steps forward in saying, you know, we want to get this sorted out around the conflict of interest regime in this province, Mr. Speaker, when they're running, you know, say when some of them are running for leadership, but then that doesn't work out so well. Then it goes back underground and you can't figure out what really is the line over there, Mr. Speaker, in terms of the words. But again, the actions speak louder than the words over there, Mr. Speaker, and they don't say a whole heck of a lot. They don't say a whole heck of a lot to be proud of over there, Mr. Speaker.

So again, we'll see how this shakes out in action. There's always these great checkups that we like to call budgets in this province, Mr. Speaker, and how that relates to, you know,

whether or not you can have six years of meetings, you can have 25 engagement sessions with 59 different organizations, but if by the time the ministry gets through its good work — and again there are a lot of hard-working men and women out there in government relations work and the organizations I've listed off here, Mr. Speaker — but if all that work comes into cabinet and they start calling audibles, Mr. Speaker, and they start saying, well you know the way we can magic up the budget process, Mr. Speaker, the way we can paper over the different mistakes that we've made and the costs for those mistakes, Mr. Speaker, is to tear up decades-old agreements, Mr. Speaker, and stick the taxpayer with the bill for those.

Or in the case with the GTH where they're acting like deadbeat tenants, Mr. Speaker, I don't know if they're going to have to sic *The Residential Tenancies Act* on the government, Mr. Speaker, in terms of, you know, getting them to pay their rent, getting them to honour agreements with the city of Regina. You know, I don't know what it takes over there for the message to get through, Mr. Speaker, but it's certainly not there yet.

So, Mr. Speaker, again there is some fine things that are done by this legislation. There's a modernizing of a fee from, you know, the planning appeals committee in "... modernizing the maximum fee for appeals to local development appeal boards." A quote from the minister's second reading speech, Mr. Speaker, of December 4th, 2017, *Hansard*, of course, where:

The existing fee of \$50 was reset in 1973. Changing the maximum fee to \$300 accounts for inflation and helps offset municipal costs associated with the appeal hearings.

Again, Mr. Speaker, the alacrity of this government, the sort of fleetness of foot that's on display here in terms of getting on those big issues, when all these other things are going on around us, Mr. Speaker. Again, fair enough, that's a fine measure, you know. I'm all for updating a fee that is a year younger than myself, Mr. Speaker. Like, great work. But in terms of the other measures contained in this legislation, it doesn't mean a darn thing if it comes to the cabinet table and then you start chopping that budget up in all the different ways that I'm sure we're going to see on April 10th again, Mr. Speaker.

[16:30]

And it'll be interesting to see, you know, which one was worse. Was it the budget of last year, or will it be the budget of this year in terms of bad choices, in terms of bad values on full display, in terms of making people pay the price for the mistakes of this government, Mr. Speaker? I guess that will await April 10th.

But if indeed, you know, to make a variation on one of the things the old premier used to say, old Mr. Wall, where the past is prologue, Mr. Speaker ... So if that is indeed the case, and I think it often is, come April 10th I'm sure we ain't seen nothing yet, as regards the way that this government can confound and disappoint and, you know, tear up decades-old agreements.

But, Mr. Speaker, as regards this particular piece of legislation, again, you can have the best law; you can have the best regulation in the land, but if you haven't got a cabinet doing

their part, if you haven't got leadership in a government doing their part, then you're going to wind up in some of the places we've seen far too much of in the very recent past, Mr. Speaker. And that will indeed indicate what is to come.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I'd move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 113, *The Planning and Development Amendment Act, 2017*.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 113, *The Planning and Development Amendment Act, 2017*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

### Bill No. 114

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Hargrave that **Bill No. 114 — *The Vehicles for Hire Act*** be now read a second time.]

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

**Ms. Rancourt:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's my honour to stand today to add my remarks with regards to the Bill No. 114, *The Vehicles for Hire Act*.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I believe that this is the first time this bill has ever come to this Assembly because this is a new initiative that's being looked into with regards to this government. But when you review the bill, it really has very little in it and not a lot of substance and explanation about how we want to go forward with regards to this legislation. And it also is putting a lot of responsibility on municipalities in order to regulate with regards to bylaws and around the licensing and standards and fees and other requirements that'll be needed.

And so I know this has been a hot topic of discussion at SUMA meetings and with councils on how they want to go forward with this legislation because it's very important, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And I know after this legislation was put forward, myself and a lot of my colleagues, we've been looking at stakeholders within the province and having discussions with them because this is a really important bill to put forward, and this is something that you want to do right when you first do it. You want to put forward all the right stuff. And we truly believe that this is something that would be good to look into. It's a changing of our times. People are looking at different avenues of having rides and vehicles for hire.

So this is really important that we implement a lot of these concerns and ensuring that when people are interested in bringing forward these businesses that we have some legislation and a framework. But again we don't want to rush into something without looking at it and making sure that we've covered all the ground. And I know a lot of the stakeholders that we've talked to, they don't feel that they've been consulted and that this was put forward by the minister without consulting the appropriate stakeholders, which isn't a way that we should

be doing business in this House. And so I think that's really unfortunate.

We really want to make sure that we don't have an uneven business environment, especially between taxi companies and the transport network companies, TNCs [transportation network company], they often call them. And we want to make sure that we don't have a two-tiered system which could also potentially significantly lower the standards of transportation services in the province, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And so that is a big concern.

So some of the issues that were brought to my attention with regards to this legislation is the definition of "vehicle for hire." The Government of Saskatchewan in *The Vehicles For Hire Act* has defined a vehicle for hire as:

... a service provided by a transportation network company that provides a vehicle and driver for the pre-arranged transportation of passengers for compensation through the use of a transportation network, but does not include a taxi service.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we don't understand why the government has chosen to specifically exclude taxis from this definition. When you look at other provinces and the legislation that they put forward with regards to having an Act for vehicles for hire, they don't necessarily exclude taxis. So I don't understand why in Saskatchewan that was a decision made.

So there's a lot of thought into having the definition that would be changed in order to include that. Mr. Deputy Speaker, a TNC like a company like Uber or something — I hear there's a few other companies such as that — they're no different than a taxi company or a limousine company. A taxi meter is the same thing as a TNC app. They both calculate the distance and the drop time, the drop rate, the time and to ensure that they can calculate how much it's going to cost for the ride. So they all operate in the same services. To believe that if the ride-sharing company is providing that service and charging similar ways or rates, that they should be classified together.

So the Government of Alberta defines a TNC as an entity or individual that connects passengers with its drivers for pre-arranged transportation, exclusively through a transportation network. TNCs and drivers are operating on a for-profit basis. It is fundamentally different than traditional carpooling where a friend or colleague offers a ride to someone where both people are going to the same destination. With a TNC, a driver is going out of their way to pick up and drop someone off, and being compensated for more than just straight expenses or the vehicle's wear and tear.

So I think a solution for this, Mr. Deputy Speaker, would be to propose that the government have a different definition with regards to TNCs, and then they could classify them as a ride-hailing company, a vehicle for hire, or even continue to add taxi in that definition.

Also SGI, when it's looking at insuring vehicles for hire, they really need to carefully consider what model of insurance that it offers for vehicles for hire, because, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we want to ensure that this does not create an unfair system for other agencies that offer rides. Then that doesn't make it fair for

some of the businesses that have been long standing in our communities as well. So if it becomes cheaper to license and insure a TNC over a taxi, then the province will, very likely, start seeing a lot of the taxis going and operating as TNCs instead. So I think we've got to be very careful when we look at that, and I hope when SGI is considering their insurance rates, they're considering that as well.

Also in this Act, the language, from what I've read, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it's proposing that local municipal governments inspect the vehicles for hire. And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I don't think they are probably the best suited to be doing those inspections. Like, who would be responsible for doing that? What knowledge base do they have with regards to ensuring that vehicles are safe for individuals? I would think that SGI would have that experience. They would have the individuals there, and they're definitely in the best position to enforce requirements.

So I would like to see the government consider saying that these inspections will be done through SGI and possibly even it could be as simple as ensuring that they require a certificate of safety inspection at the time insurance was purchased. So that seems to be what is required for taxis, so I don't see why that would be any different for ride-sharing companies to ensure the safety of residents who are using those companies.

Also it indicates in here that if an individual has . . . Well the drivers need to have a driver's licence, which I guess we should put that in there, but it should be simple. But it also says that if the driver has some type of criminal record that that might exclude them from being able to be a driver, but it doesn't have a list of what that would look like. So a lot of municipalities, they create their own lengthy list of offences that might prevent someone from driving a taxi, so I don't know if this is going to be left on the responsibility of municipalities to do this. Also, for the ride-sharing companies, I find . . . The minister put that in the Act here, but they didn't identify what those offences would look like, and so leaving that open.

And I think it should be really important that they require a criminal record check and a vulnerable sector check for every driver, as I believe is required for taxi drivers. And we would want to make sure those criminal record checks are done by the police, our local police services, because that would be an outside agency doing that. Because my understanding is some of these ride-sharing companies, they do their own criminal record checks for their staff, and so I think at times that could be seen as being a conflict. And so I would hope that that would be included that they require a criminal record check done by our local police services.

The Act also doesn't mention any requirements for drivers to have a PST [provincial sales tax] number and remit provincial sales tax, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And that is a requirement for taxi drivers in order to do that. And so again if that's not going to be the same requirement for vehicle for hire, that really puts a two-tiered system and could allow them to have services that are maybe a little bit less expensive, which isn't fair business for a taxi service if they have to charge their customers PST. And I think also that that's an area that we're missing out on as well, especially the economic state that we're in and putting PST on children's clothing and all of those other avenues that

the government is trying to seek funds. But not putting it on vehicle for hire seems to be interesting.

Also, one of the things that are important to identify is that a lot of people consider vehicles for hire to be more advanced and more tech-savvy because they have more of an app system and that's how you require those services. But taxi companies are also doing that, Mr. Deputy Speaker. They're developing app services and texting services. I know I've texted our local taxi company and they've texted me back. It's pretty neat. And so there are a lot of different avenues to do that as well.

And taxi companies have been approaching the government about wanting to expand their services as well and offer more like a flex service within the province and have been looking at having a service that they can expand outside of the larger urban centres, which I think is incredibly important, Mr. Deputy Speaker, because when we look at impaired driving, which the minister indicated is one of his major priorities is reducing the impaired driving in our province, which is wonderful. And I think we're all on the same page when it comes to that.

[16:45]

But when you think about these ride-sharing companies, the vehicle for hires, oftentimes they operate in larger urban centres because they want to have a business where there's more people available to access their services. But when we look at impaired driving within the province, impaired driving, our rates are very high in smaller and rural communities. And in those areas, there's very little options for having different transportation options when you require them.

And so the taxi companies within the province have been advocating the Saskatchewan government for a Saskatchewan-made solution with regards to that, so that they could have some opportunities to maybe expand their businesses outside of the larger centres. And maybe if they know there's something happening in a smaller community, they could go during those times and offer their services at that point, or look at different avenues and explore that.

And I think, Mr. Deputy Speaker, if we really are wanting to reduce our impaired driving rates and we really want to have some different options, I think we need to start evaluating that, you know, and how can we offer these services in the smaller areas. Because from growing up in a small town and still oftentimes being in small communities for events, I oftentimes see so many people leaving . . . And it's just so normalized in those communities. But I think if they had more options and that started becoming the customs and what they were comfortable with, they would utilize that.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, like I said before, certainly no one is saying that we don't want to bring in the ride-sharing companies. But we have to ensure that the regulations are in place and ensure that there's safety for consumers and drivers. And that is definitely the role of the provincial government, so we have to . . . We also have an obligation to help our municipalities with developing these regulations. And I know right now they're not feeling very supported, and they're going to have a lot of tough decisions to make. And like I said, there's not a lot of support here within this legislation.

So I know my colleagues are going to have a lot more that they'll want to add with regards to discussion with this bill, and I know the critic will have a lot of questions for the minister with regards to this bill as well. So with that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have exhausted my remarks with regards to Bill No. 114, and I will adjourn debate on Bill No. 114.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member from Prince Albert Northcote has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 114, *The Vehicles for Hire Act*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

### Bill No. 115

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

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

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's an important bill that we look at, Bill No. 115, *An Act to amend The Residential Tenancies Act, 2006*. And of course this speaks to people's homes and what people can do in their homes.

And this really clarifies some of the rules around prohibiting possession, use, and selling and distribution of cannabis, that type of thing, and gives new powers to refuse an application from a tenant who's in contravention of an order. It talks about paying their rent for the duration of an appeal and what to do with property worth less than \$1,500. The main, core pieces and I just want to talk briefly to those, to particularly the last piece about the \$1,500.

Now of course this may seem like a small amount to some people, but to some people who are living in poverty this is an awful lot. So I'd be curious when we talk to the ORT [Office of Residential Tenancies] people when they come, whether this is a reasonable thing or not. I mean was there a delay or what? Is it just that people want to get stuff out right away? This is unfortunate if it's just a use of power, and that's something that I have concerns about.

The minister said when he introduced this bill just a few weeks ago that:

We have become aware of . . . provisions of the legislation that provides some rights without concurrent obligations. Other provisions have proven troublesome. These amendments will make adjustments to bring the legislation to balance . . . rights of tenants and rights of landlords.

And it seems that this is really going in favour of the landlords. And I don't know whether the people who have been consulted in this, whether people like ROSA, the Renters of Saskatoon



and Area, and other groups have been consulted about this. Because we know this government is very heavy handed when it comes to this piece of legislation, particularly in favour of landlords. And so we have a lot of concerns.

And in fact just recently, yesterday morning it was brought to my attention that in fact there is quite a backlog at the Office of Residential Tenancies, and that's causing a real problem. And in fact one fellow has gone to court and was talking to a judge about the fact that hearings before the ORT are not recorded. We're used to that in here where all words are recorded. Any kind of hearing, a court-like hearing, is recorded, but apparently at the Residential Tenancies office they are not recorded. There's no notes taken of the hearings. There's a decision made; that's it. And if you take that decision to any further level, you're really out of luck.

Now for any kind of evidence that might be presented at the hearing, and this really goes in favour of some landlords who may have access to lawyers. I don't know how many tenants who bring lawyers to it, but I understand that particularly in the light now that we see in Saskatchewan, pretty big landlords, the Mainstreet or any of those large ones typically have access to resources that others don't have.

So we're going to have a lot of questions in terms of the power, the balance of power, particularly when it comes to a fair hearing and whether or not people do get fair hearings, particularly if, when the hearing doesn't go in their favour and there's no recording, no notes, other than a decision made by the ORT. And this is a problem and this is something that we really need to make sure is rectified.

And so when the person called, the constituent called yesterday about this concern . . . And apparently there are people very aware of this within the Ministry of Justice and perhaps this will be resolved. But I do want to bring it to the floor today that this is something that I think needs to be rectified, and we'll be asking a lot of questions in committee about this concern about balance of power and how that has got out of whack apparently, according to the minister.

And he is trying now to bring it back into some sort of a proper alignment. And what does that mean? And what does it mean both for the landlord and for the tenant? Because all of these provisions here today seem to really aim at tenants. And are there issues? Has there been proper consultation with tenants? And looking at what's been happening in our cities and our communities with our apartment blocks.

We see for example, we know, and we heard about this just before Christmas, in Saskatoon the rash of mailbox thefts that were happening in apartment blocks and the reluctance of landlords to act, ensuring that the apartments were secure. They were saying, it's not really our issue; it's somebody else's issue in terms of security in the apartments, that they would only act partially. And then we saw the rash of mailbox theft. And of course prior to Christmas, whether that was being gifts being sent out or other important documents in the mail, people were simply not getting their mail. And people were complaining to the Office of Residential Tenancies, but the concern was that the office, there's backlogs apparently.

Now this is what we need to verify when we have the people

before us in the committee because this is a big deal. There are thousands of tenants here in Saskatchewan, and they're very concerned about their rights to security. It's their home. And when they see this government acting in a heavy-handed way, and particularly when it comes to . . . We need to just touch briefly on the cannabis issue. When you can't . . . If you're allowing landlords to make rulings about what they can do in their homes but they can't consume the cannabis in the parks or public places, which we agree with, and you can't consume cannabis in your vehicle, so what are people who are going to be living in rental properties, what are they going to be doing? And is this going to really undo some of the positives of the legalization of cannabis, where we're looking at a healthy approach to it? And in fact we may be doing it unintentionally. And this is a concern we have about this kind of legislation, the unintended consequences where yet again we are driving it underground.

We know a good majority of young people are renters. This affects them. They are very concerned about what this will mean to their rights in their own property. And of course the price of rent, you know, that has gone up — and it's still quite high — really it causes people to think, hey, I'm renting this place, I should have certain rights, and are they being adhered to.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would say when we do get to committee with this bill, I know my colleague from Fairview who's the housing critic, and my colleague, the Justice critic, will have lots of questions on this because there are a lot of unintended consequences to this. And some of these seems . . . Have there been proper consultation? Has there been the follow-up with the people? And is the Office of Residential Tenancies, do they have the resources to do the work they need to do? And we'll see that in the budget that's going to be coming down in a few short weeks.

And I've always been very concerned that they've just not had the resources. Good people that they . . . And they try to do their very best, but if they're not allowed to do the number of complaints that are before them . . . They're important work. It's important work. It's very important work. And if they don't have the ability to record the hearings properly and make sure people have the evidence they need if they want to take it to a next level, to the Court of Queen's Bench or small claims court, they need the evidence. But if they can't get the evidence, they've been forced to go through a hearing of which they've already paid a fee. And I think the fee is 25 bucks so it's not like it's a cheap thing. And who knows? Those fees may be going up but we'll wait and see.

So I have to say that I have some real, real concerns about this. It's quick. March 13th is when the bill came forward in second readings — just two weeks ago. And so this is something that we have some concerns about. And I know that we'll be raising them in committee because we want to make sure. And it's a sizable number of people who live in our cities and our communities and our towns right across this province in rental properties. And what does this mean for them and their own personal rights?

And so I think that the minister, while he may be talking that it realigns or sets the balance, again we need to make sure that it's

not going too far. Because I have had, and we hear constantly, concerns about the ORT and a lack of resources and the inability for tenants to feel like they're getting their justice there, that in fact the balance is the other way. Because we're dealing with larger and larger corporations that own the rental properties, and so the days of the mom and pop landlords have come and gone in a large sort of way, and we're dealing with big, big corporations.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I would move adjournment of Bill No. 115, *An Act to amend The Residential Tenancies Act, 2006*. Thank you.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — It now being 5 o'clock, the time of adjournment, this House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 10 a.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 17:00.]



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### STATEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

#### Imputing Motives

The Speaker .....	3651
Forbes .....	3651

### ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

#### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

D'Autremont .....	3651
Ross .....	3651
Beck .....	3651

#### PRESENTING PETITIONS

Bradshaw .....	3652
Beck .....	3652
Forbes .....	3652
Sarauer .....	3652
Chartier .....	3652

#### STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

##### Spring Free from Racism Event

Beck .....	3653
------------	------

##### Reopening of Variety Place

Brkich .....	3653
--------------	------

##### Provincial Curling Championship

Mowat .....	3653
-------------	------

##### Young Athlete Recognized

Reiter .....	3654
--------------	------

##### SustainTech 2018

Lambert .....	3654
---------------	------

##### Hockey Team Captures League and Provincial Title

Francis .....	3654
---------------	------

##### Opposition Claims Regarding Conflict of Interest

Carr .....	3655
------------	------

#### QUESTION PERIOD

##### Conflict of Interest Legislation

Meili .....	3655
-------------	------

Moe .....	3655
-----------	------

##### Support for Community-Based Organizations

Meili .....	3656
-------------	------

Merriman .....	3656
----------------	------

##### Shelter for Youth in Swift Current and Area

Wotherspoon .....	3656
-------------------	------

Merriman .....	3657
----------------	------

##### Funding for Autism Supports

Chartier .....	3657
----------------	------

Reiter .....	3657
--------------	------

##### Management of Global Transportation Hub

Sproule .....	3658
---------------	------

Morgan .....	3658
--------------	------

##### Cost of Power for Saskatchewan People

Belanger .....	3659
----------------	------

Duncan .....	3659
--------------	------

##### Saskatchewan Employment Numbers

Mowat .....	3659
-------------	------

Harrison .....	3659
----------------	------

#### MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

##### Saskatchewan Signs Canadian Agricultural Partnership Agreement

Stewart .....	3660
---------------	------

Beck .....	3660
------------	------

#### PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

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

Bradshaw .....	3661
----------------	------

#### THIRD READINGS

##### Bill No. 72 — *The Privacy Amendment Act, 2017*

Morgan .....	3661
--------------	------

Bill No. 75 — <i>The Electronic Communications Convention Implementation Act</i> <i>Loi de mise en œuvre de la Convention sur les communications électroniques</i>	
Morgan .....	3661
Bill No. 87 — <i>The Data Matching Agreements Act</i>	
Morgan .....	3662
<b>ORDERS OF THE DAY</b>	
<b>WRITTEN QUESTIONS</b>	
Lawrence .....	3662
<b>GOVERNMENT ORDERS</b>	
<b>ADJOURNED DEBATES</b>	
<b>SECOND READINGS</b>	
Bill No. 121 — <i>The Cannabis Control (Saskatchewan) Act</i>	
Chartier .....	3662
Bill No. 122 — <i>The Cannabis Control (Saskatchewan) Consequential Amendments Act, 2018</i> <i>Loi de 2018 corrélative de la loi intitulée The Cannabis Control (Saskatchewan) Act</i>	
Chartier .....	3664
Bill No. 95 — <i>The Miscellaneous Statutes Repeal and Amendment Act, 2017</i>	
Sarauer .....	3665
Brkich (referral to Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice Committee) .....	3666
Bill No. 97 — <i>The Arbitration (Family Dispute Resolution) Amendment Act, 2017</i>	
Sarauer .....	3666
Brkich (referral to Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice Committee) .....	3667
Bill No. 98 — <i>The Miscellaneous Statutes (Family Dispute Resolution) Amendment Act, 2017</i> <i>Loi modificative diverse (résolution des conflits familiaux) de 2017</i>	
Sarauer .....	3667
Brkich (referral to Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice Committee) .....	3669
Bill No. 107 — <i>The Provincial Emblems and Honours Amendment Act, 2017</i>	
Rancourt .....	3669
Bill No. 110 — <i>The Animal Protection Act, 2017</i>	
McCall .....	3670
Bill No. 111 — <i>The Municipal Tax Sharing (Potash) Amendment Act, 2017</i>	
Mowat .....	3672
Bill No. 112 — <i>The Miscellaneous Vehicle and Driving Statutes (Cannabis Legislation) Amendment Act, 2017</i>	
Sproule .....	3674
Bill No. 113 — <i>The Planning and Development Amendment Act, 2017</i>	
McCall .....	3677
Bill No. 114 — <i>The Vehicles for Hire Act</i>	
Rancourt .....	3678
Bill No. 115 — <i>The Residential Tenancies Amendment Act, 2017</i>	
Forbes .....	3680

# GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

## CABINET MINISTERS

---

**Hon. Scott Moe**  
**Premier**  
**President of the Executive Council**  
**Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs**

**Hon. Tina Beaudry-Mellor**  
Minister of Advanced Education  
Minister Responsible for the Status of Women  
Minister Responsible for Innovation

**Hon. Ken Cheveldayoff**  
Minister of Central Services  
Minister Responsible for the Provincial  
Capital Commission  
Minister Responsible for Public Service Commission

**Hon. Dustin Duncan**  
Minister of Environment  
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Water  
Security Agency  
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan  
Power Corporation

**Hon. Bronwyn Eyre**  
Minister of Energy and Resources  
Minister Responsible for SaskEnergy Incorporated  
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan  
Water Corporation

**Hon. Joe Hargrave**  
Minister of Crown Investments  
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan  
Government Insurance  
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan  
Transportation Company

**Hon. Donna Harpauer**  
Minister of Finance

**Hon. Jeremy Harrison**  
Minister of Trade and Export Development  
Minister of Immigration and Career Training

**Hon. Warren Kaeding**  
Minister of Government Relations  
Minister Responsible for First Nations, Métis  
and Northern Affairs

**Hon. Gene Makowsky**  
Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport  
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Liquor  
and Gaming Authority  
Minister Responsible for Tourism Saskatchewan

**Hon. David Marit**  
Minister of Highways and Infrastructure  
Minister Responsible for SaskBuilds and  
Priority Saskatchewan

**Hon. Paul Merriman**  
Minister of Social Services

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

**Hon. Greg Ottenbreit**  
Minister Responsible for Rural and Remote Health

**Hon. Jim Reiter**  
Minister of Health

**Hon. Lyle Stewart**  
Minister of Agriculture  
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Crop  
Insurance Corporation

**Hon. Christine Tell**  
Minister of Corrections and Policing  
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan  
Gaming Corporation

**Hon. Gordon Wyant**  
Deputy Premier  
Minister of Education