



SECOND SESSION - TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

of the

**Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

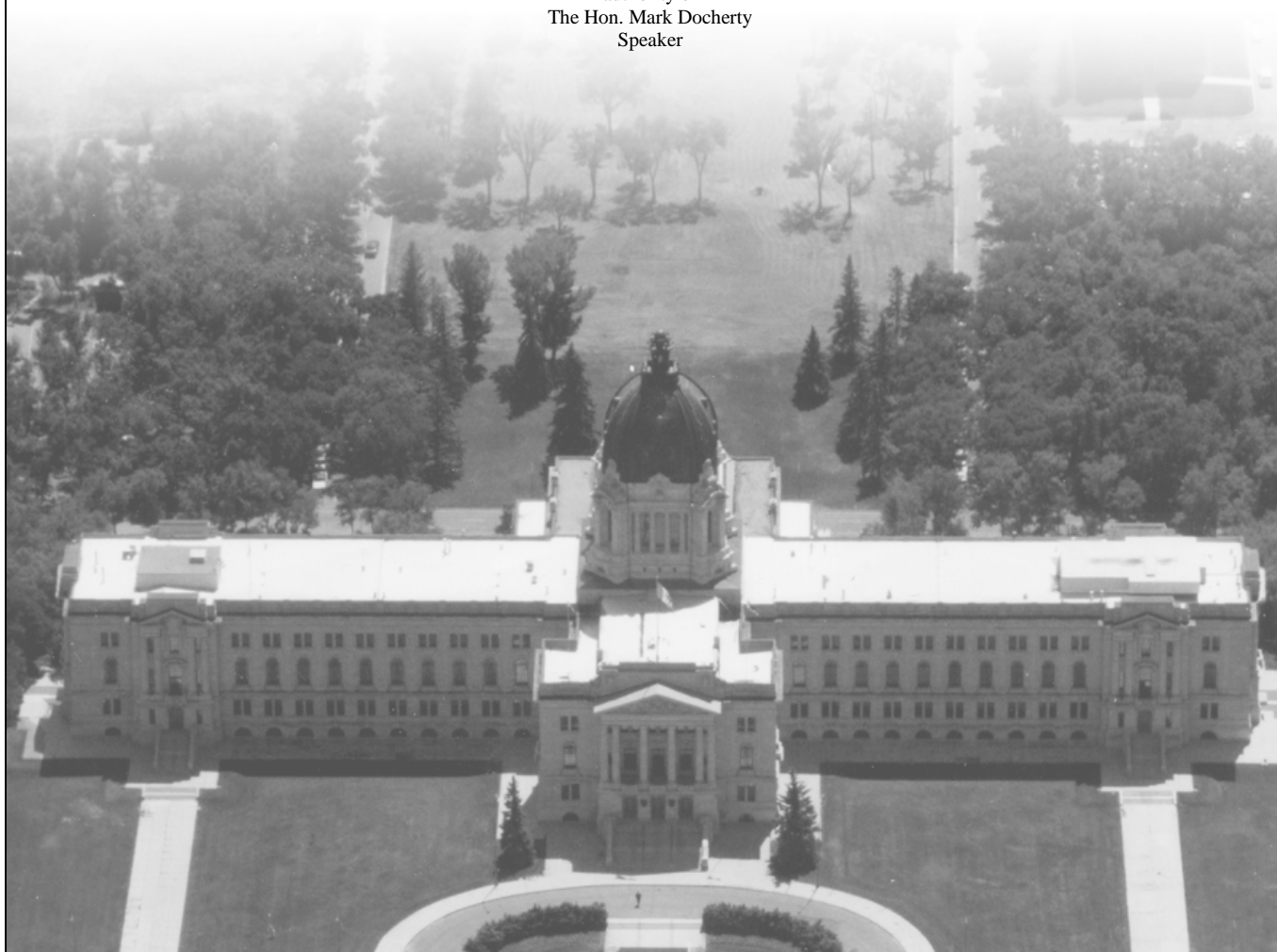
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**DEBATES  
and  
PROCEEDINGS**

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(HANSARD)

Published under the  
authority of  
The Hon. Mark Docherty  
Speaker



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

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

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**Beck**, Carla — Regina Lakeview (NDP)  
**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)  
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**Hargrave**, Hon. Joe — Prince Albert Carlton (SP)  
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**Lambert**, Lisa — Saskatoon Churchill-Wildwood (SP)

**Lawrence**, Greg — Moose Jaw Wakamow (SP)  
**Makowsky**, Hon. Gene — Regina Gardiner Park (SP)  
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**McCall**, Warren — Regina Elphinstone-Centre (NDP)  
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**Michelson**, Warren — Moose Jaw North (SP)  
**Moe**, Hon. Scott — Rosthern-Shellbrook (SP)  
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**Nerlien**, Hugh — Kelvington-Wadena (SP)  
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**Sarauer**, Nicole — Regina Douglas Park (NDP)  
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**Vermette**, Doyle — Cumberland (NDP)  
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**Wilson**, Hon. Nadine — Saskatchewan Rivers (SP)  
**Wotherspoon**, Trent — Regina Rosemont (NDP)  
**Wyant**, Hon. Gordon — Saskatoon Northwest (SP)  
**Young**, Colleen — Lloydminster (SP)

Vacant — Regina Northeast

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

**Clerks-at-the-Table**

**Clerk** — Gregory A. Putz

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

**Principal Clerk** — Iris Lang

**Clerk Assistant** — Kathy Buriaynk

**Sergeant-at-Arms** — Terry Quinn

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[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**Hon. Mr. Docherty:** — Introduction of guests, and I have a school group. So seated in the west gallery, it's my pleasure to introduce a group of 41 grade 8 students from the Huda School in Regina which is in the constituency of Regina Coronation Park. And with them is Sajada Tauqueer and Karen Gunnlaugson. Thank you so much for bringing this group of students.

I look forward to getting pummelled in questions and answers with them, but an amazing group of students, an amazing school. Congratulations on your new addition, the Cortoba. And again, looking forward to coming to your classroom and continuing with the conversation. But again, on behalf of all members and myself, welcome to your Assembly.

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

**Hon. Mr. Hargrave:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you, I'd like to introduce five people from the Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association sitting in your gallery. I know, Mr. Speaker, we're all grateful that the snow has finally gone, but I know these folks were quite enjoying the six months of winter that we did have. But these guests, I'd like to introduce them, and I'd like them to wave a little bit if they don't mind: Jennifer Schneider, Debbie Giesinger, Leah Switzer, Derek Silversides, and president and CEO [chief executive officer] Chris Brewer.

These guests are here today to listen to the second reading of Bill 123, *The Snowmobile Amendment Act*. Their organization has been instrumental during the consultation process for the amendment, and I thank them for their work. And I thank them for attending today, and I'd like all members to join me in welcoming them to their Legislative Assembly.

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

**Mr. McCall:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the official opposition, I would like to join with the minister in welcoming these representatives from the Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association to their Legislative Assembly.

Certainly the snowmobile association plays an instrumental role in the world-class trail system we have here in Saskatchewan to sled till our hearts' content. And certainly this is an organization that is an exemplar in terms of taking an interest in a passion and making it even better for not just themselves, but for all of us, Mr. Speaker.

So I just want to say, on behalf of the official opposition, thank you for all the work that you do. Good to see you here at your Legislative Assembly. And it's great to see, the name Brewer

certainly rings out in terms of the work that's been done with the snowmobile association, so it's particularly good to see Chris Brewer here at his Legislative Assembly. So, Mr. Speaker, I join with the minister in asking all members to welcome these individuals to their Legislative Assembly.

**The Speaker:** — Recognize the member for Regina Rochdale.

**Ms. Ross:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Legislative Assembly, a very good friend of mine seated in the west gallery, Andrea Smotra. Andrea has been a very good friend of mine, but she's also been just a wonderful supporter, has worked on all three of my political campaigns here and has been just a wonderful asset.

Andrea also comes with a very good political record. She worked in Prime Minister Harper's office in Ottawa. And then she moved on to be a special adviser in Premier Brian Pallister's office, the Premier of Manitoba, and is now working as government relations for the city of Red Deer. So I'd ask everyone here to please welcome Andrea to her Legislative Assembly.

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

**Mr. Bradshaw:** — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too would like to welcome Chris Brewer from the SSA [Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association] here. I've been on quite a few rides with Chris, and he organizes some great events on our provincial ride every year, Mr. Speaker.

And the other thing is he has managed to tone down the member from Yorkton who drives like a wild man when he gets out there, Mr. Speaker, and managed to crash a couple of sleds that he had borrowed from other people. And Chris was instrumental in slowing him down this year and looking after him. So again I'd like the Assembly to welcome Chris to his Assembly.

### PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise to present a petition to get big money out of Saskatchewan politics. And the people signing this petition want to bring to our attention the following: that Saskatchewan's outdated election Act allows corporations and unions and others, even those outside the province, to make unlimited donations to our province's political parties. You know, Mr. Speaker, that the people of Saskatchewan deserve to live in a fair province where all voices are equal and money can't influence politics.

And we know, Mr. Speaker, that over the past 10 years the Saskatchewan Party has received \$12.61 million in corporate donations and, of that, 2.87 million came from companies outside Saskatchewan. You know, we all agree that Saskatchewan politics should belong to Saskatchewan people and that the federal government and the provinces of Alberta, Manitoba, Quebec, Nova Scotia, now British Columbia have moved to limit the influence and level the playing field by

banning corporate and union donations to political parties.

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

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

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

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

**Ms. Rancourt:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am proud to stand today to present a petition for a second bridge for Prince Albert. The individuals who signed this petition wish to draw these following points to your attention: that the Diefenbaker bridge in Prince Albert is the primary link that connects the southern part of the province to the North and that the need for a second bridge for Prince Albert has never been clearer than it is today; Prince Albert, communities north of Prince Albert, and businesses that send people and products through Prince Albert require a solution; that local municipal governments have limited resources and require a second bridge to be funded through federal and provincial governments and not a P3 [public-private partnership] model; and that the Saskatchewan Party government refuses to stand up for Prince Albert in this critical infrastructure issue.

I'll read the prayer:

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

Mr. Speaker, the individuals signing this particular petition come from the community of Regina. I do so present.

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

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition calling for critical workplace supports for survivors of domestic violence. Mr. Speaker, we all know, because we've been speaking about it for a few years now, that Saskatchewan has the dubious distinction of having the highest rates of intimate partner violence amongst all the provinces in Canada. We all must do so much more to protect survivors of domestic violence, and we know now that for many of them, violence will follow them to their workplace. That's why those signatories to this petition are calling for five days of paid leave and up to 17 weeks of unpaid leave be made available to workers who are survivors of domestic violence, and that critical workplace supports be made available to survivors of domestic violence if they are living with post-traumatic stress

disorder as a result of that domestic violence.

Mr. Speaker, this is what we called for in our private member's bill, Bill No. 609. This is the fourth time we've put forward these provisions in this bill. It's time for the government to step up, do the right thing, and pass that piece of legislation.

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 Sask Party government to pass legislation to ensure critical supports in the workplace, including reasonable accommodation and paid and unpaid leave for survivors of intimate partner violence.

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

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for 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 the citizens of Nipawin, White Fox, and Codette. Thank you.

#### STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

#### Recognizing Sunchild Law's Contributions to the Community

**Ms. Mowat:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to acknowledge the impressive work of a lawyer in The Battlefords area, Eleanore Sunchild, and her practice Sunchild Law.

Sunchild was recently profiled in *The Battlefords' News-Optimist*. Sunchild Law is located on Poundmaker land along Highway 4. Sunchild's practice specializes in residential school claims, often dealing with severe cases of physical and sexual abuse. In addition to this challenging work, Sunchild has also worked to raise awareness about residential schools in the province, including the Battleford Industrial School and its cemetery.

Sunchild has been working with community members to have the nearly forgotten Battleford Industrial School cemetery

receive provincial-level heritage designation. Sunchild is an advocate for education as a way for non-indigenous people to understand the effects of colonization, suggesting mandatory inclusion of colonial history in curriculum starting in elementary school. She also suggests that those wanting to educate themselves turn to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission reports and hear from residential school survivors and elders.

In light of the TRC [Truth and Reconciliation Commission] and the ethnic inequalities in our province, Mr. Speaker, the work of Sunchild should be acknowledged as an example of how we can move together toward reconciliation. I want to invite all members to join me in acknowledging the work of Eleanore Sunchild and to join me in thanking her for her contributions to her community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Atamiskākēwak National Gathering in Moose Jaw**

**Mr. Lawrence:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This morning I, along with the Minister of Government Relations, the Minister of Social Services, and the member from Moose Jaw North, had the pleasure of attending the opening ceremonies of Atamiskākēwak National Gathering. People from all across the province and country gathered to recognize and honour the indigenous people who are a vital part of Saskatchewan's past, present, and future.

Those in attendance included the Lieutenant Governor, Chief and Elder Noel Starblanket, and Moose Jaw's mayor, Fraser Tolmie, among many other indigenous and non-indigenous dignitaries.

Mr. Speaker, this gathering will take place throughout the week. Activities will include discussions, sporting tournaments, lectures, art displays, and entertainment. The goal of this celebration is to help build stronger relationships, create greater understanding, and to foster a deeper trust between indigenous and non-indigenous peoples.

Mr. Speaker, events like this help guide us all in our shared journey as we continue to implement the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 Calls to Action. On behalf of this entire Assembly, I want to thank the city of Moose Jaw, Kallie Wood and Chris McKee from Converging Pathways, and the many people who are serving as Chairs on this event's organizing committee for all their hard work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Point-in-Time Counts Help Build a Plan to End Homelessness**

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Mr. Speaker, last week I was inspired by a packed gymnasium at the YMCA [Young Men's Christian Association] here in Regina, united to end homelessness in Saskatchewan. I was pleased to join with my colleague from Saskatoon Fairview and brings thanks to Regina's point-in-time homelessness count. The mayor, city councillors, and the

minister were also there.

[13:45]

Mr. Speaker, more than 200 volunteers signed up to take part in Wednesday evening's count here in Regina. Hundreds more took up the call across Saskatchewan in Saskatoon and Prince Albert. To say the least, I'm incredibly encouraged by the massive turnout of volunteers ready to act on homelessness and to ensure housing stability and security for all. When committees conduct counts at the same time of year using a common approach, the results can be used to build a better understanding of homelessness in Canada, to build a plan, to respond to needs, and ultimately to act to end homelessness.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to give special thanks to the YMCA's John Bailey, Shawn Fraser, Regina's point-in-time organizer Addison Docherty, Tarin Kennedy, and project consultant Dagan Harding, the PIT [point-in-time] count committee, and all the community partners, organizations, and volunteers working every day to ensure safe, stable housing, and building a plan to end homelessness. Together, Mr. Speaker, let's make that happen.

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

#### **Saskatoon Police Service Exemplary Service Awards**

**Mr. Olason:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was honoured to bring greetings and attend the Saskatoon Police Service Exemplary Service Awards on behalf of the Minister of Corrections and Policing on April 18th. The police Exemplary Service Medal recognizes officers who have served in an exemplary manner, characterized by good conduct, industry, and efficiency.

Recipients of this year's awards featured eight officers who were receiving their 20-year exemplary service medals, four officers receiving their 30-year bar, and two officers taking home their 40-year bar. We cannot thank them enough for their service and dedication to the constituents from all over Saskatoon, making safety and service their top priority.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to congratulate the civilian members and special constables who were recognized for their service, especially two young men, Brody Anger and Jay Luo-Tatebe, who rescued a man from the University Bridge; and Hayley Hessel, who pulled a woman from the South Saskatchewan River.

I was given the opportunity to also thank the families of the award recipients, as their strength and support throughout the many years of our officers' service is the true foundation on which they depend. We know that this job is not easy, but we thank them for continually committing their efforts and lives to keeping our communities safe and protected.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members please join me in congratulating the 2018 Saskatoon Police Service Exemplary Service Award recipients. Thank you.

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

### Skills Canada Provincial Competition Held in Regina

**Mr. Fiaz:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last Friday I had the opportunity to represent our government at the Skills Canada provincial competition closing ceremony and awards banquet here in Regina. This year was the 20th anniversary of the competition.

Mr. Speaker, this year nearly 500 competitors from across the province took part in 38 different competitions. Competitors included some of Saskatchewan's best and brightest upcoming trades and technology professionals.

Mr. Speaker, our government is committed to the education, training, and development of a skilled workforce, and is a proud sponsor of provincial skills competitions. With its diverse economy, Saskatchewan has one of the strongest labour markets in Canada. I am proud to say that our world-class industries hold some of the country's highest-quality skilled trade workers. Mr. Speaker, it is competitions that allows Saskatchewan's next generation to gain hands-on experience in their chosen skilled trade or technology.

Mr. Speaker, I do like to congratulate all participants, as well as this year's gold medal winners who can now look forward to further represent Saskatchewan at the Skills Canada National Competition. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### Archaeology Professor Works to Preserve Saskatchewan Heritage

**Ms. Lambert:** — Today I stand to recognize Dr. Ernie Walker, who is a University of Saskatchewan archaeology professor. Dr. Walker had a great influence on the successful fundraising campaign that was launched to purchase the land to construct Wanuskewin Heritage Park's iconic building that is so visible to those living in and visiting Saskatoon. He refers to Wanuskewin as his baby, and he has been working with the park since 1978. Dr. Walker and I serve on the Wanuskewin board of directors together, and I have witnessed first-hand his commitment and his enthusiasm.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Walker is currently involved in the \$40 million renewal campaign, Thundering Ahead, focused on making Wanuskewin Canada's premier cultural destination. This campaign's goal is to have the park designated a UNESCO [United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization] World Heritage Site, which would be a first for Saskatchewan.

An interesting fact for the Assembly is that while working in Wanuskewin, he discovered ancient artifacts left by Great Plains First Nations groups that were used more than 6,000 years ago.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Walker is in his 38th year of teaching, but plans to retire after his 40th year. He says he will never leave the work at his legacy, Wanuskewin, behind as he is so proud of the community who built and preserved this remarkable site.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to please join me in thanking Dr. Ernie Walker for his many years of dedication and service to Wanuskewin and preserving Saskatchewan's heritage. Thank you.

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

### Pharmacist Awareness Month Recognizes Skilled Health Care Providers

**Ms. Carr:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand here today to recognize that March was Pharmacist Awareness Month. Mr. Speaker, pharmacists are important, highly skilled members of the health care team serving our residents. Working in both hospitals and community pharmacies across the province, pharmacists are often a patient's first point of contact with the health system. They work closely with each individual, providing a wide array of responsibilities, including prescribing medication, one-on-one medication reviews, and counselling on health conditions and chronic diseases.

As much as they play a key role in a patient's care experience, Mr. Speaker, our government has collaborated with pharmacists on several initiatives in recent years to improve patient care in our province. One great example of this expansion of pharmacist scope was to practise including giving flu shots. We look forward to developing further opportunities for pharmacists to use their expertise and their range of skills to contribute to our health care system. Mr. Speaker, it is important to us to have a strong and vibrant pharmacist workforce.

On behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan and the people of Saskatchewan, I would like to thank the dedicated and compassionate pharmacists of this province for the work that they do every single day. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** — I'd like to remind everyone this is the Speaker's school group.

### QUESTION PERIOD

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

### Members of the Legislative Assembly Seeking Federal Office

**Mr. Meili:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to start by extending my congratulations to the member from Regina Walsh Acres. He's the second Sask Party MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] to win a federal nomination for the Conservative Party this year, and good for him. But by seeking this nomination the member from Saskatoon Eastview and now the member from Regina Walsh Acres have made it clear that they don't want to be MLAs in Saskatchewan, they want to be MPs [Member of Parliament] in Ottawa.

Does the Premier think that it's okay for MLAs to be on the Saskatchewan government payroll while they're off campaigning for a federal seat for the Conservatives? Or will he commit to changing the Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly Act to ensure that the elected representatives of the people of Saskatchewan are working in their best interests instead of

focusing on fundraising for the Conservative Party and campaigning for a job in Ottawa?

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

**Hon. Mr. Moe:** — Mr. Speaker, we could ask the member opposite's patients exactly the same question, Mr. Speaker, as he's here serving in this Assembly.

But I would like to join the member opposite in congratulating these members that have been successful in their nomination, Mr. Speaker. And the fact of the matter is, is that they can serve in this Assembly and can represent the constituents that they're representative of their constituency over the next period of time. As we know, Mr. Speaker, there is no by-election. It does not have to be called if the seat becomes vacant following the first 40 months after a general election, Mr. Speaker.

Precedent has been set, Mr. Speaker, in this Assembly in years past. Precedent has been set by former NDP [New Democratic Party] MLA, John Solomon. Mr. Speaker, he won a federal nomination for the NDP but continued to serve as an MLA until the federal election officially began in September of 1993, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Former Member and Irrigation Project Approval Process**

**Mr. Meili:** — Mr. Speaker, I believe the members, the residents of Saskatoon Eastview and Regina Walsh Acres would prefer to have their MLA working for them, rather than working to land a job in Ottawa. Working for the people of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

But not even a year ago, a member from the opposite side, a member they said embodied their values and ideals, who they said was the DNA of the Sask Party, was found by the Conflict of Interest Commissioner to be working for his own personal gain, Mr. Speaker.

And now we know, and now we know that Bill Boyd had conversations with the Premier about this very project, that as of Thursday the Premier couldn't remember when he first saw the plans for this problematic irrigation scheme. So now after the Premier has had some time over the weekend to think about it, to review his records, can he remember when Bill Boyd showed him the plans for this project?

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

**Hon. Mr. Moe:** — Mr. Speaker, I never gave that a moment's thought over the weekend, Mr. Speaker, because it's not unusual for the Minister of the Environment, Water Security Agency, as well as officials throughout the organization to work with projects across the province when it comes to water conveyance — whether that be for industry projects; whether that be, Mr. Speaker, in the case of attempting to stop or get in front of some of the high water levels that we have in certain areas, and most notable come to mind, Mr. Speaker, is the water in and around the Quill Lakes.

But I also said, Mr. Speaker, that the people of the province can

be assured of this. They can be assured that the process that was undertaken with respect to this violation of environmental law here in this province, Mr. Speaker, was exactly the same for this individual as it would be for any other individual in the province of Saskatchewan. The individual was charged, Mr. Speaker. He pled guilty, Mr. Speaker. He received one of the larger fines ever administered under environmental law in the province of Saskatchewan. And, Mr. Speaker, most importantly, he's required to remediate the bank of the river back to its original state.

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

**Mr. Meili:** — Mr. Speaker, I do think it is a bit unusual that that wouldn't cause the Premier some consideration, that he would think it not unusual for members to go directly to the minister or to the minister's staff to pursue their own projects. And I want to quote the Premier from last week: "I can't remember exactly when he talked to me, but I know he talked." So there was clearly something about that conversation with Bill Boyd that struck the Premier, that was memorable for the Premier.

The Premier insists that the system works, but when it comes to a project where an MLA had already been found to be using political office for his own personal gain, the Premier admitted that he did have some discussion with Bill Boyd but couldn't remember the details.

Since the Premier doesn't seem to be able to remember when he first discussed this irrigation scheme with Mr. Boyd, when did his office first learn that Mr. Boyd had broken the law?

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

**Hon. Mr. Moe:** — Mr. Speaker, to answer that question is, when I was informed by my deputy minister. There's the short answer, Mr. Speaker.

With respect to quotes that were made last week, Mr. Speaker, I was accused, or the accusation was put forward that the minister of day, which was yours truly, should know when someone is dealing with the ministry officials across the province, Mr. Speaker. And in this case, the individual — as is due process with all individuals that I talk to, look at their plans — is to get in touch with the appropriate officials within the Ministry of Water Security Agency, Environment, Agriculture, where that may be.

But, Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition said this, and I quote:

You would think that he would know if one of his members within his caucus was accessing services within his ministry and going directly to ministry employees. Was he not paying attention, in which case, not doing his job fully? Or was he in some way complicit of approving of these activities?

It was later in the day, Mr. Speaker, then we were accused of attending a meeting with our deputy ministers to be brought up to speed — myself and other ministers, Mr. Speaker — on this very case. So the answer to the question, Mr. Speaker, is when

my deputy minister informed me. Everything in this case, the people of the province of Saskatchewan can rest assured that this individual was treated in an identical fashion as anyone across the province of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. The process, in this case, has worked.

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

**Mr. Meili:** — Mr. Speaker, perhaps I should have been a bit more specific. When I'm asking, when did you discover this, I'd like to know on what date did the deputy minister inform you.

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

**Hon. Mr. Moe:** — Mr. Speaker, if I don't know the date, I don't know the date. I don't know the date that I looked at the projects out east of Regina here, Mr. Speaker. I don't know the date of the date that I looked at the projects in my home constituency of Rosthern-Shellbrook, a number of different drainage projects in that area as well, Mr. Speaker. I don't know the date that I looked at various proposals put forward by the members in the Quill lakes area, Mr. Speaker. And I don't know the dates of some of the conveyance channels that I have looked at coming out of Lake Diefenbaker, Mr. Speaker. I don't recall the exact dates, Mr. Speaker. But I did look at those plans like I'd looked at anyone else's plans that I may have looked at across the province as minister, Mr. Speaker, and engaging as an active minister on the file, Mr. Speaker.

But the fact of the matter is, is the advice that I provided to this individual, and any other individual, Mr. Speaker, was to get in contact with the officials within the Water Security Agency to ensure that the rules are followed. And when they're not followed, as in this case, Mr. Speaker, there are charges that are laid. This individual pled guilty, and the people of the province can rest assured that this process was handled in a responsible fashion and exactly the same way as it would be for anyone in the province.

[14:00]

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

**Mr. Meili:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Premier maintained last week and seems to be maintaining again that Mr. Boyd was treated in precisely the same manner that anyone would be treated. And yet the deputy ministers of the Environment and Agriculture said Thursday that they and the then deputy minister to the Premier, former leadership candidate Alanna Koch, stepped in directly on this matter in early June, two months before any charges were laid, because the infractions they'd found involved a high-profile individual.

So which is it then, Mr. Speaker? Does the Premier still maintain that Mr. Boyd received no special treatment for his application or addressing his violations of *The Environmental Management and Protection Act*, wildlife protection Act, or was he treated differently because he's a high-profile individual? Which is it?

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

**Hon. Mr. Duncan:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition is dealing with two different things. One is an application, which come from any number of individuals across the province. That would have been dealt with by officials. The other is an infraction. And the infraction was elevated to the level of the deputy minister becoming aware of it, the deputy ministers becoming aware, in which they informed their minister. Which is precisely what the Leader of the Opposition suggested in the rotunda should happen, is that the minister should become aware of it or else he doesn't know his files, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I will refer to an email sent by the senior technician of water rights and approvals dated May 23rd:

Received a phone call today from Bill Boyd asking the status of the subject project. I told him that I had taken a preliminary look at the project and indicated that I have a few projects to get to before I start working on this file.

The email goes on to conclude:

I told him that when I have completed the projects I have on my desk right now, I would start working on it. I told him as a timeline possibly next week and a half.

Mr. Speaker, as you can see from this email and other emails, that he clearly was treated in a professional manner by civil servants, not a preferential manner.

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

#### **Treatment of Saskatchewan Immigrant Nominee Program Clients**

**Ms. Mowat:** — This goes far beyond illegal modifications to a river bank, Mr. Speaker. Months after Boyd was booted from cabinet in the summer of 2016, a company was incorporated, which Bill Boyd was described as the chairman of. Chinese investors were given the impression that in exchange for \$300,000, they would be part owners of an irrigation pivot that could more easily obtain residency through SINP's [Saskatchewan immigrant nominee program] entrepreneur category. This business model, much like the plans for the megamall at the GTH [Global Transportation Hub], aligns with the requirements of SINP, almost like it was drummed up by someone who was minister responsible for the file for the better part of five years.

To the minister: following the commissioner's ruling on Bill Boyd's conflict, what steps were taken to investigate potential abuse of the SINP program through Boyd's irrigation immigration scheme?

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

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Well what I can tell the member opposite, and I think we'll have a chance to talk about this at estimates tonight as well, we take the program integrity at SINP as the very top priority, Mr. Speaker. We have put additional resourcing into program integrity at SINP. It's something that we're very proud of. It's actually why we've been allocated



additional numbers on our SINP program year over year over year, Mr. Speaker, by the Government of Canada, because we have what is generally regarded as the best provincial nominee program in the entire country. And the reason it's regarded that way, Mr. Speaker, is because nobody, nobody is given preferential treatment. Nobody is given preferential treatment.

There's a process that's followed professionally by officials. I can say, as someone who's been minister for most of the past four years, that we take these things extraordinarily seriously. The minister does not get directly involved in any of these applications, Mr. Speaker. These are handled by public servants who do a very good job.

**The Speaker:** — Recognize the member for Saskatoon Fairview.

**Ms. Mowat:** — Nothing about what investigation has taken place here, Mr. Speaker. And if there's no preferential treatment, then there should be no problem putting forward an investigation and the results of that investigation.

It's clear that the issue has not been fully canvassed. Eight months after the commissioner found Boyd to have used his role as an MLA to pursue his private agenda, Boyd has received multiple fines for modifying the shoreline for this project. And just last week we learned the Premier was privy to information about this project. As former minister of Immigration on the file, efforts to develop a business model targeting SINP's entrepreneur stream should have raised alarm bells for the government. The Conflict of Interest Commissioner said his initial investigation was limited in scope and couldn't investigate whether potential investors were misled or whether they were being gouged on their investments.

The former premier said the commissioner's findings were forwarded to Justice to see if any other charges were warranted on this matter. What were the findings?

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

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — You know, Mr. Speaker, clearly ministers don't get directly involved in investigations, as they should not be directly involved. This is something that is handled by public servants. We trust them to do their work, Mr. Speaker. And as I said, we put the very highest priority on program integrity at the provincial nominee program.

You know, frequently we have members on both sides of the House, Mr. Speaker, who have asked for files to be reviewed. I can point to a whole number of members opposite who have, under this program, asked for the minister to directly get involved.

And what I have told members . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . See, yes, see, Mr. Speaker. And I will tell this House what I told the members opposite, which is that we have very, very professional public servants that deal with these things in a rules-based way. We put in place the policy, Mr. Speaker, as government. That policy is implemented and enforced by the public servants at SINP who, as I said, do a very good job, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Sproule:** — I think that last question, Mr. Speaker, was for the Minister of Justice and what his department is doing with respect to Brad Wall's request that Justice review it. So it's unfortunate it wasn't answered.

But you know, Mr. Speaker, these questions aren't new to the Sask Party. When last asked about immigration concerns at GTEC [Global Trade and Exhibition Centre], which is the Brightenview project at GTH, the Sask Party said they weren't concerned as long as the cheque cleared. Now, Mr. Speaker, we have email correspondence from the CEO of Brightenview, who sent his concerns about rejected immigration cases to Bryan Richards, the CEO at the GTH. And upon receiving these emails, Bryan Richards promptly forwarded them to the deputy minister of Economy, none other than Laurie Pushor.

Mr. Speaker, I want to know how many other businesses have a direct line to the deputy minister when their immigration cases are rejected.

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

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Well I would point to the preamble of the member's question, talking about rejected immigration applications, Mr. Speaker, to show that we take program integrity very, very seriously, that no companies have any specific in with the minister most definitely, but everyone is treated equally under the program. Applications are dealt with in a professional fashion.

In fact we redesigned how the entrepreneur stream . . . And we actually suspended the entrepreneur stream for a while pending redesign, and that was about four years ago, Mr. Speaker. We worked with the national government in putting in place best practice on that stream and we believe that we continue to have the best immigration program in the entire country, Mr. Speaker.

So, as I said, we have confidence in our administration of the SINP. We have confidence in our officials that manage that program, and we have a process in place that ministers are not directly involved in.

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

**Ms. Sproule:** — Mr. Speaker, a direct line to Laurie Pushor, and that's that minister's deputy minister for Economy; now most people wouldn't think that's normal. But we know of others who had direct access to Laurie Pushor as the deputy minister, and that situation ended up as an \$11 million land flip at the GTH.

Now, Mr. Speaker, 13 days after the inquiry from Brightenview, Laurie Pushor sent an email to immigration officials saying, and I quote, "Bryan is all over me for an update on our work to see if the Beijing office issues can be resolved."

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that the CEO of the GTH and the deputy minister are deeply concerned about the rejected immigration

cases at GTEC. So I'll ask the minister again. Does this concern extend to other businesses applying for SINP, or is it just Brightenview that has a direct line to the deputy minister?

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

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, I can speak for my involvement or lack thereof in any of these matters, as the minister. The minister does not get directly involved in individual immigration cases, aside from talking to members who are advocating perhaps on that side, perhaps on this side, bringing particular issues to our attention. I then pass those along to officials for their action, with no recommendation one way or the other, Mr. Speaker.

We have policies in place that are set by the provincial government. We work very closely on this policy area because it is an area of joint jurisdiction with the Government of Canada. We've done, I think, best practice work as far as putting in place policies of SINP that have enabled us to have increases to that program granted year after year after year to the point right now where we have the same SINP allocation as the province of Ontario, Mr. Speaker, the same as the province of British Columbia, the same as the province of Alberta. And why is that, Mr. Speaker? Why have we been granted those increases year over year? Because Citizenship and Immigration Canada believe and know that we have one of the very best programs in the entire country that puts an absolute premium on integrity.

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

**Ms. Sproule:** — Mr. Speaker, here's the thing. Laurie Pushor has been in the spotlight before. He was one of the key players in their GTH land scandal, but we failed to get any answers from him about how things went down and how the people of Saskatchewan managed to lose out on \$11 million because over and over again the Sask Party have refused to let him testify at committee. And the entire Sask Party cabinet voted in favour of that land deal, Mr. Speaker. Then every Sask Party leadership candidate, including the Premier, said there needs to be more transparency at the GTH.

So if the Premier will do as the Deputy Premier has asked and shine a bright light on the issues at the GTH, will they allow Mr. Pushor to now testify at committee?

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — You know, Mr. Speaker, there are some members on that side of the House that were in government at one time. They know what it's like. People come to government and say, this is my issue, this is my problem. This is what it is. And it's the responsibility of MLAs and deputy ministers to make sure that those people get referred to the proper office, that their information gets taken forward.

But, Mr. Speaker, ministers and deputy ministers don't change policy. They don't make policy. They make the broad policy, but individual decisions are always made by the appropriate officials using the guidelines, using the regulations there. We don't make those decisions, nor should we make those

decisions. And I hope that those members opposite didn't make them when they were in government as well. And if that's how they're talking about now and want to, I hope they never are in government.

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

### Coverage for Taxi Drivers Injured at Work

**Ms. Rancourt:** — Mr. Speaker, last week a Regina cab driver, Umar Ali, was assaulted while at work. Umar, who has been driving a cab for the past two years, was slashed in the throat and stabbed multiple times in his side and stomach. Mr. Speaker, this husband and father of four young children was trying to do what we all do each and every day: provide for his family and come home safe to them at the end of the day. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, this isn't the first time a taxi driver has been attacked on the job and seriously injured in our province.

Last week I asked the minister to do the right thing and use his authority to make the necessary changes to protect workers like Umar. I want to give the minister another chance today. Will the Sask Party commit to changes today to help taxi drivers who are injured at work?

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, the member opposite just passed over the consent so I'll be able to report to the House more specifically on the particular individual that's involved. But I indicated last week when I answered the question two things: first of all, we have enormous sympathy for any individual that's hurt on the job under violent or under any other circumstances.

I also indicated that the distinction whether a person has coverage or does not have coverage is whether they are in an employee capacity or not an employee capacity. However if a person is not working as a cab driver as an employee of somebody else, they're entitled to go to Workers' Compensation and ask for and apply for the coverage themselves. In either case, there's a cost to it. It's either borne by the employer or, if the person is self-employed, they would pay for it themselves.

It's not terribly expensive and I would encourage everybody that's self-employed to consider applying to Workers' Compensation for coverage, not just for this but for any other instance. We will of course look at this one, and we'll also look at it in the context of whether there's anything that can or should be done any different with regard to cab drivers. I thank the member for the question.

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

**Ms. Rancourt:** — Mr. Speaker, joining us today in the gallery is Wajid Ali, Umar's brother. Wajid has taken time off work to help his brother's family deal with this terrible situation. He also drives a taxi in Regina and he has set up a GoFundMe campaign to help support his brother's family. Mr. Speaker, the

donations are appreciated because cab drivers are not automatically covered by insurance or workers' compensation. But all workers in Saskatchewan should be able to count on the support of the government when they are injured at work.

[14:15]

Taxi drivers are certified by the labour board as workers, and yet they are ignored and forced to fend for themselves. Mr. Speaker, for far too long, cab drivers have been treated like second class citizens in Saskatchewan. Will the minister and this government do the right thing and address the WCB [Workers' Compensation Board] coverage gap for Saskatchewan cab drivers?

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, cab drivers are a lot like farmers. Some are self employed; some work for other people. If you work for somebody else, you're covered. If you're self employed, you're an employer. You're not automatically covered, but there is optional coverage that's available for you.

I can say to the members opposite — and some of them are former teachers — substitute and part-time teachers had no coverage under workers' compensation, a huge gap that was left there for literally decades. When we formed government, we changed the legislation so that those people are now covered. So if a part-time teacher or a substitute teacher falls or is injured at work, they're fully covered through Workers' Compensation Board.

And, Mr. Speaker, I would encourage anybody that's a self-employed worker to look at workers' compensation coverage for exactly the reasons that the member opposite raised. Mr. Speaker, those things are important to all citizens in the province, to make sure that workers come home safely every night, and that if there's something happens, that they do have some financial protection for them. And, Mr. Speaker, I've indicated we're prepared to have a look at this particular situation. Mr. Speaker, we don't automatically legislate people that are self employed to pay for something on their own behalf. It's a decision they would make on their own.

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

### Cannabis Distribution Model

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Mr. Speaker, details on this government's legal cannabis are trickling out at a snail's pace at best. We learned last week that potential retailers won't know until weeks before the federal legislation comes into force whether they succeeded in getting a retail permit or not. This will cause further stress on applicants, who will only have weeks after learning they are successful to set up the infrastructure for their businesses and who have only weeks to do so if they wait. And despite legalization being months away, there are still so many unanswered questions around consultation, the price projections, and how and whether the government will be sharing the revenue.

Why is the Sask Party dragging its feet on this instead of seeing

it for the economic opportunity it really is?

**The Speaker:** — Recognize the Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport.

**Hon. Mr. Makowsky:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. We've been saying since the beginning, Mr. Speaker, that we would like some more time from the federal government to ensure we look at this as closely as we can. SLGA [Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority] and other ministries have been looking at this very closely over the last few months, Mr. Speaker. It certainly is an opportunity. I think different provinces have different kinds of models, different regimes. And I think Saskatchewan is a great place in order to do business, Mr. Speaker. We're allowing the private sector to do their work and there's great opportunity that way, Mr. Speaker.

It's very interesting the NDP now is interested in helping small business. Many times, many times in this House since I've been in government, and many years before that, they'd voted against small business, most recently the threshold. Of course this entire conversation would be a moot point, Mr. Speaker, if the NDP happened to be in government. There's no doubt about that. They would have a public monopoly . . .

**The Speaker:** — Thank you, Minister.

## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

### Bill No. 126 — *The Energy Export Act*

**Hon. Ms. Eyre:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 126, *The Energy Export Act* be now introduced and read a first time.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Minister of Energy and Resources that Bill No. 126, *The Energy Export Act* be now introduced and read a first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

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

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

**Hon. Ms. Eyre:** — Next sitting of the Assembly, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — Next sitting.

### Bill No. 127 — *The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2018*

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

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 127, *The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2018* be now introduced and read a first time.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Minister of Finance

that Bill No. 127, *The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2018* be now introduced and read a first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

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

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

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — Next sitting of the Assembly, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — Next sitting.

**Bill No. 128 — *The Provincial Sales Tax Amendment Act, 2018***

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

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 128, *The Provincial Sales Tax Amendment Act, 2018* be now introduced and read a first time.

**The Speaker:** — Moved by the Minister of Finance that Bill No. 128, *The Provincial Sales Tax Amendment Act, 2018* be now introduced and read a first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

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

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

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — Next sitting of the Assembly, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — Next sitting.

**STATEMENT BY THE SPEAKER**

**Unparliamentary Language**

**The Speaker:** — Just before orders of the day, I've got a statement to read. On Thursday, April the 19th, 2018, the Government House Leader raised the point of order that the member for Saskatoon Nutana had accused members of deliberately making incorrect statements. I've reviewed the record and will respond to the point of order.

In reaction to comments from across the floor, the member for Saskatoon Nutana did accuse some government members of deliberately making incorrect statements about her position on the Leap Manifesto. I think all members know that it is not unparliamentary to criticize statements made by members to be contrary to the facts, but imputations of intentional falsehoods

are not permissible. This can be found at paragraph 494 of Beauchesne's *Parliamentary Rules & Forms*, 6th Edition. Beauchesne also states that a statement made by a member respecting themselves and within their own personal knowledge must be accepted. So in this instance, I have some sympathy for the member for Saskatoon Nutana.

During the 75-minute debate, there were instances when members on both sides of the House hurled personal insults and accusations across the floor. While many of these comments were not reflected in the official records, I want to remind members that yelling comments from your seats, such as "that's a lie," only escalates unparliamentary discourse. These provocative statements added to the downward spiral of unacceptable parliamentary debate, incited disorder, and were not respectful. This spilled over into the debate on Bill 606. Therefore I do not think it is fair to single out one member. I caution all members that this behaviour will not and should not be tolerated in this Assembly.

As a final note, I think that member should reflect on our code of ethical conduct, and in particular the commitment to your colleagues. That is, we owe loyalty to shared principles, respect for differences, and fairness in political dealings. It might take some work, but I think all members should take heed of their own code of conduct and govern themselves accordingly. Thank you.

**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 225 and 226.

**The Speaker:** — Tabled 205, 226.

**GOVERNMENT ORDERS**

**SECOND READINGS**

**Bill No. 123 — *The Snowmobile (Fees) Amendment Act, 2018***

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

**Hon. Mr. Hargrave:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to rise today to move second reading of *The Snowmobile Amendment Act, 2018*. Mr. Speaker, this is a housekeeping amendment to make the allocation of fees from snowmobile registrations more practical.

SGI [Saskatchewan Government Insurance] collects registration fees for all vehicles, including snowmobiles, on behalf of the province. That revenue is then submitted to the General Revenue Fund, or GRF. Currently SGI remits all registration fees to the GRF, then advises the Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport how much of the fees are for snowmobile registrations. The ministry then provides that amount to the Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association as that revenue is designated specifically for trail maintenance.

The proposed amendment would have SGI remit the revenue from snowmobile registrations directly to the snowmobile association instead of the GRF. It's a more practical and timely allocation of these funds. The snowmobile association requested this change. SGI and the Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport consulted with the SSA throughout the legislative review process. As I mentioned earlier, some of the members are here today, including their president, and are all fully in support of the change. They are here to see their efforts brought before their Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, I move second reading of *The Snowmobile Amendment Act*, 2018.

**The Speaker:** — Question before the Assembly is a motion by the minister that Bill No. 123, *The Snowmobile Amendment Act*, 2018 be now read a second time. Pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion? I recognize the member for Athabasca.

**Mr. Belanger:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm proud to stand in my place to offer the initial comments of the Saskatchewan opposition. I want to point out . . . First of all I want to welcome the Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association and its president here today. I want to point out that over the years some of my involvement with the snowmobile association, I've always found the association to be very vigilant in their work, Mr. Speaker. They've been very professional in their organization. And they've also offered a lot of great advice to past governments and I continue seeing that kind of co-operation with the current snowmobile association as well.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we obviously want to recognize the challenges that the snowmobile association deals with. We know that there are many, many challenges on an annual basis. They take time to understand how insurance works. They take time to understand the need to keep a lot of our snowmobile trails open for tourism opportunity, Mr. Speaker.

We know that some of the activity around the snowmobile industry, so to speak, offer a lot of benefit to a lot of the parts of rural Saskatchewan, whether it's a hotel or whether it's a restaurant, whether it's a service station, that we see a lot of times the snowmobilers in general, when they start doing the trail runs or they start doing different events, different fundraising events, that the Snowmobile Association really does have an incredible value. And its members, Mr. Speaker, offer an incredible opportunity for rural Saskatchewan as they begin some of their annual treks and their annual snowmobile activity.

So, Mr. Speaker, I want to first of all again thank the Snowmobile Association for their work. We know that they've done wonderful work in the past, as we've been exposed to some of their planning. We've been exposed to a lot of their ideas, Mr. Speaker. And I don't want to name names of different executive directors that were there before because that would certainly date me, because it's something that we don't want to do. So I want to point out that, over time, that the Snowmobile Association has done an incredible amount of work.

Now obviously this bill changes *The Snowmobile Act*, which allows for snowmobile registration fee revenues to flow to the

Saskatchewan snowmobile fund. Mr. Speaker, snowmobile registration fee revenues will be received directly by the SSF [Saskatchewan snowmobile fund] and will no longer be received by the GRF and then appropriated to the SSF. So obviously, Mr. Speaker, this is something that the Saskatchewan snowmobile fund has been working towards. All I would say to them, on behalf of the official opposition, we just wanted to ask a few questions to allow the process to go through the House as I'm certain that over time we may have inquiries from different snowmobilers as to what the change may mean.

So obviously again, as I pointed out, we want to commend the Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association for their great work. And one of the reasons why we look to legislation like this and take the opportunity to make contact with the association, take the opportunity to make contact with the different snowmobilers that are within the association, and just to ask a few questions to make sure that we're aware of what their activity involves, what the snowmobilers themselves aspire for the industry.

So it's a great opportunity for us, as the opposition, to learn more about the Snowmobile Association to ask some of the questions that we need to ask. And, Mr. Speaker, I think that's an important point that I would raise as I stand up and give our first comment as it pertains to this bill.

[14:30]

And, Mr. Speaker, as I've mentioned, the Snowmobile Association has been a wonderful addition, a great asset to our province. I want to continue working closely with them, but as I mentioned, there are a few questions and a bit of outreach that we want to do as an opposition just so we could learn more about what the Act wants to do and how this benefits the association overall. And also we have a few other questions about generally how the association works just so all the members on this side of the Assembly are fully up to speed as to the great work being done by the Snowmobile Association.

So, Mr. Speaker, on that note I move that we adjourn debate on Bill No. 123, *The Snowmobile (Fees) Amendment Act*, 2018.

**The Speaker:** — The question before the Assembly is the motion by the minister . . . Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

**Bill No. 124 — *The Environmental Management and Protection (Environmental Handling Charges) Amendment Act*, 2018**

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

**Hon. Mr. Duncan:** — Mr. Speaker, after some brief remarks I'll move second reading of Bill No. 124, *The Environmental Management and Protection Amendment Act*, 2018.

I'm pleased to have the opportunity to present amendments to

*The Environmental Management and Protection Act*, or EMPA 2010, as a budget bill. Environmental handling fee changes were announced in the government's fee change news release on March 23rd. I'd like to take this opportunity to explain why these changes are so important for the sustainability of Saskatchewan's beverage recycling program.

Amendments to EMPA will enable an increase of 2 cents on the environmental handling charge for all recyclable beverage containers purchased in Saskatchewan. Environmental handling charges are an amount paid by the customer at the point of purchase. These charges are not returned when the deposit is refunded; rather they are used to fund the contract government holds with Sarcen to deliver the beverage container collection and recycling program.

Specifically the new amounts proposed are: 5 cents for polycoat cartons or gable-top and shelf-stable aseptic containers — the most common example of these is milk containers, which were added to the recycling program in 2017; 7 cents for aluminum cans; 8 cents for plastic bottles and jugs; and 9 cents for glass bottles.

Mr. Speaker, program sustainability is the core reason why amending EMPA 2010 and increasing the environmental handling charge at this time. Based on calculations of current funding and program costs, and with input from our recycling program operator Sarcen, the current handling charges will sustain the program until approximately 2024. Under these amendments, government will retain the total revenue generated by the 2 cent increase until renegotiation of the Sarcen grant agreement in 2020. This is the renewal period for the ministry's four-year grant agreement with the Saskatchewan Association of Rehabilitation Centres, known as SARC, and its recycling division, Sarcen. Sarcen receives environmental handling charges based on container sales volumes from two years prior. This is why we're increasing the fees now, so that the funds are available when the Sarcen contract is renewed.

At the time of renewal in 2020, we are proposing that Sarcen would receive 1 cent from the handling charge increase, which would sustain the program until 2030. The additional 1 cent will allow for flexibility in the event that the beverage container program's financial situation changes and offset the need for increased fees in the near future. It will also support administrative costs endured by government with respect to operating recycling and other waste management programs in the province. It is important to note, Mr. Speaker, that the environmental handling charge has not changed in Saskatchewan since 1992.

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, this increase to beverage container handling charges will ensure the long-term sustainability of Sarcen recycling in Saskatchewan, which is one of the most successful recycling programs in Canada. Sarcen has helped divert 49 million pounds of materials from our landfills over the past eight years, and employs 600 people of all abilities.

As mentioned, the proposed changes were announced on March 23rd in the government's fee change news release, effective April 1. Stakeholders were notified in March and Sarcen indicated its appreciation to the government for the increase. We're confident that this amendment will provide the funding

needed to sustain the successful program operated by Sarcen, which is such an important partner for government.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I now move second reading of the environmental management and protection amendment Act, 2018.

**The Speaker:** — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the minister that Bill No. 124, *The Environmental Management and Protection (Environmental Handling Charges) Amendment Act, 2018* be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion? I recognize the member for Athabasca.

**Mr. Belanger:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As with the previous bill, I am proud to stand in my place again to give the initial comments on behalf of the official opposition as it pertains to this bill, Bill 124, the environmental management and protection amendment Act.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I was going to give a brief history of what a lot of people in Saskatchewan already know, that Sarcen is one of the more promising agencies in the province of Saskatchewan and have been doing great work over the years. They are obviously to be commended.

Now, Mr. Speaker, what this bill does is it recognizes the fact that as a province and as a government, and certainly this has been practised in the past as well, is that as you look at the landfills throughout Saskatchewan, it makes a lot of sense to try and find the different ways in which you could reduce waste. We obviously look at the opportunity around a number of different products and we identify in the EMPA Act, Mr. Speaker, a way in which we can deal specifically with certain products. And a good example I would use, Mr. Speaker, is used tires.

As we all know, we have a scrap tire association in Saskatchewan and they generally look after the tires that have been sent to the landfills. And, Mr. Speaker, they collect those tires and they use them for a variety of purposes, whether it's recycled material for the playgrounds or whether it's recycled for use on some asphalt cover on some of our highways. What these different associations do, Mr. Speaker, is that as we have the different streams of waste — I guess you can call it waste or items we throw in the garbage — it is important that we find a way in which we could recycle and reuse those materials.

Another good example, Mr. Speaker, is obviously the beverage containers which this particular bill makes reference to. The problem we have, Mr. Speaker, is that you look at Sarcen. In general, it is a great organization, Mr. Speaker. And we just finished talking about the snowmobile association not more than several minutes ago, Mr. Speaker, and how we want to use a direct link to the associations that are doing very well and making sure that the revenues that we generate in one stream go to those that are intending to use it properly, and not having to go through governments.

Now, Mr. Speaker, this is where the government sometimes gets things wrong. We think Sarcen should be having much the same kind of revenue stream and the ability to negotiate that revenue stream on income generated from that product, Mr.

Speaker. And by that I mean, and I use the example of the previous bill, of how the snowmobile association's getting revenues directly from some of the, you know, some of the fees being collected by snowmobilers.

Well in this instance, Mr. Speaker, we're seeing that the government is taking some of the revenues generated from the increase on the containers that are being identified in this particular bill. And we make reference to the juice boxes. The ministry uses the technical description of what a juice box is. Well, Mr. Speaker, what we're seeing is that this government is so broke that they're now taxing juice boxes and they're increasing these fees and they're generating something like I believe it's \$18 million as a result of this particular exercise. But that 18 million is not going to Sarcan, Mr. Speaker. Some of that money is going to go into the revenues so that the Saskatchewan Party government could use it to pay for horrible land deals gone bad, Mr. Speaker.

So it's important to note to the people of Saskatchewan just as an example, how we look at the different revenue streams through our landfill is actually a concept that the people in Sarcan brought forward many, many years ago. And different organizations were born from that process where Sarcan said, look, we'll take all the beverage containers. We'll take all the pop cans. And over years, over the years they expanded into used computer parts, Mr. Speaker. They expanded into the scrap tire association.

So as we throw material into our landfills, different organizations have different uses for a particular product. And as I explained before, the scrap tire association will take the scrap tires and certainly the Sarcan folks will take a number of the other items in our landfills. And what that does, Mr. Speaker, it creates employment. What that does, Mr. Speaker, it reduces stress on our landfills. What that does, Mr. Speaker, it reuses products time and time again. So it's very important to know that the concept generated around Sarcan was an amazingly progressive idea, Mr. Speaker.

But what we're seeing is that this particular government is obviously trying to hitchhike or jump on the coattails of the success behind Sarcan and simply hide this fee hike under Sarcan's guise. And they're jacking up the fees for these juice boxes, generating \$18 million. But, Mr. Speaker, Sarcan does not get that money. Sarcan does not get that money, and that's one of the reasons why we have to take the time to see how these bills are impacting or affecting certain organizations and associations dedicated to making sure they remove as much of certain streams of waste from our landfills.

So again, Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned in the past, this concept was working really well. There was a lot of opportunity for Sarcan to build on their success. There's other organizations that might want to be part of the solution on other refuse streams, you know, if I could use that phrase.

One of the good examples I'd use is paper, cardboard. A lot of the landfills are still being filled with a lot of the cardboard. Is there a revenue stream that we can generate from there? We understand that plastics continue to be a problem in our landfills, plastic bags. There's been efforts on that front to reduce the use of plastic bags. I understand now as you shop in

different stores, you're paying a small fee for the plastic bags. And I'm assuming that some of that 5 cents that's charged for plastic is going into ways in which we could reduce plastic in our landfills or find ways in which we could recycle and reuse some of the plastics. So it's really a very exciting science, Mr. Speaker.

As I've said before, the benefits of reducing volume of waste at our landfill is threefold. Not only is it important for the environment, Mr. Speaker. It also creates jobs. It also creates a number of jobs and it also, as I mentioned, allows innovation to come into play when we talk about reusing and recycling some of these products.

But again as we've seen, Mr. Speaker, this government is using the opportunity to tax juice boxes and increase some of the other fees in other areas. And the idea is that they would be generating \$18 million from this exercise. That money is not going directly to Sarcan. It's going into the government coffers again to cover up for their mismanagement, scandal, and waste. So on that note I know we have a lot more to say about this. We are excited about Sarcan's future. As I said, the concept of identifying revenue streams for each product that is being placed in our landfills is a great idea. But we have to ask the questions of Sarcan, how does this affect your bottom line? How does this affect your performance? And that's why we take the time to network and learn from the different organizations exactly how these fee hikes can hurt them or help them, Mr. Speaker. And we've seen the Saskatchewan Party hurt many organizations out there, again as a direct result of their scandal, mismanagement, and waste.

So on that note, we'll take the time to study the bill thoroughly, network with the different organizations that are impacted, and return with comments from my colleagues as we again embark down this trail of trying to understand what Bill 124 is going to do for our province. So on that note, I move that we adjourn debate on Bill 124.

**The Speaker:** — The member for Athabasca has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 124, *The Environmental Management and Protection (Environmental Handling Charges) Amendment Act, 2018*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

#### **Bill No. 125 — *The Saskatchewan Value-added Agriculture Incentive Act***

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

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to move, at the conclusion of my remarks, second reading of Bill No. 125, *The Saskatchewan Value-added Agriculture Incentive Act*. This legislation is new, Mr. Speaker, and is being introduced to improve investment attraction and retention outcomes in the province's value-added agriculture sector.

[14:45]

Saskatchewan is feeding the world. The opportunities in food, crop, and beverage processing are as wide as our prairie sky. The benefit of this legislation is that it offers a 15 per cent non-refundable tax credit for value-added agriculture businesses that make a significant capital investment to expand production capacity. The incentive is designed to be used in addition to other existing incentives in Saskatchewan that an agri-food project could also conceivably qualify for. Mr. Speaker, rising to the challenges of a growing world population, Saskatchewan is an economic powerhouse within Canada. Our stable, competitive business climate is encouraging investments, especially in the agri-food sector.

Saskatchewan's diverse agri-food sector is world renowned for consistently supplying high-quality agricultural food and products. Saskatchewan has over 40 per cent of arable land in Canada and is a world leader in growing crops. While exports of the primary production helps to feed the world, we also want to expand our value-added processing right here at home. Businesses locating in Saskatchewan or expanding their production means more jobs, higher value exports, and economic growth right here in our province. And that's why we need this legislation here today. It's about keeping Saskatchewan on track by maintaining and growing our province as a land of opportunity for those eager to invest in the agri-food sector, and that's what we plan to address with this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, this Act will position Saskatchewan as having a very attractive host of incentives for those companies looking to grow in our province. Qualifying projects will include new and existing value-added agricultural facilities with \$10 million in new capital expenditures. To be eligible, a project must demonstrate that capital expenditures were made for the purpose of creating new productive capacity or increasing existing productive capacity. Redemption of the benefits is limited to 20 per cent in year 1 after the facility enters operation, 30 per cent in year 2, and 50 per cent in year 3. There is a maximum carry-forward of 10 years on any remaining credit amount.

Mr. Speaker, robust economic growth and new investment in key sectors is crucial to Saskatchewan's people and our communities. To accomplish this, we must continually find new ways to foster a competitive business environment in our province. Saskatchewan already offers significant advantages and opportunities for investment, and this incentive is specifically designed to help secure investments in large-scale expansions of value-added capacity at new and existing facilities.

I'm confident, Mr. Speaker, that this bill is good for our province and it's good for the agri-food sector. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to move the second reading of *The Saskatchewan Value-added Agriculture Incentive Act*.

**The Speaker:** — The minister has moved second reading on Bill No. 125, *The Saskatchewan Value-added Agriculture Incentive Act*. Pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion? I recognize the member from Athabasca.

**Mr. Belanger:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Again it is my pleasure to stand in the House today to offer initial

comments around Bill No. 125. And as the minister alluded to, this bill creates a 15 per cent non-refundable tax credit for value-added agricultural facilities on new capital investment, Mr. Speaker. And as I pointed out, Mr. Speaker, companies will be required to apply to the government for a SVAI [Saskatchewan value-added agriculture incentive], which is a certificate that clearly points out that to be eligible for that certificate you must at least invest \$10 million in new capital and submit to inspections from government officials to ensure all the rules are being followed.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I think if you look at some of the challenges around rural Saskatchewan . . . And we've had the opportunity to tour a number of farm operations in our time here. And I often tell folks that I'm from northern Saskatchewan and yes, while we did have the Silver Lake Farm and the central lake farm in Green Lake and we also had the cow-calf operations up in Ile-a-la-Crosse, my exposure to agriculture was somewhat limited prior to my engagement as an MLA. But over time, Mr. Speaker, as you spend more time in southern Saskatchewan, you understand the incredible value of agriculture overall. There's no question that we have to do what we have to do to ensure that rural Saskatchewan, and therefore agriculture, continues being the backbone of our Saskatchewan economy.

These are lessons that I've learned over time from my colleagues in the opposition benches, Mr. Speaker. And over time we have gone through a great amount of risks in the agricultural sector, and obviously risks such as mad cow disease, Mr. Speaker, that was an experience that Saskatchewan went through. There are a number of environmental threats that continue to create challenges in the food basket of the world which is of course the Prairie provinces and Saskatchewan is a big part of that, Mr. Speaker.

And as we look at some of the farm operations getting bigger and stronger . . . And, Mr. Speaker, the only issue that I sometimes try hard to understand is, where is the family farm in the scheme of things overall in this day and age? And there are many that think that, well the family farm numbers are dwindling. And as we see more and more corporate farms being established, you've often got to think, are we doing the right thing in terms of not focusing on the family farms? I think they're a big part of the solution overall and it's really, really important to see how we can strengthen the family farm, so to speak.

And obviously the challenges of operating a family farm in this day and age is much radically different than 20, 30, 40 years ago. But, Mr. Speaker, I would point out that as we try and look at ways in which we can stimulate rural Saskatchewan and strengthen our agricultural base, Mr. Speaker, it is really, really difficult to understand why the government is not addressing some of the immediate threats to rural Saskatchewan and some of the immediate threats to our agricultural sector, Mr. Speaker.

This particular bill, Mr. Speaker, it talks a bit about agricultural incentive, but as we've said again, and we've said time and time again on this side of the Assembly, Mr. Speaker, some of the threats to the agricultural sector is water management. We see, as we travel rural Saskatchewan for a number of functions, that there are issues around drainage, Mr. Speaker. Illegal drainage has been going on for years and this particular government



refuses to handle some of the challenges around illegal drainage.

We've got a problem, Mr. Speaker, with water management. Certain areas have too much water; other areas don't have enough. And the fluctuations of water levels — some years we're flooding; other years we are simply starving for moisture, Mr. Speaker. And it's anybody's guess where the challenges are for this year and every year thereafter.

So every year as we grapple with water management, Mr. Speaker, it is the single most significant threat to the agricultural sector, and yet this particular government has no money set aside to deal with that issue and certainly no wherewithal to deal with the challenges around illegal drainage, Mr. Speaker.

As well while I'm on my feet, I want to talk about another significant challenge around agriculture and that's getting our crops to market, Mr. Speaker. And as we see the challenges and risks around oil and gas and particularly the pipeline debate we've been having in this Assembly for the last number of days, we need to get our crops to market, Mr. Speaker. And that's another issue that this particular government has not been dealing with in a significant way.

And yes, they may have \$2 billion for a French conglomerate building a semicircle around the city of Regina but, Mr. Speaker, when it comes to water management, when it comes to getting our crops to markets, when it comes to mitigating environmental risks that threaten our rural way of life and threaten the backbone of our province, Mr. Speaker, you begin to wonder where their priorities are.

And that's one of the reasons why we pay very close attention to bills of this sort that come forward, to say, do they address these matters? While there's incentives on value-added, Mr. Speaker, we are still seeing a huge hole in the challenges and the immediate and pressing risks to the agricultural sector, and as I mentioned, everything from water management, getting our crops to market, and some of the environmental risks that many parts of rural Saskatchewan face.

So it's important to allow people to come forward to share with us their concerns around this. It's important to see which groups are going to be benefiting from this particular bill. And that's why it's important to network, and it's important for us to allow the bill to proceed through the Assembly so we're able to find these questions out before it's being proclaimed.

So on that note, Mr. Speaker, I move that we adjourn debate on Bill No. 125, *The Saskatchewan Value-added Agriculture Incentive Act*.

**The Speaker:** — The member from Athabasca has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 125, *The Saskatchewan Value-added Agriculture Incentive Act*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

## ADJOURNED DEBATES

### SECOND READINGS

#### Bill No. 104

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

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

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure and honour to finally have the opportunity to rise in my chair and add my thoughts to Bill No. 104, the Saskatchewan human rights amendment Act. Mr. Speaker, this bill largely . . . In terms of changes, what it seeks to do is create a bilingual version of this bill which is great because we're talking about making the Human Rights Commission in the form of its legislation more accessible by allowing for a bilingual bill, Mr. Speaker.

And it does provide us the opportunity to be able to speak to the human rights legislation and human rights in Saskatchewan and what we could be doing better as a province and what we could be doing better as legislators. And I have enjoyed reviewing the commentary by my colleagues who have had the opportunity to wade into this debate and discuss this bill, and in particular my colleague from Saskatoon Centre who is our human rights critic and who has an expertise in this area, Mr. Speaker, and has been working very closely with many different groups in Saskatchewan on human rights and how we could be improving human rights in the province.

And I thank him. I want to take this opportunity to thank him on the record for his hard work and his passion in all that he does in all areas, but in particular in this critic role. We have the pleasure of working together as sort of joint critics on this file, and it's always been a really great opportunity to see how the member from Saskatoon Centre works with different groups in the province and is an advocate for them and helps to amplify their voice in the space that we've been given.

This bill also makes several changes to the language throughout the Act, but it doesn't change the content of the code. For example, there are some "ifs" that are changed to "wheres." There's "shall enjoy the right to" has been changed to "has the right to." It's not overly onerous from our interpretation of the changes that have been made. It doesn't create any sort of additional power or additional obligation.

But there are some . . . There's one challenge here that I want to take the opportunity today to talk about, is that this was a bit of a lost opportunity, Mr. Speaker. It's great that there is now a bilingual version or there will be a bilingual version of this Act, but there are other concerns around the Human Rights Commission and human rights in Saskatchewan that we need to ensure that we're addressing. In particular what we've been hearing is that the number of complaints coming forward to the Human Rights Commission have been increasing over time,

Mr. Speaker, and there's also a growing number of human rights complaints that have been dismissed. We're very worried about these trends.

And I know the changes that have been made to the Human Rights Commission over the past several years have resulted in there no longer being an automatic lawyer assigned to the case of a complainant. So the Human Rights Commission used to have lawyers on staff that would essentially act for an individual who's making a complaint. That doesn't exist anymore and now those complainants are encouraged to find, if they want to take their case to a level of court, to find their own private counsel for that issue. Often folks who are dealing within human rights issues are those of somewhat a vulnerable segment in society, Mr. Speaker, and may or may not have the means to hire counsel, especially when those cases could . . . I would say it's probably a minimum amount would be \$10,000 of a retainer to be able to hire private counsel to deal with your human rights matter.

So even though the amount of complaints are increasing, we're worried about what's happening to those complaints once they're made and whether or not the outcomes that are being achieved are of the satisfaction of those who are participating in that system, Mr. Speaker. And that's one thing we want to make sure that we're ensuring.

The minister when he talked about this bill, he talked about how this legislation seeks to promote and protect individual dignity and equality rights. And we need to ensure that this legislation and this commission stays intact and is doing the duty that it should be.

[15:00]

And I do want to give credit to Judge Arnot, who is the Chief Commissioner at the Human Rights Commission, for the work that he's done in particular with respect to education and his advocacy work around promoting civil ethics and civic duty to the schools. And he's actually created — I don't know if you've seen it, Mr. Speaker — but he's created a comprehensive curriculum around this and is working to promote the implementation of that in the education system in Saskatchewan. And from what I understand, it's received accolades for its strength in other places, Mr. Speaker. So I do want to commend the commissioner and all of his staff for their work on that in particular, Mr. Speaker.

There are still a lot of issues that we need to ensure that we're being diligent on in Saskatchewan. And in particular we see a lot of challenges around people in the trans community receiving proper access to health care. That's a challenge we hear about, I know when we're at events, almost at least annually, and the rates of suicide as a result of not being able to access proper health care in the trans community are exponential on top of that. There is still a large level of stigma and a large level of misunderstanding around those who are in that community, Mr. Speaker.

So we as legislators should be doing everything we can to amplify their voices because they are the leaders in that area and doing everything we can to support them as allies, Mr. Speaker. And whenever we're talking about *The Saskatchewan*

*Human Rights Code* I want to make sure that we're taking that opportunity to talk about it. Because I know my colleague from Saskatoon Centre would be wanting me to make sure that I'm taking that opportunity to speak about that, speak about the importance of these issues, Mr. Speaker.

There's also been a lot of push lately around ensuring that the language we're using is gender neutral. We've been talking a lot previously and the conversation hasn't been as adamant as it was a few years back about the importance of gender-neutral washrooms and how some folks don't feel comfortable in a gendered washroom, Mr. Speaker. So ensuring that we're doing all we can, again of being cognizant of the challenges in different segments of the population, ensuring we're doing as much as we can as legislators to listen, to understand those challenges and to determine if there's anything that we can do as legislators to make our community safer and those within our community more supported, Mr. Speaker.

I'm looking forward to having the opportunity to ask questions of the minister about many different issues with respect to the Human Rights Code, although I'm largely not opposed to the bill being bilingual, again it gives us the opportunity to talk more about different things within the Human Rights Commission.

So with that, I'm looking forward to having that opportunity again, Mr. Speaker, and I'm prepared to allow this bill to move forward.

**The Speaker:** — Okay, the question before the Assembly is a motion by the member that Bill No. 104, *The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code, 2017* be now read a second time. 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. 104, *The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code, 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. 105

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 105 — *The Saskatchewan Human Rights Consequential 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 today to enter into the debate on Bill No. 105, *The Saskatchewan Human Rights Consequential Amendment Act, 2017*. I just had the opportunity to speak to Bill 104, which is, I guess, the non-consequential amendment Act, and it makes logical sense for both of these bills to go to committee together.

This bill makes, as per the name of the bill, consequential amendments to *The Saskatchewan Employment Act*, as a result of the changes that are made in Bill 104, and the sections of the employment Act that once referred to the Saskatchewan Human Rights Code will now say the Human Rights Code 2017, Mr. Speaker.

And since I'm on my feet talking about the Human Rights Code, I think it's important to talk a little bit about the Human Rights Commission that does good work. And I think . . . I'm looking at, Mr. Speaker, the annual report 2016-2017 that has some very interesting numbers that I want to make sure that I read into the record, Mr. Speaker.

The number of complaints that were made to the Human Rights Commission in 2016-2017 were 444, with 141 of those complaints being formalized. The number of employment-related complaints were 122, and that was 87 per cent of the complaints that were made, which is interesting, Mr. Speaker. So the majority, and I can almost say the vast majority of the complaints that are made are employment-related complaints.

And I do believe — if I remember correctly the last time I talked to Judge Arnot about the Human Rights Commission — there is now a line, a direct line that can be called or utilized for employers if they have questions. So the Human Rights Commission is trying to be proactive in the work that they're doing. They don't want things to get to the complaint stage. So if an employer has a question about something, whether or not it may or may not be in violation of the Human Rights Code, or they're curious about what their obligation as employers are in a specific circumstance, they can actually now proactively call the Human Rights Commission and receive an answer in a timely fashion, Mr. Speaker. And when 87 per cent of the complaints that are made to the Human Rights Commission are employment related, that's a really positive step.

And now I just see the line that I was just talking about actually is the next number that's in the annual report; it's the business line inquiries. They received 451 inquiries through the business line, which is an increase of 16 per cent from the year prior, Mr. Speaker. So they actually received more inquiries than they did complaints in 2016-2017. And that's a positive step to see the Human Rights Commission being proactive in these things.

What's very interesting is the amount of telephone and email inquiries that they received in total, Mr. Speaker, in this year, which is 1,672, which is quite a few, Mr. Speaker. So I'm curious to know how their funding structure has been, if they've been able to receive any new FTEs [full-time equivalent] lately as a result of the work that they've been doing. Because you can tell that the demand is certainly there. And we want to ensure that those employees are supported and not burnt-out, because they are likely hearing a lot of very difficult stories of people that are in very difficult places in their lives, which can be a very high-stress work environment. We want to ensure that

they're properly supported.

The amount of complaints that were settled in 2016-2017 are 122, Mr. Speaker, and then with 23 settled at direct mediation and 99 of those settled at pre-complaint mediation, investigation, and systemic advocacy stage. So these are all ones that did not end up going to court. So I'm curious to know, if there was 141 complaints formalized and 122 complaints that were settled, my math is not great but I think that's about 19 that are left to be spoken for. Mr. Speaker, I'm curious to know what happened to those other 19, whether or not they were successful through trial or whether — and by successful I mean actually made their way to trial — or if the complaints were simply dropped, Mr. Speaker.

And I know that the Human Rights Commission has moved recently from . . . or not recently, but I'd say over the last seven or eight years; I forget when the big change happened in that office from pushing folks through tribunals and then the court. But to focus more on mediation, which is oftentimes . . . Well I don't want to say oftentimes. Which can be beneficial for complainants if the circumstance is appropriate for mediation. I'm curious to know if there's feedback that's sought after a complaint is settled, whether or not the complainants were satisfied with the outcome, were happy that the settlement had occurred, and received the outcome that they had desired, Mr. Speaker, because it is important.

The other problem, I guess the other challenge around moving towards more mediated settlements is we don't have the body of case law that we used to have in this type of area. Saskatchewan was actually a leader in terms of case law for human rights issues. The Whatcott decision came from Saskatchewan, which is a huge decision, Mr. Speaker. And while I don't want to see individuals' personal circumstances and their complaints and the difficulties around them to be utilized just for the purpose of strong case law, Mr. Speaker, because that can be a very difficult process for an individual emotionally and literally and financially to go through, there's also still some benefit for that case law to exist.

And when issues are mediated or settled, then it's a bit more difficult for us to have precedents, to be able to ensure that there is a systemic . . . or that we're able to know where our markers are, so to speak, Mr. Speaker, so that when other folks are going through a similar circumstance they sort of know where their marker is in terms of this issue.

So that would be the challenge I would call up when we start moving towards more mediated settlements. Again, the focus should be on the complainants and what the complainants want, and if the outcome they have received is desirable for the complainants. So it's important to have that discussion as well, Mr. Speaker.

So with that, I again look forward to having the opportunity to ask questions of the minister and his officials at committee. I always enjoy the opportunity to be at committee with the Minister of Justice, Mr. Speaker, and the officials from that ministry. And so as such, I am prepared to allow this bill to move to committee.

**The Speaker:** — The question before the Assembly is a motion

by the minister that Bill 74, *The Evidence Amendment Act* . . . Sorry, *The Saskatchewan Human Rights Consequential Amendment Act, 2017* be now read a second time. 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. 105, *The Saskatchewan Human Rights Consequential 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. 121

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

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Thanks. Mr. Speaker, today I'm entering into discussion here today around Bill No. 121, the cannabis control Act, and it's my pleasure to do so.

I've gone through the minister's statements that's he's put on the record here, Mr. Speaker. I think that there's still a lot more information that Saskatchewan people are looking for across our province, be that our municipalities or be that entrepreneurs across Saskatchewan, be that our police forces, Mr. Speaker. But clearly the . . . On this file, this is a file that this government really has dragged their feet. We are now the last province to be getting our act together on the front in response to the changes around cannabis, and there's no valid reason for that, Mr. Speaker.

[15:15]

It's not as though the Sask Party was out consulting with Saskatchewan people in a meaningful way on this front, Mr. Speaker. So that's not the excuse for the delay on this front and the dragging of the feet. It's not as though the Sask Party and this Premier were out consulting municipalities across our province because we've heard clearly, Mr. Speaker, that that hasn't happened either.

We've heard clearly from our municipal leaders that that engagement, that consultation, that working together, just simply hasn't happened, Mr. Speaker. And that's too bad, because I believe there's a lot to be gained by working together, a lot to be gained by understanding that our municipal partners have direct impacts, direct knowledge on this front, all of which

would have built a stronger piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker.

This is, you know, a government that also has certainly dragged its feet, that hasn't consulted Saskatchewan people, and they haven't consulted police forces across this province in an adequate way as well, Mr. Speaker. So certainly that's not the reason for the delay in the legislation, the reason that we as a province are the last province in Canada to bring about legislation on this front and get our framework together, get the regulations in order, Mr. Speaker. And that's too bad.

What this represents is a failure to assure Saskatchewan people on areas like safety that are important to the people of our province. It's also a failure to recognize that we have an industry that's being developed in Canada, a failure to recognize the economic opportunities that exist within that industry, a failure to do our part within our province to make sure that we have the jobs and revenues and opportunities for small businesses within our province that they so deserve, Mr. Speaker.

You know, when I think of our province . . . I mean, we're a world-class producer. We've got the finest producers in all the world, Mr. Speaker, and I see here an opportunity to grow a product in a controlled way, in a way that ensures integrity, Mr. Speaker. And what I see is a lost opportunity because of the inaction of the Sask Party on this front to bring about legislation and then regulation to allow our growers, our producers, small businesses across our province, to be able to step up to the plate and create the kind of jobs that Saskatchewan people deserve.

And it's a file like this, Mr. Speaker, that really frustrates me because we had the chance for Saskatchewan to lead on this front. So we've had a Premier that has dragged his feet, Mr. Speaker, that's put us in a circumstance where there's many valid questions around things like safety, Mr. Speaker, around the supports that should be there and the understanding and relationship that needs to be there with municipalities across our province, the relationship that needs to be there with our police forces across this province.

And this dragging of the feet has certainly already cost Saskatchewan people on the economic front — an unprecedented new opportunity, with an industry being developed and a chance for Saskatchewan to punch well above our weight to ensure that we have a system with integrity and that our producers, our growers, have tremendous opportunities within this front.

It's obviously critically important that the system we build has integrity to it, Mr. Speaker. And working with our world-class producers, with growers within our province, we had the opportunity and have the opportunity, I hope, to produce the best product with integrity of that system and with a tracking system, Mr. Speaker, from seed to sale, Mr. Speaker. And we just don't see those sorts of measures being brought forward here yet. The age has been set around 19 years of age, and certainly on that front I'm supportive of that piece.

We know that big questions still exist around things like the enforceability of the zero-tolerance policy around driving, Mr. Speaker, and this is important. We need to make sure our roads are safe. We need to make sure that our police forces have the

... and police across our province have the tools that they need to enforce the law. And there's a real void on that front in what the members are saying opposite and what's happening on the ground. And there's a concern by many that the rules around ensuring that drivers aren't impaired may not be enforceable, and this is a government that seems to be absent from this very important conversation, one that relates to safety all across our province, Mr. Speaker.

I've also heard concerns around the enforceability and the legality of the position around transportation, Mr. Speaker. And again it's a challenge if you have a government ramming forward without consulting and bringing forward legislation without consulting those who understand the realities on the ground and leave them in limbo in responding to the new realities that will exist after cannabis is legalized, Mr. Speaker. And I think that's the frustration for many municipalities, for police forces, for entrepreneurs, and producers across our province, is that so many are left without a level of certainty, without being consulted at a time where we have the legalization actually occurring very soon.

And this should be no surprise for the Sask Party that this is happening. This was a clear commitment of the federal government. And every other province in Canada has stepped up to the plate and brought forward legislation, and I think in many cases, has done much more meaningful consultation with the stakeholders within their respective provinces.

And I guess it shouldn't surprise me, Mr. Speaker, that on this piece of legislation and on the development of this new industry and this economic opportunity, Mr. Speaker, that the Sask Party didn't consult, because they don't have much time for that on many of the other files as well, Mr. Speaker — certainly not how they've gone at supporting classrooms and in their case, not supporting classrooms, Mr. Speaker. This is a government that doesn't have it in them to consult, far too often, the good people of this province. It's certainly evident here.

I want to speak as well to the piece around revenues, Mr. Speaker. Certainly we should ... We see a government that's going to be collecting revenues. They're going to be flowing into coffers of this government. And we won't get in here right now to all of the mismanagement of this government, but we know they're surfing through the couch cushions on any given day looking for any last loonie or toonie, loose change that's out there, Mr. Speaker. We know that this is a government that mismanaged to the point that they're now breaking promises around what they would sell off or not sell off and looking to, far too often, sell out Saskatchewan people in the sell-off of public assets, Mr. Speaker, to try to pay the bill for their mismanagement.

And certainly there's going to be revenues derived through the legalization of cannabis. And I found it interesting that other provinces have been able to account for that, been able to plan for that to the best of their ability, and then able to allocate dollars to respond to the pressures that exist within in a province. But not this government, Mr. Speaker. They certainly have, you know, the money that's going to be flowing in because of the legalization, Mr. Speaker, but certainly we don't see any of those dollars being directed in the ways that they should be, Mr. Speaker.

And you know, I looked, as an example here, this is a government that's collected a lot of money on the recent licence, the RFP [request for proposal] or the licensing process, where potential retailers across the provinces ponied up and put forward dollars, Mr. Speaker. And it's not an insignificant sum — I believe over a million dollars — that's now been collected in that licensing process alone, Mr. Speaker.

Now you would think, Mr. Speaker, that in a case like that, Mr. Speaker, that those dollars may be dedicated directly to municipalities within our province who are right now going through significant planning and preparation for the legalization, Mr. Speaker. And certainly that comes at some cost to municipalities and police forces across our province. But this government has dedicated not a dime of those million dollars plus, Mr. Speaker, from their windfall through their licensing lottery, Mr. Speaker, and that seems strange.

I also ... It seems strange, Mr. Speaker, when you look at the inadequate support for mental health and addictions services within our province, that you don't see this government using this opportunity to step up and to dedicate revenues from this new industry, Mr. Speaker, to better respond to the mental health needs and addictions challenges of Saskatchewan people right now. In fact, in this budget that was brought forward we saw a very marginal increase, a very, a tiny fraction of an increase being brought forward by this government when it comes to mental health. And if we look at the lived reality for those with mental health challenges across our province, if we look at the harsh realities facing so many when it comes to addictions within our province, we owe it to everyone in this province to do so much better.

We know, Mr. Speaker, that when we put \$1 into effective mental health and addictions services that we actually save \$7, Mr. Speaker, in greater health care costs. So what we have the opportunity to do by better responding to the mental health and addictions challenges of Saskatchewan people is to save lives, to make a difference, to ensure peace of mind and security to many across our province, but to also save dollars, Mr. Speaker, to save dollars down the road, Mr. Speaker, and of course then putting us in a position to better utilize those dollars as well. Far too many people within our province are suffering in silence, Mr. Speaker. Far too many aren't provided the services and supports they need when they need them, when they step up and say that they need help.

You know, and I see it all the time within our community. I see it across the province; I hear from so many. And we see the tragic reality, Mr. Speaker, of not stepping up and providing the services and supports when people need them when it comes to mental health and addictions services. The fact of the matter is that when someone indicates that they need some help on this front, Mr. Speaker, we need to do all we can to wrap around services and supports at that moment in time and provide some care and support to families, Mr. Speaker.

The consequence of having people wait three weeks or five weeks or two months or three months isn't good enough and the consequences are real. Far too often that window of opportunity to provide some intervention and some support closes, Mr. Speaker. Far too often by that point circumstances have often hardened and worsened and people are in a different place

within their mind, Mr. Speaker. Far too often families are torn apart. Far too often workers lose employment, Mr. Speaker. Far too often we're losing young ones throughout our province.

So I see an important connection on this front. From my perspective, we have new revenues that are going to be derived out of the sale of cannabis, out of the legalization of cannabis. I believe there's a very important place for support and allocation of those dollars. Certainly we need to support our municipalities and our police forces for the costs and the changes that they're going through on this front, from the work that they're going to be doing to ensure safety, Mr. Speaker, and integrity of the system that's brought forward. But this is an opportunity to step up to the plate, step up to the challenge when it comes to mental health and addictions services within our province, and a real failed opportunity by this government.

So the fact of the matter is that the Sask Party of course hasn't consulted Saskatchewan people in a genuine way that Saskatchewan people deserve on this front. The Sask Party has delayed bringing this together and not consulted the direct stakeholders, and that impacts matters like safety. It impacts the potential integrity of this system. It impacts our ability to have a system that's going to be effective in place as legalization rolls around here, Mr. Speaker. And it fails to allow Saskatchewan people and entrepreneurs the ability to fully capture the economic benefit that exists by way of a new industry being created. And as I've said, we have the finest growers in the world, the finest producers in the world, and it's a shame that the province of Saskatchewan would drag its heels and not allow a maximization of the economic benefits and jobs that could be created on this front.

And building a system that should be the best in the world, Mr. Speaker, to ensure the integrity of a system from seed to sale when it comes to cannabis, Mr. Speaker. And as well making sure that we have assurances and commitments and plans and actions from the federal government to respond to the question of edibles, Mr. Speaker, but also, very importantly, Mr. Speaker, to make sure that those that need medical marijuana across the province, medical cannabis, CBD [cannabidiol], Mr. Speaker, that they have access.

[15:30]

Because there is a valid concern that exists right now that those that need to utilize medical cannabis, Mr. Speaker, with CBD, Mr. Speaker, for medical purposes, may get squeezed out of the market, Mr. Speaker, when this new industry develops and questions of what the supply will be. And this is an important place for a province to certainly work with a federal government to ensure that there's going to be commitments for supply around CBD, around medical marijuana, as we see a tremendous growth — as we will — with THC [tetrahydrocannabinol] growth within the province, Mr. Speaker.

So I'm disappointed on this front with the Sask Party. I'm disappointed that they've failed to step up to the plate and engage people all across our province and stakeholders, to ensure the safety and the peace of mind that people deserve. I'm disappointed that they ran roughshod once again over the perspectives of municipalities within our province, that they

failed to consult the police forces and the policing community within our province who have very real concerns around the enforceability of measures being brought forward and many of the changes that are being brought forward.

And I have a whole lot of concerns that as a new industry was being developed in Canada, that this government sat on its hands and dragged its feet instead of stepping up to the plate to ensure that we could maximize the economic benefits for Saskatchewan people in this industry, that we could punch well above our weight to ensure the development of new businesses, new opportunities, be the finest grower in the world, Mr. Speaker, if you will, with craft growers, the potential for craft growers within our province that's simply second to none. And the cost of that are certainly revenues to the province of Saskatchewan that are, you know, certainly desperately needed, you know, by way of our classrooms and by way of our mental health system, Mr. Speaker, but also really failed to ensure the opportunity was fully captured on the front by way of jobs, Mr. Speaker.

At a time within our province where far too many Saskatchewan people are struggling with underemployment and with job loss, this is a government that sat on its hands as an opportunity presented for us to develop an industry with integrity and create jobs all across our province.

So with that being said, Mr. Speaker, we'll certainly continue to be engaged on this important file. We'll be working of course to ensure safety across our province. We'll be working to ensure that the system that's brought forward has integrity, Mr. Speaker. We'll be working to make sure that the economic opportunities are fully captured for the people of our province, Mr. Speaker. And we'll be working to make sure that folks like our municipalities and our police forces have the supports that they need.

And then very importantly, as I was speaking about mental health and addictions services, Mr. Speaker, and the . . . inadequate doesn't quite describe the reality that's going on within our province, but the inadequate response that exists for mental health support and addictions within our province. We should be utilizing this opportunity to be making the investments now to build the kind of mental health and addictions services that all Saskatchewan people deserve, with immediate wraparound supports when people need them, when they indicate, Mr. Speaker, that they need some help, and doing so in a culturally affirmed way, in a way that responds to these needs and pressures, you know, with the appropriate difference in different parts of our province, with the diversity of our province, Mr. Speaker.

But again this is a government that hasn't stepped up to the plate on this front, so we'll be engaged on this front. At this point I'll adjourn debate on Bill No. 121, the cannabis control Act.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

### Bill No. 122

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

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Thanks, Mr. Speaker. I enter in here with . . . to discussion as it relates to Bill No. 122. This bill simply brings the consequential amendments required from Bill No. 121 that I just spoke to at relative length, Mr. Speaker, so I won't go into the same sort of length that I did with respect to Bill 121.

Certainly it's very important that the Saskatchewan government gets it right when it comes to cannabis legalization. It's disappointing that they have dragged their heels, Mr. Speaker, and that we're now the last province in Canada to enact legislation and ensure a regulatory environment that works for Saskatchewan people or for our constituents, Mr. Speaker. And it's important, Mr. Speaker, that this government start listening on this front to the stakeholders across our province, to those that are working in law enforcement and policing, to municipalities within our province, to entrepreneurs and those on the economic front, Mr. Speaker, and importantly, to all people as it relates to safety.

And it's certainly been clear that when it comes to the legalization, Mr. Speaker, that this government simply hasn't consulted municipalities. And it's disappointing, but it shouldn't be a real surprise because we've seen that with this government far too often in recent years, Mr. Speaker. Of course I don't need to reference the blindsiding of municipalities in last year's budget with the tearing back of contracts and dollars from municipalities, and now the hard consequences that Saskatchewan people and property tax payers are subjected to.

We'll be engaged in this discussion. We have been across our province. Our critic has been a leader when it comes to a discussion as well around pardons, Mr. Speaker, and I urge the Sask Party to be more co-operative on that front and apply some common sense. But at this point in time, I'll adjourn debate for Bill No. 122.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

### Bill No. 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 Cumberland.

**Mr. Vermette:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, to join in, and I guess give some comments on Bill 107, *The Provincial Emblems and Honours Amendment Act, 2017*. I guess originally looking at it, I'm going to need to give some credit to the Royal Saskatchewan Museum. And I want to give credit to them because they did quite the work to consult many of our Saskatchewan citizens. Like I mean, if you look at it and I'm curious . . . Maybe the government could take a lesson from them when it comes to duty to consult and accommodate residents of our province. And I'm thinking about First Nations, Métis, but all residents whether they're rural or, you know, urban, remote, it doesn't matter. I think sometimes . . . I give them credit.

Because when I initially looked at this — it is, it is something, I think — as it's indicated in part of the information, we're the only province to, you know, to actually enact legislation that will have, you know, a T. rex as our official fossil emblem for the province. And I mean that's great. But what's interesting, and I think there was a number of them, there were seven that people could vote, choose from, and you go through that process. Again I have to give them credit. I mean, I was reading through it and I'm going, not only could you go right to the museum and vote, you could actually . . . There was a video process you could take part and vote in. You could go online and vote. Like I mean, there was so many ways to engage the public and Saskatchewan residents in sharing information.

And I think on this side of the House we have said that, and we've heard that on many doorsteps and places, where you hear a lot of frustration from people saying, how come the government doesn't consult enough? And I just want to give them credit because in this, you know, I give them credit, the work they've done to figure out who they wanted to . . . Again, I go back. The government could take a lesson from this, and I hope they might actually get some information from . . . It's very close to here, you know. They just have to walk over there, a few of them, and get some information.

But I guess in some ways I'm being a little sarcastic to the government, but I want to give credit to, of course, the process and the selection. And I know the government, you know, is going to pass the legislation. They have the members to do that. But we get a chance to go over the conversation and support this, I guess, as the opposition. And sometimes these bills are easily . . . We work together in mutual . . . and sometimes respect. As the Speaker has pointed out, you know, more of that would be great in this Legislative Assembly: co-operation, working together. We all have our issues.

But more importantly I guess, I was going to have a little bit more. And I said, well when you seen this originally and saying, okay it's going to be our official fossil emblem for the province, I'm like, I wasn't sure T. rex. And then, my grandkids love T. rex. And I mean, as they were growing up they had all the little, you know, dinosaurs that you may have and they would play with them. And that was, of course, always the

powerful one, was the T. rex. And I mean kids can maybe show us how to get along in that scenario, as you've made comments here. So I was doing a little chuckling to myself thinking about just the grandkids and the way they played back and forth with T. rex.

But I don't want to take a lot of time. I just want to give credit for the process, those that took part in this voting. And they were given so many different options and opportunities to vote and have their say, you know. And that's something again I'll go back to saying: people in our province love to have their say. And I think it's a right. They demand that they should have their say when government's making moves and changing legislation or implementing changes on them that they're not aware of. And they find out later, people are not happy.

So here we have a heck of a very good progress. I'm really impressed. So on that, I'll support this, you know, in the sense of moving forward. And I will have more questions, maybe. I don't know how many questions we'll have in committee. But at this point, I know I don't have further comments about, you know, this legislation, the bill, on Bill 107. At this point I'm prepared to adjourn debate on this.

**The Speaker:** — The member for Cumberland has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 107, *The Provincial Emblems and Honours Amendment Act, 2017*. 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 Saskatoon Centre.

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Yes. It's a pleasure to rise today to enter into the debate on Bill No. 110, *An Act respecting the Protection of Animals and making consequential amendments to certain Acts*. And so this is an overhaul of *The Animal Protection Act* and I have to say, this is one I find very interesting. We all have connections with the animal world in some way, whether it's through pets or livestock.

And I have to say one of my highlights as an MLA had to do with this Act. Some people may remember this in November of, I think, 2009 when we had nine service dogs here. And I don't know if people remember that day where I had a private member's bill. It was about protecting service animals.

And so we had these nine dogs come in the House, and security wanted to know what was going on with all these dogs. And, Mr. Speaker, sometimes you wonder about when we get carried away. These dogs didn't really tolerate a lot of . . . We were pretty much on our good behaviour with all these dogs in the House.

I do have to say though that it was an interesting thing that happened with that bill. People often don't say, or they say we don't . . . [inaudible] . . . decides the House. Do you remember that? I don't know. It was really an interesting . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Yes, 2009 I brought forward a private members' bill.

But the neat thing that happened was Bob Bjornerud was the minister of Agriculture at the time, and he had before us a bill about protecting animals, *The Animal Protection Act*. That was last time, 2010. And I had heard about this bill from Manitoba via Washington State. It was called, Layla's Law, about protecting service animals. And we were able to just roll it into the Minister of Agriculture's bill before the House, and it is part 4.

[15:45]

But it was quite a day when we had all of these dogs here. Some people may remember it, but it was quite a time. And the deal was if I could bring four dogs, we would work with it, and we had nine. So it was pretty special. So we can make things work in this House, even if we use . . . I guess, is that exploiting dogs? They really earned their pay that day to make that point, but it was really something. And I have to hand it to . . . This was a testimony of how we could work together. It was a good idea.

And I won't take credit for the idea myself. It was something that the police were very interested in. They didn't bring their dogs here though. They felt it was best not to bring their police dogs into the building. But they were here. But also the folks who are living with blindness brought their dogs, and that kind of thing. And it was really pretty special to see how quickly we can move together when a good idea emerges, and that was the case. And so that's what we often do is we bring ideas, and the police really jumped on it. The disabilities community thought it was a great idea, and therefore we brought that together and it was part 4.

And I have to hand it to Bob Bjornerud for being gracious enough to accept the amendment in committee. And everybody went with it, and it just made a lot of sense. And so I do find it a nice memory to look back when you've contributed in some small way to making lives a little bit better.

I do have to say, you know, I read through this, and I have to talk about, you know, some of the language is often kind of intriguing. What are they really trying to say? And here's a definition of an abandoned animal. It makes sense but some of the language is, I don't know whether archaic is the right way to say it, but here, I'll just say it. It's section 2(1)(a):

“abandoned animal” means an animal that:

(a) is apparently ownerless and not running at large;

So not running about the town, but you can definitely tell that it's ownerless. How do you tell an animal is not ownerless? I think there needs to be a little bit more work on expanding that language. The animal is apparently ownerless and not running at large. Now I don't know, this is a very quaint description because when I see animals running at large, I think that dog



doesn't have an owner, or where's that owner? So I have some questions about that.

But anyways there's a lot of work done here, and I think it's an important piece of legislation that we have before it. And as I said, it repeals the animal Act of 1999. And it talks about . . . Several pieces of the old Act are maintained, and that's good. That's good because there's a lot of good work. And as people have developed habits about how they relate to either their agricultural animals that they use — the horses, cows, pigs, goats, whatever, rabbits — then how do they relate to their pets? But it expands the definition of animal in distress, including the conditions that would cause the animal extreme anxiety or impair the animal's well-being over time. And I think that's important.

It expands the animal care duties, what is expected of people who are responsible for animals — that's very, very important — and changes the language from "humane societies" to "animal protection agencies." Now that will be an interesting one to hear more discussion about in committee because we know, we know . . . And I have to figure out, I can't remember what the term is when you give animals or objects human qualities.

**An Hon. Member:** — Anthropomorphization.

**Mr. Forbes:** — Yes. And as we all know, and if you've ever been to somebody's home, whether they have a cat or a dog, how they treat them like a human. So as opposed to a humane society, let's treat a dog like a dog should be treated, and not start getting into this kind of odd stuff about putting on other things like, you know . . . And I'm guilty of that too. I'm guilty of that too. You should hear me and my dog. But I think that's an interesting change of language from "humane society" to "animal protection agency." So when we get into the committee, that'll be an interesting discussion for that.

It includes limits on transporting animals who would suffer unduly during that transportation. And you know, I was just listening to the news yesterday about transporting horses by planes. It is a thing to transport . . . to sell horses to other countries for slaughter. And the deal is they can't be longer than 30 hours without water, and if they happen to get stuck on a tarmac or something, it can be quite an issue. And this was happening I think in Vancouver where the plane, it was getting to be really close and the plane wasn't taking off, and it was loaded with horses for another country. I think they made it . . . they were going to make it out okay, but again all of that is . . . These are real challenges that we have, and that's very, very important. It includes a section on humane slaughter and euthanasia, which is hugely important.

And this one's very important: veterinarians have the duty to report now when they have reasonable grounds to believe someone isn't caring for an animal or is causing them distress. Before, I understand, they didn't have that responsibility. But now when they do see animals coming in and if it's a clear case that there's some abuse happening, they should report it. I think it's very important to do that.

And it outlines the ways that animal protection officers can relieve an animal in distress, i.e. how they get into the premises

or vehicles, and rules that apply to animal protection agencies across the province. So that's very good.

Now, Mr. Speaker, as you may be aware, Saskatchewan has had for several years a quite unflattering record of our animal protection laws. And this is something that's done annually by the Animal Legal Defense Fund. There is media that comes out almost on an annual basis about where we rank, and unfortunately I have to say that the current ranking that we have is we are number 11 out of 12. And this is something that we haven't been able to see a change over the course of several years. And I was actually surprised because when we did the 2010 change, particularly embracing the psychological harassment aspect, that didn't seem to bump us very much.

So this is one that, I would think that when our critic for Agriculture is in the committee, that she'll probably be asking a lot of questions about that ranking system, how can we improve, and how that's important. I mean, we don't want to improve because we're tired of being 11th. We want to improve because they're better standards. And I think that's an important, important aspect.

And I can read into the record some of the improvements that we should be looking at, some of the things around "better definitions, standards of basic care, broader range of protections, prohibitions related to animal fighting" — and I think that's one that we can all understand. I mean there's really no place for having or ignoring animal fighting. If that is happening, we should make sure that that's illegal and that there is action taken.

"Recognition of psychological harm," and that was something I was talking about with service animals, that we did a lot of work around that. But I don't know if this is applying to all domestic animals and what the issue is there. But I think this is very important that we take a look.

Increased penalties for routine offenders. Very, very important. Mandatory fines. Some of these things are really things that I think that we probably should have been looking at in terms of this bill right now.

Immunity for anyone who reports animals in distress, assists in the enforcement of animal protection legislation. And that would be an interesting one because we often see neighbours or people who . . . Yes, neighbours would be the word. People who live in close proximity see animals that are not being treated well. And whether it's being left in certain conditions for a long period of time, left without water, you know, hearing of violence or beatings, that type of thing, it's very important that we enable people to report that.

Now it would have to be . . . Certainly this can get into touchy territory, but we do think that it's better to err on the side of making sure the animal's best interests are being looked after as opposed to saying, well I'd just rather not say a situation or just ignoring the poor animal if they're being in a tough situation. I think it's better that we take a look and we try to understand what's happening.

Mr. Speaker, I think as we look through this bill there will be lots of questions. There is some interesting work. And as I said,

it's one that we can all get behind, you know, because so many of us have that, as I said, a special relationship with an animal in some form or shape. And whether it's a cat or a dog or a goldfish or something, it's that unconditional love that's so important that . . . You know, as humans we can be really testing out our human friends, but our animal friends can be much more forgiving and move on right away. And so I think this is an important bill.

It is interesting, you know, one of my constituents raised the issue of shock collars just recently and how appropriate they are. And so we've doing a little bit of work. I'm finding it very interesting just going through the process of discovery in terms of, is this an issue? Is this a major issue or is this just . . . Would that fall under the case or category of abuse, and really the shock collar is just the unfortunate tool of the abuser and it's not that the shock collar that really needs to be banned? But as the Animal Defence League says, if you have repeat offenders, maybe they should be treated in a more strict and meaningful fashion so they don't re-abuse animals. But at this point we're not finding the same kind of issue around shock collars. But I do have to say that our work with the SPCA [Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals] at the provincial level and the local level and others have been pretty quick in terms of sharing information. So that's been very, very good.

So I think this bill is one that is important. It's hugely important. I don't know if we need to take again as long as we did this last time. If we know there are issues to improve it, let's get right at it and make this a great place for animals in Saskatchewan. You know, I have to say that animals have played a huge part of Saskatchewan's history before and after colonization. I know there is that running gag about, in Saskatchewan you can see your dog running away for how many days?

**An Hon. Member:** — Three days.

**Mr. Forbes:** — Three days, three days it is. That didn't quite make it into the legislation because we know that abandoned animals are not running about, that they're just abandoned.

But at any rate, humour aside, this is a very serious, very serious topic. And I know our critic will take it very seriously, and we appreciate that the Minister of Agriculture has brought this forward. It's always important to be making sure we're right on top of things. And so as his predecessor, Bob Bjornrud, did a great job in this piece of work, that we hope he continues to do that and be open to any amendments. And we'll have lots of questions when we go into committee on this.

So I think I'm about ready to take my seat. I think I've said all that I wanted to say. But I did want to just reminisce briefly about those service animals, because that was quite a day that we had all those dogs in the House.

At any rate, Mr. Speaker, I am going to move adjournment on Bill No. 110, *An Act respecting the Protection of Animals and making consequential amendments to certain Acts*. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** — The member for Saskatoon Centre has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 110, *The Animal Protection Amendment 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 Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

[16:00]

**Mr. McCall:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Good to be recognized and take my place today on debate for Bill No. 111, *The Municipal Tax Sharing (Potash) Amendment Act, 2017*.

Now when this bill was introduced November 28th, 2017, back in the fall, Mr. Speaker, it was introduced against a backdrop of a fair number of changes that had taken place in the municipal sector, none of which this bill really did much to remedy. But, Mr. Speaker, in terms of the piece of legislation itself and different of the aspects of the legislation in the history of the bill versus actions taken in last year's budget, wherein, for example, grants-in-lieu where contracts were torn up by the government and the municipal sector was sandbagged by the government in that end, Mr. Speaker . . . I appreciate that the government's going to be looking for things where they can be helpful and thoughtful and try to work with the sector, but I don't know if this is quite going to do it, Mr. Speaker.

So I guess as regards the legislation itself, it's a fine piece of housekeeping, modernizing legislation the likes of which this government is prone to churn out on an all-too-regular basis. But in terms of addressing the broader questions of, does the municipal sector have a revenue-sharing formula that they can count on, do they have a government that's going to be a good-faith partner in things like grants-in-lieu, and in turn, Mr. Speaker, how that is passed along to . . . I know in the city of Regina, there's a fair amount of that activity that has been passed on through. And of course it's the property taxpayer that is paying the freight for the way that this government made bad choices and then passed the consequences onto the municipal sector. And then, of course, where does it wind up but on the doorstep of the taxpayer.

And certainly I know that's something that's not lost on my friends and neighbours in Regina Elphinstone-Centre and indeed throughout the city of Regina, where various of the property tax increases they've been subjected to of late, where they might originate.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that's the general context. And again I don't know that this one's going to heal the breach particularly, but in as far as you've got a particular piece of legislation that was first introduced in 1968, the major revision that took place in 1978, and then, you know, minor housekeeping from the

changes that were consequent to changes in *The Municipalities Act*, you know it comes to the time for some spring cleaning, housecleaning, Mr. Speaker.

And certainly in this case, Mr. Speaker, we've got modernization efforts such as changing the standard of measure in the Act from miles to kilometres. I don't know if . . . Like, you know, okay. Great. That's fine. Farewell to the imperial system. And I'm sure that there'd be some over there that, you know, as per the T. rex debate, will take umbrage with that. But somehow they've managed to strike that blow for modernity and finally replace miles with kilometres as the standard form of measure in the Act, you know. Big day. Big stuff.

More interestingly, I think, is what is happening with the expansion of the membership of the municipal tax sharing administration board, where of course these things . . . where the rubber hits the road, where the decisions are made and operationalized. Expanding the membership of that board from three to five, and formalizing representation from SUMA [Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association] and the potash industry. Again, Mr. Speaker, I don't know that that's going to quite do it in terms of the efforts on the part of this government to make up for what happened with revenue sharing and with grants-in-lieu last year. But again always good to see the affected parties have representation on the board, Mr. Speaker. And again we'll be looking for how that rolls out and actually takes effect. The Act has redefined the "actual municipal mill rates," setting a standard formula to be used for all municipalities, stating 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."

Mr. Speaker, it of course begs the question, is this referring to a specific action or pattern of activity on the part of municipalities that are subject to the terms of this legislation? I'm sure our critic will follow that up at committee in the more closer scrutiny that is provided at that time.

There's a new section in the Act outlining a standard date to be set for when the board announces the mill rate for the year and that they inform individual potash mines and potash producers, the Potash Producers Association. And again that would seem to be a perfectly reasonable, fine change to be made, Mr. Speaker, in terms of providing that uniform approach across the sector and also predictable, reasonable timelines thereto. Again, Mr. Speaker, it would seem to be a fine thing.

And then lastly, a section clarifying that tax tools are prohibited but that incentives are not, and wherein municipalities can continue to apply discounts to tax on potash mine assessments. Again, Mr. Speaker, it would be interesting to see how this . . . what impact this has on efforts made to put things on a common footing, bring about greater uniformity on the one hand, but how this affects the range of taxation that's being applied in the name of this particular piece of legislation, and in turn how that is shared out amongst the affected municipalities.

So, Mr. Speaker, I know that's a long walk around the block for a, you know, nice talk about housekeeping, but with that I know that other of my colleagues will have better things to say. I think one of my colleagues is trying to bust into the conversation right now. But anyway, Mr. Speaker, I know that

other of my colleagues will have some fine things to say in the debate to come on this and certainly we all look forward to that great reckoning that comes at committee and the greater inquiry as to what really happened in this particular piece of legislation. But with that, Mr. Speaker, I would move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 111, *The Municipal Tax Sharing (Potash) Amendment Act, 2017*.

**The Speaker:** — The member for Regina Elphinstone-Centre has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 111, *The Municipal Tax Sharing (Potash) Amendment Act, 2017*. 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:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Riversdale.

**Ms. Chartier:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to wade into the debate on Bill No. 112, *The Miscellaneous Vehicle and Driving Statutes (Cannabis Legislation) Amendment Act, 2017*. I'll outline a little bit about the bill, what the bill does, and then just flag some concerns — there's some issues that I know people in the community have raised — and a little bit about what I learned from my experience on the Traffic Safety Committee, Mr. Speaker.

So what this particular bill, No. 112, does, it adds the new federal drug offences under the Criminal Code to various sections of *The Automobile Accident Insurance Act* as well as *The Traffic Safety Act*. It adds a definition for drug to this traffic safety Act. The bill adds a new section to *The Traffic Safety Act* that outlines a zero tolerance for drugs. It sets out licence suspensions, vehicle impoundments, and administrative fines for drivers found to have driven while having consumed drugs. And drug offences will be dealt with in the same way as alcohol-related offences are dealt with except that ignition interlocks can't be used to deal with the consumption of drugs. And currently, federally, it's illegal to drive while impaired whether it's from alcohol or drugs and that remains the same with this bill.

Just interesting to note that driving while impaired . . . In 2013 during the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee, we actually learned that impairment often happens from prescription drugs and often to older adults, Mr. Speaker, which I didn't know. And I also learned at that point in time too that although young people were less likely to consume alcohol and drive than they had been in past, that cannabis use was a growing problem for young people, Mr. Speaker, and them driving while under the influence of cannabis.

I know there are many concerns and there'll be many questions

asked in committee, but just a few things that jump to mind from some conversations. I've heard from police services and from just talking to police officers that I know that they have some concerns around zero tolerance and the enforceability of zero tolerance, Mr. Speaker. That is a big concern from law enforcement officers.

I know that from my understanding there's not an accurate or a perfect test for cannabis use at the roadside like there is with the Breathalyzer, and Breathalyzers actually aren't always perfect either, Mr. Speaker, and have had to meet the test of law and can be challenged. But I understand that there's some concerns with the lack of the roadside test.

So to that end, DREs, or drug recognition experts, are going to be a huge piece of this puzzle. And I know back in 2013 we heard from witnesses that there were, I can't remember the number, but there was a shortage of drug recognition experts back at the time of the Traffic Safety Committee. And this was prior to the legalization of cannabis and they were very . . . Police officers were very concerned that they didn't have enough of these officers on the road to deal with impaired driving from different types of drugs, whether it be cannabis or prescriptions or anything.

And drug recognition experts are specially trained police officers who conduct a series of tests, Mr. Speaker, who . . . that from my understanding, drug recognition experts' testimony . . . so they do the tests at roadside and their testimony is acceptable in court. So we would need, it is believed, back in 2013, a whole lot more drug recognition experts than we had then. I'm not sure where we're at in terms of the lay of the land from that time, Mr. Speaker, but I know that once cannabis becomes legal, I would argue that we probably, until there is a roadside test and even if there is an effective roadside test that meets the passability in court, that drug recognition experts will continue to be very important, not just for cannabis but for other drugs as well.

I know that one of the reasons for legalizing cannabis has been to unclog courts with minor possession charges, people who end up in court who probably could be dealt with in other ways, Mr. Speaker, and just the police flagging these concerns around zero tolerance and how things will work through the court system. I know people in Justice have, from talking to my colleague from Regina Douglas Park who's the Justice critic . . . She's spoken to a great number of people who are concerned that, the way this bill is laid out, they're flagging some concerns about how this will impact our court system and people's ability to move through that court system in an effective way and in a way that serves the general public and keeping people safe. Because ultimately that's what this is about, Mr. Speaker, is public safety.

I tend to err on the . . . From my experience on the Traffic Safety Committee I tend to err on the side of caution more than most. Actually it was a really great experience in many ways to learn a little bit more about impairment from alcohol and drugs and what that does to our body. And I know that I won't even have a beer, Mr. Speaker, or one drink before driving. I tend to err on the zero tolerance for myself. But it could become quite difficult to enforce from a cannabis perspective.

[16:15]

So there are many questions I know that the public are asking, law enforcement is asking, justice officials are asking. I know my colleague from Regina Douglas Park, when this bill makes it to committee, will have many questions about how this bill will roll out and how some of those concerns will be addressed. And I know that we all look forward to those answers at that point in time. But for now, Mr. Speaker, I think that that concludes my comments about Bill No. 112, *The Miscellaneous Vehicle and Driving Statutes (Cannabis Legislation) Amendment Act, 2017*.

**The Speaker:** — The member for Saskatoon Riversdale has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 112, *The Miscellaneous Vehicle and Driving Statutes (Cannabis Legislation) Amendment Act, 2017*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

**Mr. Vermette:** — Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, to join in on Bill No. 113, *The Planning and Development Amendment Act, 2017*. I just want to make a . . . I guess there's a number of points that are being changed and amended, powers being given to the minister, certain powers he'll retain, certain things he can make a decision. Change the order, I guess. Change the authority.

But I want to get into one area to start with. Right now there's an amendment to ensure that the conflict of interest provisions apply to members of any district development appeals board, members of any regional planning authorities. So again conflict of interest, we've had that back here in the House, and I think some people will see right now. I think GTH, there has been some questions of people questioning conflicts and, you know, we have an ongoing investigation. And we're waiting for the Manitoba government, the prosecution, Manitoba prosecution to come back on, you know, a decision on an investigation that the RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police] had undergoing and quite . . . [inaudible] . . . And I guess they'll come back if there's a conflict or not on that one.

So having said that, there's a process to declare conflict of interest. And in this provision, I think it's making it very clear so that nobody's in a conflict of interest when it comes to appeals board, when it comes to the planning. If this is a planning for whatever reason — they might be doing a school, a P3 — there's different areas why planning, you know, happens in this provision. And it's just making sure that people disclose, if there are any conflicts, that it's disclosed. I guess it could be a family member. It could be a business associate. There could be

a reason why I guess somebody's benefiting there. So obviously there's a reason why, and I don't know.

And I know in committee we'll have an opportunity to ask the minister, okay, why is this being brought in and has there been concerns? And maybe it's a simple thing as a municipality or an organization, a group saying, here's amendments; you can do the legislation. That would take away anyone questioning ability of someone being appointed. You know, here's the rules. You have to disclose if there is a conflict. And I think sometimes that's fair, so people know that there's legislation. It's there to protect them and protect Saskatchewan citizens. So having said that, that's an area where we'll have some questions and we can ask that. And I know my colleagues and the critic will ask them some questions on that.

Currently there are 10 cities right now that have a granting approval status. There's 10 of them from what I get from the legislation. So the minister gives the power to . . . I think they're Saskatoon . . . I don't have the actual list of them, and that's the other thing that we could find out, but I think they're the bigger centres like Saskatoon, Prince Albert, Regina, Moose Jaw. There's a number of them anyway. There's 10 of them who have certain powers that the minister or legislation gives them, the authority when they're developing a community plan or a development plan. From my understanding, Mr. Speaker, they develop the plan and they can just go ahead with their plan. But following that, they have to submit that plan to the ministry or the minister's attention. And I don't know if it's — and that's how we'll get through this — if it's for his final approval or his ministry gives the final approval.

So having said that, I know . . . And I'll give you some examples of that. For right now we have P3s that the government's been currently using, and they're using that. And there has been I think some interesting questions or concerns maybe raised. If I'm correct on, you know, the information that I have, there has been some issues and that from time to time I think government had to deal with, or Education, whoever . . . The planning department, the ministry had to deal with some of the challenges from being the city, or the municipality, school board.

So when I look at this, the minister does have the powers to grant that, but he also can modify the terms of the order which he grants them the authority when it comes to . . . [inaudible] . . . And if for some reason he's not pleased, he's not pleased or not happy or for some reason there's the . . . And this gives power to the minister. And I guess that he will say or can say, whoever, whether it's a number of different ministries or himself, if it comes out it's not in the best interests of the province, then he can modify it, make some changes. So again it gives some powers to the minister.

And from time to time we've had people concerned, and I know my colleagues have talked about it, where they have been concerned about giving over certain powers to the minister alone, powers. And you know, you'll have both sides of an argument saying it's something that's useful, it's something that isn't. Something when you take away certain provisions from the legislation and you give those powers, you hand them over to the minister, duly there are some concerns.

So having said that, an order, you know, and you look at the minister may have certain issues. And even if an order is given, there's also the process of, they wanted to make sure I guess that it be published in the *Gazette*. Or there's a process that they have to follow. So when you go through all the different areas, that's one area they want to make sure: if it's changed, you have to publish it in the *Gazette*. So you know, it goes that.

Now also in here, and there's quite a bit of them, but some of my colleagues I know will go through these areas. Some of them, they will see, will have more impact on commercial property, as it says, industrial property. It kind of expands it. And there's areas where it's mixed development and there's going to give provisions, I think again.

And we'll go in committee where the minister has some final say, I guess I'll say, powers to say whether he's happy or comfortable or the minister feels that they have met all the obligations that, I guess as they say in one clause, in the province's interest they're achieving that. So again it goes back to the powers, like I said, of the minister.

But having said that, with the planning . . . So municipal planning bylaws are now submitted to the director. So there is a director instead of the minister. But saying that the director gets it — I guess I'm assuming this — the director finds that he's not happy or she's not happy anyway in that position, the individual's not happy with the planning, that the minister then has certain powers, you know, that the minister, as I talked earlier, had these certain powers that they can just I guess change the order, amend it, modify it. There's different wording.

And every time you go through this, it gives certain powers again to the minister to change things. And I know that might be a good thing. It may not be, you know. And again I go back to saying I don't know if the changes and the amendments that are being proposed here — and there's quite a bit of them — like when we go through this, I know there's a lot of work that we'll have to work on in talking with certain individuals, and I think there'll be more. And I'll get into this later on, a little bit about it.

But another, you know, a new section that's been put into this is giving some flexibility. If the minister for some reason is not happy with a plan, and for whatever reason, you know, it fails to meet, as I said, the province's . . . school board, for whatever reason, the minister can say, I'm going to give you more time. Go back to the planning stage. We're not happy with this, and I want this corrected for whatever . . . And I don't know what instance I could use, and I think we'll find out in committee what kind of areas, where we'll give the minister the opportunity to say. And we can ask those questions in committee and figure out as we go through this.

What would take the minister to say, I'm going to amend the order; I'm going to give more time because I'm not pleased with what I see here? And I don't know if that's the P3s, if it's where they're picking the land, if it's with the school board, if it's municipalities, if there's other interest in an area where they're picking that this is going to give the minister some power to say this needs to move forward. So we've got some questions in that area, and I know we will have some more

questions.

Another section requires to develop, and again I talk about the school plan. And they're going to have to collaboratively work with the Minister of Education and the local school board, as I said, and it's going to take an opportunity to say that they're working together at communicating. Well we sometimes see that government doesn't do their duty to consult and accommodate and make sure the message gets through to all the partners. And they talk about partnerships, but sometimes we've seen where the government has failed.

And here they're bringing in, to me it looks like a new section that will require municipalities to do certain things to make sure they're partnering and working with, when they're developing their plan, and I guess that's schools and whatever they're doing, a residential area. And again I'm going from my understanding, and I'm not going to say that I have a good understanding of it all, but I do know you see the changes coming in. You see powers being added to the minister versus the way it was before, so you're giving certain powers and that.

But I guess overall, once you look at the whole bill itself, there are many changes throughout this bill that will impact many, whether it's municipalities, school divisions. The plan to develop . . . And when we do that . . . And I know cities have done that. I think, you know, I remember I think I went to one time where there was a community plan being brought up, and I think it was by the city. And their planning development department had come up with a plan and I believe the public was invited. And you know, you could go and listen to exactly what the plan was.

And they would come up with a plan, and they would move forward to make sure that the residents and those individuals that say that they have an invested interest in the area that they're developing would be consulted. And that's a side where you see that. And sometimes there are regional issues and sometimes there's not regional issues. And sometimes there may be . . . And it gives a provision in there to make sure that that process happens.

Now as I said earlier, Mr. Speaker, I know that, you know, we'll have more questions in committee. And we'll have a chance to question the minister and ask, who exactly did they consult? Who gave input into this? And who, you know, requested some of the changes, the amendments you're making and some of the new sections that you're putting into legislation? And we'll get a good grasp of, to why. And sometimes we don't know, and there might be a good reason why. Maybe Saskatchewan residents have asked for it. Maybe cities, municipalities, school boards . . . There might be many different, you know, issues that have been raised to government to say, this is why you're bringing in the legislation, and that might be. It might be some of the concerns that have been raised by members on this side of the House or members on that side of the House.

But the point is they're developing some legislation. There's quite a bit in here that will make many . . . And they're going to impact. I mean, there's many changes. And I think at the end of the day, for myself and my colleagues, we may have some more questions. And I think we'll, you know, get a chance to talk to

some of the municipalities I think that will be impacted to see, are they good with this? And you know, as my colleague, the critic, she will do her job to meet with municipalities and find out some of those, the challenges and why some of this legislation . . .

So at this point I don't have any further comments on this bill, Mr. Speaker. And I'm prepared to adjourn debate on Bill 113.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member from Cumberland 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 Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

[16:30]

#### 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 Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

**Mr. McCall:** — Thanks very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Always good to be recognized and take my place, join debate, in this case on Bill No. 114, *The Vehicles for Hire Act* summary . . . pardon me, *The Vehicles for Hire Act*, Mr. Speaker.

Now having just been referring to my iPhone just before I came here or took to my feet, Mr. Speaker, I get that it's an interesting time, that ride-sharing applications . . . I see my friend over there is just trying to do something on an app right now. We had a visit in the House just the other day, Mr. Speaker, by some lovely people from Lyft. I think they were here with a nice person from Hill+Knowlton. Or was it Crestview? It was Crestview. So I get that there's a lot of work going on out there in lobby country.

I get that the technology is kicking up different and new possibilities out there in the world of ride sharing. And indeed, Mr. Speaker, I think I heard a story on the radio the other day about a bike-sharing application, where it takes the concept of bike sharing, meshes it with GPS [global positioning system], and allows for bicycles to be going from point to point and then, you know, picking up a bicycle where it's most convenient and then on down the line.

And certainly in this day and age, Mr. Speaker, where everybody's looking for a side hustle it would seem — and not just members of this Assembly, Mr. Speaker — but certainly where people are looking for new and different ways to stitch together what it takes to pay the bills on a given month, the appeal from the drivers' side for something like Uber or Lyft is plain, Mr. Speaker.

So I guess, you know, there are a number of reasons that have us here contemplating this particular piece of legislation that, on

the face of it, certainly I don't have a problem with just so long as we've got some confidence, some assurance on a number of points, Mr. Speaker.

And I guess that when you've got a situation in the province, certainly in our larger centres, where the safety of workers in the taxi-driving industry is a matter for concern as it stands, Mr. Speaker, you would think that that . . . And again, this isn't something that isn't new. This is something that's shouldn't come as a surprise.

It does come as a bit of a shock, Mr. Speaker, in terms of the severity of some of the incidences that have taken place and the grievous injury inflicted upon cab drivers, Mr. Speaker, and the way that they are looking for some action, some assurance from their government as regards better means to protect their very lives, Mr. Speaker. And indeed when someone is injured on the job and unable to continue to perform that duty and earn that paycheque, what steps we're taking as a society to make sure that that income security is there, that insurance is there, Mr. Speaker. So certainly that this is a circumstance that cries out for action, cries out for remedy from this government as is, Mr. Speaker, and we had yet another poignant and terrible reminder of that very fact here today in the Assembly, Mr. Speaker. That is representative of a set of issues that needs action on the part of this government as well.

And again that this government comes forward with vehicle-for-hire legislation enabling ride-sharing applications and puts that forward as a big offensive in the war against drunk driving in this province, Mr. Speaker. And again where we do have a tremendous problem in the province of Saskatchewan, in terms of what's in some ways a way that we lead the nation, in terms of incidents of drunk driving, in terms of the horrible carnage that results all too often from that, Mr. Speaker, you know, that this is seized upon by the government as a major initiative in the fight against drunk driving. Fair enough. I don't know that the statistics or the analysis quite bears that out. But in terms of providing different options for people to take a safe ride home, you know, I guess it certainly bears consideration. And we're not dismissing it out of hand, Mr. Speaker.

But it would seem to me that there are certainly other pressing issues that are to be considered in this sector, Mr. Speaker, that cry out for address and have for years, Mr. Speaker. So again it's a choice that governments have, to listen to the voices that are crying out for change. And in terms of the situation that was raised yet again here today following on the heels of other circumstances, of other incidences that have taken place over years on this government's watch, Mr. Speaker.

And in a context where, you know, I think from organizations representing the cab drivers themselves saying that they have no problem with a level playing field, Mr. Speaker. So that you have those assurances around training, around the quality, around the safety of not just the drivers but of the passengers as well. And that, you know, that's what the level playing field looks like. If those things can be assured, Mr. Speaker, then why wouldn't you proceed with something like this?

But again it's part of a broader context where, in the current regime, this government has some difficulty providing for that safety, providing for that quality assurance as it is, Mr. Speaker.

Let alone with how the workers are left in extreme difficulty, Mr. Speaker, when having sustained what in some cases would be life . . . It's amazing that they didn't get killed, Mr. Speaker. But they can survive that and then are left to try and navigate how you put together income for a household.

And again, Mr. Speaker, you know, if a government is listening, you'd find them acting on those very concerns, Mr. Speaker. So again there's a broader context that comes with a piece of legislation like this, Mr. Speaker. There are a broader set of concerns that cry out for redress in that context, Mr. Speaker. And again, the government needs more than selective picking and choosing when it comes to what will improve the circumstance for people needing opportunities or options for a safe ride home. But also, Mr. Speaker, we owe something to those men and women that are providing that safe ride home. Surely to goodness that's something that we can see through to acting upon as a society.

So, Mr. Speaker, I know that other of my colleagues that have been tasked with this particular set of responsibilities have been following the issues very closely and I am sure will have some very thoughtful and well-informed things to say on these matters, but in aid of getting ever closer to those interventions and then of course to the kind of discussion we will have at committee, Mr. Speaker, I would move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 114, *The Vehicles for Hire Act*.

**The Speaker:** — The member for Regina Elphinstone-Centre has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 114, *The Vehicles for Hire Act*. Pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

### Bill No. 115

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

**The Speaker:** — Recognize the member for Cumberland.

**Mr. Vermette:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To join in on Bill 115, *The Residential Tenancies Amendment Act*. Initially I guess there's a number of points, you know, and the main points that are being changed in here.

One of the areas is giving provision in light of the governments, and I guess the federal government coming out with the cannabis legislation that the province is being asked to introduce. This is going to give, I guess, landlords the ability in this legislation, in Bill 115, it's going to give the landlord some ability to . . . and this is what the proposed legislation is bringing in. The use of anyone to use cannabis, to sell cannabis, to grow cannabis, to have possession of cannabis in, I guess, a rental unit; plants and stuff like that.

And this is what is being proposed: legislation that will give the power to the landlord — new powers that they never had before, which, you know . . . And I want to be clear. My

understanding, it prohibits the possession, the use, selling, distribution of cannabis, or the growing of and possession of cannabis plants. So it's really making it very clear, I think.

Now I don't know in this legislation . . . And I know we're going to have more questions. I know there are individuals who are, through I guess a doctor, medical, you know, cannabis, and there's a different process that people are using as a medication. And my understanding, I'm not really . . . I don't have all the details, and I know maybe my colleague from Health, the critic, will have that or others will have that, or we will get clarification from the minister and the minister's officials about the overall.

Is there going to be an exemption and will there be an exemption if somebody has a prescription by a doctor and, you know, has the whatever . . . the process has to say yes, I'm using this for, you know, for medical purposes and I'm using this. I don't know if there is, and there might be a provision under Health or maybe even in the Rentalsman or, you know, part of that that gives powers.

But at this point I just want to kind of make it, I guess, going through it and just saying how the rules are, and it's changing and making new powers for the landlord. But again you want a balance there too, and if somebody's I guess using miracle marijuana and it's been prescribed by a doctor, that that's a challenge that may come up, and maybe there is something that's already been dealt with.

Now that's one area that we were talking about and I see in here. The other area that they're going into, it gives the Office of Residential Tenancies, ORT as they abbreviate, they've got certain powers now that they can use. And it's giving them, I guess, new powers to not hear an application. And I'm not sure exactly if there's been an order already. And this is what I'm trying to understand from this, if the, you know, ORT has already given an order that somebody can't come in and want to . . . I think it's giving powers to the ORT to say no, I'm not going to hear, accept your application. We've already given an order; you need to comply with it. And that's my understanding.

And I don't know if there was, where even though they had given an order before and maybe they, you know, it's gone ahead to evict somebody, that now you can go to the Rentalsman and ask, you know, there was a . . . You still got to go ahead and have an appeal or something. So I'm not sure, and I guess we'll work out those details, you know, and find out exactly what they're meaning in here. Are they giving them the ability to say no, we've issued the order and now we're not going to, you know, we're not going to change that.

[16:45]

So the other thing is tenants that during that appeal process . . . And from my understanding, what I'm getting from this, if a tenant, and if it was automatic — and I don't know if this was — but if somebody appealed their eviction notice and they go through that process, I'm not sure if it's time that, how long it takes to go through and have a hearing. And to have your appeal, you're appealing your eviction notice or whatever it is you're saying the landlord has done. You're appealing it

because there's been an order given, but you're appealing it.

And this is where I'm getting . . . It'd be my understanding of it and, we'll get that worked out, that maybe some people didn't pay their rent. While that appeal was being heard, for whatever reason they didn't pay the rent. What this provision now gives in there is, it says and it makes it very clear that they must continue to pay their monthly rent to the landlord. So I'm assuming that that hadn't happened and this is why they're bringing this decision in. It gives the . . . to collect arrears and so that they don't get into arrears, but that . . . [inaudible] . . . appeal. So having said that, but again you always want to find a balance with everything, you know, and it is with rentals try to work.

And I think, you know, there are many good landlords out there provide a great service and they provide a home for many Saskatchewan residents. There are many of them. Are there challenges? I think, yes. I don't know, you know, some seem to handle it well and they're great renters. And some people are great landlords and they have a, some people rent for years. I know people have rented from the same landlord for 20 years, 25 years, and everything's gone good and that's good.

We also have I guess when you think about it, we have some of the challenges I know back home, whether it's a housing authority or a private. You have a government, you know, Sask Housing or the regional housing authority that rent out units. Obviously this will apply to them as well when they're having certain situations. So there must be a reason why, you know, legislation's being brought in. Whether they're new or amendments being brought to it, there must be reasons.

The other area where I noticed, Mr. Speaker, they've brought in . . . The provision before is, my understanding is, if there was the landlord and the tenant decided well, you know what, the landlord said I want you out, had the power to evict somebody, I guess, or end the tenancy agreement that they had with the resident, that person moving out. Now when that person moves out, do they take all their stuff? Or if it was abandoned . . . You could use that too, where let's say somebody abandons the place they're renting and they just don't collect their belongings. My understanding, the landlord then had to take their possessions and try to make sure that the tenant was . . . got their stuff, the information that they needed.

So the order, the order now, when you look at this, would say that you can get rid of someone's . . . If it's under, I believe it's \$1,500 is what they're saying. If it's under \$1,500 the landlord doesn't have to, you know, making sure the property that's there, that the landlord doesn't . . . with an order can actually go ahead and move on and not have those belongings.

Now when I say that a balance . . . If it's under \$1,500 and it's furniture maybe there's certain things that are left. But I guess if there's personal items in the home, maybe it's pictures, certain documents that are in a, you know, a house, I'm not sure if that gives . . . And I know we'll ask these questions in committee to find out. Does that give the landlord the ability to say, well it didn't matter what was in there. Whether it was pictures, whether there was documents, whatever, they can discard them. They don't have to put them in safekeeping in a compound, or in a storage and pay for the storage.



And I know we'll have more questions about that, if that's what that means, and again we talk about this. There needs to be balance and you're going to try to find the balance with landlord and rentals, and people have rights when you're renting a unit and they feel they should have. It's their home. They should have . . . [inaudible] . . . So you're trying to I guess work through landlords and I guess that's what the ORT, you know, office does and tries to, you know, accommodate and tries to mediate situations like this.

But I've just gone through a few of the points that this legislation will be bringing in, and changes and allows. So having said that, I know we're going to have more questions and we will have, you know, more questions . . .

**An Hon. Member:** — One or two.

**Mr. Vermette:** — Oh, one or two, as my colleague says. But we'll get into committee and we can ask for some . . . who did they consult with? Was this brought on by, you know, the ORT? Or was it brought on landlords? Was it brought on by residents? Obviously this is here for a reason and we'll . . . In committee we can ask the government more details to their officials as to why we're bringing the legislation, and is this the right amount.

It's a balance like everything. Who did you consult with? Is this going to fix it? Or if there's suggestions we can bring in that, you know, our colleagues and critics have that could say, here's some legislation you can add.

And sometimes we talk about working on that co-operation. We work together. Maybe there's ideas that we can bring in that would, you know, address some of the challenges that we're hearing out there and make the process work well for residents and landlords.

So at this point, Mr. Speaker, I have no further comments on Bill No. 115, *The Residential Tenancies Amendment Act*, and I'm prepared to adjourn.

**The Speaker:** — The member for Cumberland has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 115, *The Residential Tenancies Amendment Act, 2017*. Pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

### Bill No. 103

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

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Mr. Speaker, I enter into discussion as it relates to Bill No. 103, *The Land Contracts (Actions) Act, 2017*. I recognize that the changes that are brought forward in this legislation, the minister suggests have been motivated by the important work of the Law Reform Commission of

Saskatchewan. And that certainly, you know, adds some strength to the argument that change is needed. Certainly as you look through the changes that are brought forward, they look to be rather housekeeping in nature, common sense, and — I hope — oriented to ensure better protection for consumers across our province.

Certainly as we engage in this process, we'll reach out across the province and listen to stakeholders, make sure that these measures in fact reflect the realities of consumers, of families across our province as they deal with mortgages that are going through a process of foreclosure.

So this bill brings forward changes to processes for foreclosure proceedings. It defines what that process looks like. My understanding is that its intention is to make plain the communication process between the parties at that point in time and states what the process would look like before the foreclosure. And certainly that's important.

I know the minister has stated that this would bring about a simplification to the process. Again, you know, that's important. But ultimately what we want to make sure is that the bill is fair and that in fact consumers are being better protected on this front. I've read that the minister suggests that this will increase the time period between the notice and the hearing. The hearing will remain the same, but it's increased the . . . between the notice and the hearing. And as well this would repeal two different bills.

So it's important that the changes that have been brought forward, that they reflect the realities that families and people across Saskatchewan are facing. It's important as well that any unintended consequences of this legislation have been contemplated and considered.

And it's on that front, Mr. Speaker, that we don't have a whole lot of faith in the current Sask Party government, Mr. Speaker, who far too often on bill after bill, legislation after legislation, cut after cut, change after change, sell-off after sell-off, simply aren't looking to the future, aren't consulting with Saskatchewan people — whether that be municipalities or people or families, educators, Mr. Speaker, small businesses across the province — as they bring forward their changes. So we'll be seeking a better understanding of what consultation has looked like on this piece of legislation.

It's also worthy to note this is a discussion of, or a legislation, legislation pertaining to foreclosure around mortgages. It is concerning, Mr. Speaker, to members on this side of the Assembly that the Sask Party has created economic conditions, Mr. Speaker, and far too often worsened economic conditions for Saskatchewan families. And it's concerning to us that the reality right now is that, I believe, we're leading the nation with the increase to the number of mortgages that are in arrears over a period of three months, that we see significant spikes to bankruptcy within our province right now. Now these are the hard realities that households are facing all across the province, that families are facing all across the province, and they're reflective of an economy that's not working in the way that it should for the people of Saskatchewan. And we've been a voice on this front.

In many ways, when you look at foreclosures and mortgages being in arrears and bankruptcy, it's a bit of a canary in a coal mine as to what's going on within your economy. And I think it's important for this government to get that the choices that they've been making from an economic perspective just aren't hitting the mark for Saskatchewan families.

Far too many families are dealing with underemployment, Mr. Speaker. Far too many others are facing unemployment and job loss all across our province. I know so many people that I represent, Mr. Speaker, are dealing with precarious work. So many others piecing together their ability to pay the bills by working two and three jobs, Mr. Speaker, with a serious toll on them and their families, Mr. Speaker. And there's an important role for government to build an economy that, you know, doesn't just work for the select few, Mr. Speaker, but that works for all.

And so right now we need to be working and advancing job creation across our province. We have limitless ... or such tremendous opportunity when we look to things like renewable power generation and the kind of jobs we could be creating, the investment we could be driving all across our province. The same can be said for energy efficiency retrofits across our province, working in partnership with our Crowns, Mr. Speaker. We should be driving investment and job creation while also building infrastructure and making improvements that will reduce emissions.

Importantly, we need to be acting to certainly ensure pipeline capacity and ensure access to tidewater for our resources. And we need to be acting, Mr. Speaker, to make our rail system actually perform. Far too often we have those that are shipping our product, their product, Mr. Speaker, producers with incredible crops in the bins but not getting to market, manufacturers that are struggling to get product to market or refineries struggling to get product to market or potash producers struggling to get product to market, because we have an underperforming rail system in this province.

This is a time for us to be supporting the diversification of our economy certainly through value-add ag, through the tech sector, but also building back a film industry, Mr. Speaker — that was scrapped and eliminated by this government — filling up that sound stage once again, creating the jobs and driving investment.

Mr. Speaker, I see the time on the clock here, Mr. Speaker. So there's much more I can say about how we need to work to strengthen our economy. The point is the Sask Party are failing the people of this province, certainly as it relates to this bill. We need to ensure fairness and consumer protection that works for the people of our province. And at this point in time I adjourn debate for Bill No. 103, *The Land Contracts (Actions) Act*.

**The Speaker:** — The member from Regina Rosemont has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 103, *The Land Contracts (Actions) Act, 2017*. Pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried. Recognize the Government House

Leader.

**Hon. Mr. Brkich:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that this House do now adjourn so we can do committee work this evening.

**The Speaker:** — It's been moved by the Government House Leader that this House be now adjourned. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

[The Assembly adjourned at 17:00.]



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