



SECOND SESSION - TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

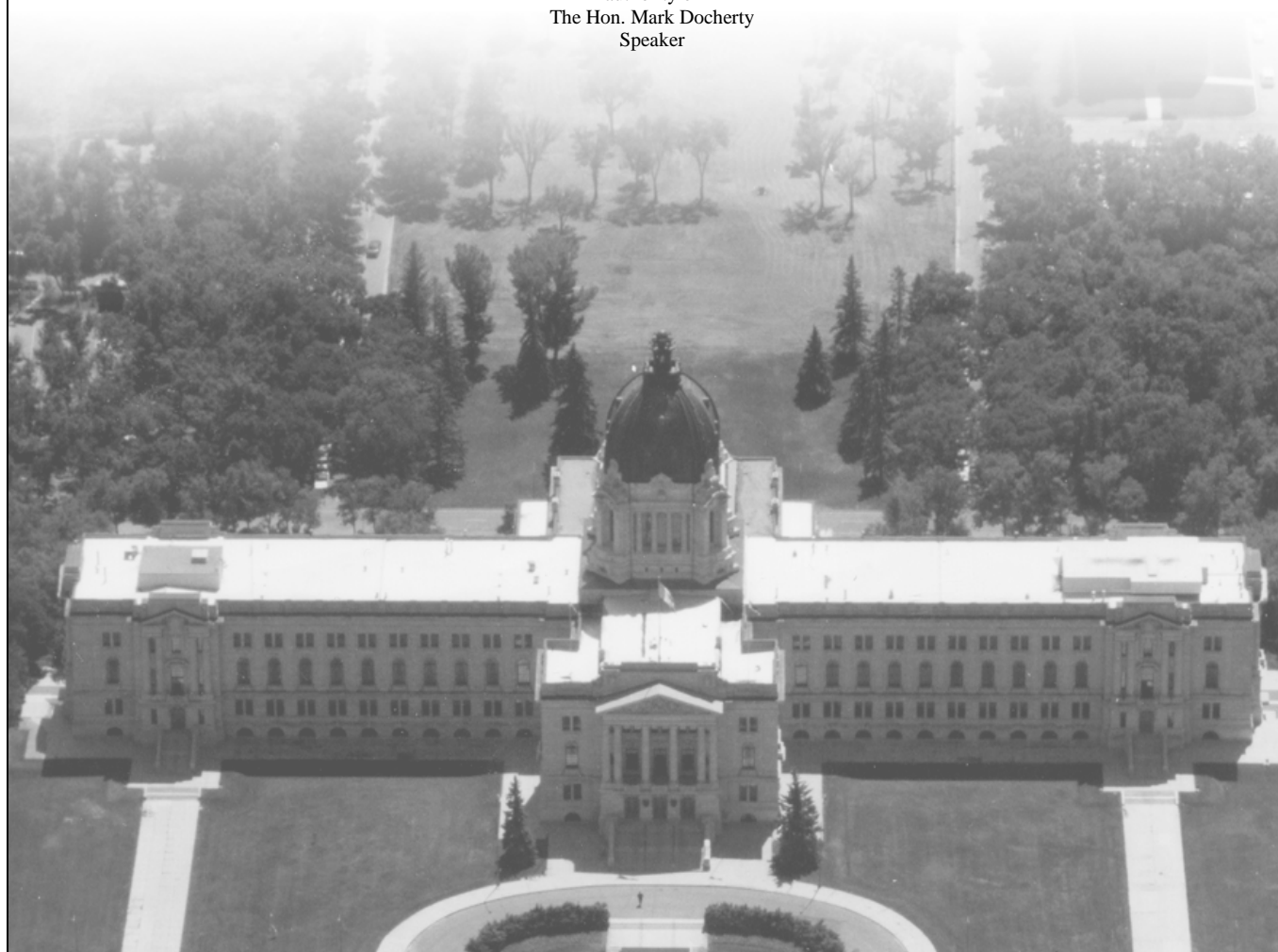
of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

(HANSARD)

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authority of
The Hon. Mark Docherty
Speaker



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

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Leader of the Opposition — Ryan Meili

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Vacant — Regina Northeast

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

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[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — I 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 all the members of the Legislative Assembly, 59 grade 7 and 8 students from École St. Angela Merici School in Regina Rochdale. Give us a wave. We've got 59 students that have come to observe the Legislative Assembly today, and they're accompanied by their teachers, Meagan Lane and Vanessa Wiseman.

I will be meeting with them later on in the Qu'Appelle gallery. We'll have an opportunity for them to enter into probably a spirited dialogue. Maybe not quite as spirited as our question period, but I look forward to having an opportunity to visit with these fine students.

So thank you very much, and please everyone welcome these fine students to their Legislative Assembly.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

The Speaker: — That's good. I represent the member for The Battlefords.

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

You know, Mr. Speaker, over the last several days and weeks and even throughout the winter, people have approached me when I'm at a sporting event or in a grocery store or the mall, and what they want to talk about is not our budget. Our budget has resonated well with the people of this province. They want to talk about Trudeau's carbon tax and their opposition to that carbon tax. The only thing that's on their mind is that carbon tax.

So, Mr. Speaker, today we announced we are asking the Saskatchewan Court of Appeal to answer the question on the constitutionality of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, the vast majority of our citizens agree with the Minister of the Environment, Dustin Duncan, when he says, and I quote, "Our made-in-Saskatchewan climate change strategy is broader and bolder than a carbon tax." With 2 million tonnes of CO₂ captured at Boundary dam 3 and nearly 12 million tonnes of CO₂ captured each year in our agriculture industry, he is right when he says Saskatchewan is the solution, not the problem, Mr. Speaker.

I'd like to read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request

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 North Battleford and Battleford. I do so present.

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

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition to this Assembly to stop the Sask Party attack on our kids' already strained classrooms. Those who've signed this petition wish to draw our attention to the following points: that the Sask Party cut \$54 million from our kids' classrooms in the devastating 2017-18 budget; and that the 2018-19 budget only restores a fraction of last year's devastating \$54 million cuts to classrooms.

Mr. Speaker, like the member opposite, I certainly have a lot of people approaching me wanting to talk about the damage that those cuts have done to classrooms all across this province. Even though the Sask Party is making us all pay more, kids are actually getting less, and these cuts have meant that students lose much needed supports in their classrooms, including funding for buses for kindergartners and programs to help children with special needs.

I'll read the prayer, Mr. Speaker:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call upon the government to fully restore the senseless cuts to our kids' classrooms and stop making families, teachers, and everyone who works to support our education system pay for the Sask Party's mismanagement.

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

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

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

And you 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 have come from companies outside Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan politics should belong to Saskatchewan people. And we know that the federal government and the provinces of Alberta, Manitoba, Quebec, Nova Scotia, and now British Columbia have moved to limit this influence and level the playing field by banning corporate and union donations to the 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 campaign finance laws, to end out-of-province donations, to put a ban on donations from corporations and unions, and to put a donation limit on individual donations.

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

The Speaker: — I recognize the member 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, Saskatchewan has the dubious distinction of having the highest rates of interpersonal violence amongst all of the provinces, and we all know we must do so much more to protect survivors of domestic violence.

For many who experience domestic violence, the violence will follow them to their workplace. That's why the 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 made available to survivors of domestic violence should also be made available to workers living with PTSD [post-traumatic stress disorder] as a result of domestic violence.

Mr. Speaker, this is what we called for in our private member's bill, Bill No. 609. This is the fourth time in two years we've put forward these provisions. The Sask Party has yet to pass them. It's time for them to step up, do the right thing, and pass this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, let me 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 domestic violence.

Mr. Speaker, this will catch us up to other jurisdictions in the country. It's the least we can do as a province. The signatories to this petition come from Regina. I do so present.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Canadian Cancer Society Daffodil Month

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Recently staff and volunteers from the Saskatchewan branch of the Canadian Cancer Society brought daffodils to myself and to the Premier as a kickoff to April being Daffodil Month, the month to fight back against cancer. Mr. Speaker, cancer has touched the lives of too many of our loved ones in this province. Each of us has

been impacted by this disease in some way.

The outlook for those diagnosed with cancer has improved because of a number of factors, and one very important factor is the establishment of the Canadian Cancer Society which took place in 1935. Over time, support for cancer research through the Canadian Cancer Society has grown, and it now supports thousands of researchers through the administration of more than \$1 billion in cancer research funding.

The Cancer Society is a national community-based organization whose mission is the eradication of cancer and the enhancement of the quality of life of people affected by this disease. This organization has made an immense difference in the lives of many Canadians and their work supporting research will continue to impact Canadians' lives into the future. Daffodil Month is a great time to remember just what we can accomplish when people work together to solve our most difficult challenges. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Provincial Secretary.

Administrative Professionals Day

Hon. Ms. Wilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my pleasure to stand today in this Assembly to acknowledge Administrative Professionals Day. Whether they are called admins, administrators, office assistants, support staff, or anything else, these individuals truly are the heart and soul of each and every office. Today it's important to take a moment to thank them for their essential and often overlooked work. It's often said that the way they truly understand being an administrator can only be done when you are without.

I would like to recognize Marcus Abrametz in my constituency office and Karalee Croissant, our long-serving admin in the government caucus office, for the work that they do to ensure that these offices run smoothly.

Mr. Speaker, members of this Chamber work with administrative professionals every day, and I know I speak for all of us when we express our thanks for the hard work that they do. As elected representatives, we especially appreciate the work that is done with constituents on the front line.

I ask that all members to join me in applauding the women and men in our lives and across the province that are administrative professionals. We appreciate their important contributions to keeping Saskatchewan strong. Thank you.

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

Saskatoon Librarian Receives Movers & Shakers Award

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure to recognize a special librarian and educator from Saskatoon. Jenny Ryan, a Saskatoon public librarian, has been named one of *Library Journal's* 2018 Movers & Shakers for her extensive work of incorporating indigenous culture and perspectives into library programs.

Mr. Speaker, the *Library Journal's* Movers & Shakers Awards were established to highlight individuals whose work is

transforming what it means to be a librarian. About 50 individuals around the world are recognized with this award annually. Jenny, a winner in the educator category, was one of only two Canadians chosen for this honour from the prestigious international journal.

She has been with the Saskatoon Public Library for 12 years and is currently the supervisor of the Mayfair Branch. She recently organized a major event to celebrate the creation of Equinox, a female, Cree DC Comics character. The event included performances by indigenous drummers, dancers, and a Skype Q & A [question and answer] with Equinox's creator, Jeff Lemire.

Jenny's connections with the indigenous communities have also led her to organizing programs around indigenous storytelling, songwriting, and even stand-up comedy. Her work also aligns with the library's strategic plan, which lists honouring indigenous perspectives as one of the four main organizational objectives.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join with me in recognizing Jenny on her well-deserved award. We all certainly appreciate the outstanding contributions of librarians right across Saskatchewan. Thank you.

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

Wynyard Teams Win Provincial Tournaments

Mr. Nerlien: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, confirming that the Kelvington-Wadena constituency is once again the home of champions, I am proud to share the results of the hard work and dedication exhibited by our youth in organized sports.

Mr. Speaker, first I would like to congratulate the Wynyard Bears senior girls' basketball team for winning gold at Hoopla. This year's tournament was hosted in Prince Albert on the weekend of March 23rd and 24th. This is the fourth straight year the Bears have won provincial gold.

Secondly, Mr. Speaker, two minor hockey divisions hosted their provincial final games in front of a packed house in the Wynyard Memorial Arena on March 25th. In a hard-fought battle, the peewee Wynyard Monarchs conquered the Eastend Jets to become the peewee provincial D champions. And much to the chagrin of the member from Carrot River Valley, the bantam Wynyard Monarchs then took to the ice, defeating the Carrot River Loggers, earning the bantam provincial B championship.

I'd like to thank the coaching staff of the hockey and basketball teams for their commitment to these athletes, as well as the supportive fans who travelled this province to cheer on their local all-stars. Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in congratulating the Wynyard Bears basketball team and the Wynyard Monarch peewee and bantam hockey teams on each earning provincial titles. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

[13:45]

Shaunavon Chef Inducted into Canadian Culinary Championships Hall of Fame

Mr. Steele: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to congratulate Shaunavon's Garrett Rusty Thienes on his induction into the Canadian Culinary Championships Hall of Fame. In 2016, Thienes won the Gold Medal Plates competition in Regina, which is an invitation-only event that attracts the province's best-of-the-best in culinary arts. In 2017, he was brought back to the event as a judge.

The 38-year-old has been cooking for 17 years with a love of food since he was a young man. After high school, Thienes worked various jobs, eventually finding himself in Calgary when a friend introduced him to the culinary industry. Mr. Speaker, after several years working alongside some inspiring Calgary chefs, Thienes decided to move back to his hometown of Shaunavon.

In the summer of 2013, Thienes and his wife opened the Harvest Eatery, where the Saskatchewan-inspired menu has earned notoriety beyond the town's limits. Thienes said that the opening of the restaurant in Shaunavon gave him the freedom to build a business that he wanted, allowing the taste of big-city eating in a small-town setting. Thienes credited his success to an amazing team including his wife and his other restaurant staff.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to congratulate Thienes on his success, and encourage anyone in the Shaunavon area to stop in and support the restaurant and his incredible support. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Regina Walsh Acres.

Gala Evening Raises Funds for Fanconi Anemia Foundation

Mr. Steinley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last week I had the privilege of attending, along with my wife, the 3rd Annual FAv [Fanconi anemia Vonn] Gala, right here in Regina. The event was held by the FAv Foundation, a charity who raises money for Fanconi anemia research and raises awareness about the OneMatch registry, Canada's bone marrow and stem cell registry. FAv was formed to help young Vonn Chorneyko, an eight-year-old Regina boy who suffers from the disease. His mother, Ashley, helped create the group, and the first gala was held in 2016.

Mr. Speaker, Fanconi anemia is an incredibly rare blood disease. Only about 30 people in Canada have it, and Vonn is the only one in Saskatchewan. FA [Fanconi anemia] is the result of a defect in proteins responsible for DNA [deoxyribonucleic acid] repair which leads to a bone marrow failure, leukemia, and other types of cancer. Vonn will eventually need a bone marrow transplant and that's looking like it's going to happen this summer.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to its fundraising efforts, the FAv Foundation also organized a donor drive this February. Over

3,100 people participated in this drive, a record for a OneMatch drive. It's inspiring to see so many people willing to come out and help out young Vonn.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of this entire Assembly, I want to congratulate the FAv Foundation and Ashley, and the whole Chorneyko family, on this successful gala and donor drive.

At the end of the evening, Mr. Speaker, they revealed how much money the gala raised, and it was an incredible evening. And MC [master of ceremonies] Craig Adam did a fantastic job. And the foundation raised over \$124,000 that evening. So once again, congratulations to the FAv Foundation.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Government Relations.

Community Support for Industrial Millwright Course in Churchbridge

Hon. Mr. Kaeding: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to acknowledge the community support that allowed a new course to be offered at the Churchbridge Public School, a high school in my constituency in my hometown. Mr. Speaker, this is the first industrial millwright mechanics course offered in the province. The course services three communities — Churchbridge, Langenburg, and Esterhazy — providing students with opportunities to gain hands-on skills in each of the areas a journey person millwright is required to have.

Mr. Speaker, the school did face some challenges in acquiring the large amount of expensive industrial tools and equipment necessary to allow such a course to proceed. The Good Spirit School Division provides financial support, but it was difficult to source and pay for the machines required for the course.

Mr. Speaker, in August 2017 one of the course instructors, Dwaine Bourgette, contacted Tyler Metz, owner of SaskPro Machine Works in Esterhazy, regarding the need for two lathes for the program. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Metz was a key supporter of the program, providing countless hours of research and eventually sourcing and securing two top-of-the-line lathe machines for the school and having them placed and operating in early April this year.

The principal of the school, Amanda Kornaga, noted that the program would not be what it is today without the community support of SaskPro and Tyler Metz and other key businesses and sponsors of the program.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to congratulate the Churchbridge Public School and surrounding communities as they continue their millwright mechanics education. Thank you.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Challenge on Constitutionality of Federal Carbon Pricing

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when we learned this morning that the ministers of Justice and the Environment were joining the Premier to make an

announcement, I thought they were finally going to be coming clean on Bill Boyd's irrigation scheme. But instead of clearing the air, they were seeking to change the channel.

In that announcement, Mr. Speaker, we heard a lot. We heard a lot about what this Premier and this Justice minister believe to be the case when it comes to the Constitution and what it allows. On the matter of belief, Mr. Speaker, we have a few questions.

Does the Premier believe that climate change is real, that it's a pressing concern for Saskatchewan? And does he believe that it's caused by human activity?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, I believe this morning that the Leader of the Opposition and the NDP [New Democratic Party] had an opportunity to join the Government of Saskatchewan and stand with the people of the province of Saskatchewan in ensuring that we do not have what would be the largest single tax increase on the industries, Mr. Speaker, on the jobs, and on the families of this great province that we represent, Mr. Speaker. That's what I believe.

I believe he passed up that opportunity, Mr. Speaker, and he doubled down on his support of a Trudeau carbon tax here in the province of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. He continued, he continued to stand with the Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, in support of that carbon tax, Mr. Speaker. They chose — I believe they chose — to wave the white flag. And I believe they chose to submit to the fact that under an NDP government in Saskatchewan, the NDP Party is a wholly owned subsidiary, Mr. Speaker, a wholly owned subsidiary of the federal Liberal government, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Meili: — Mr. Speaker, I believe it's a fair question, Mr. Speaker. For the people of Saskatchewan to have any faith that this government is serious about taking any action whatsoever on climate change, I do believe that they deserve an answer to those very straightforward questions, Mr. Speaker. Do you believe in climate change? Does the Premier believe in climate change? Does he believe we need to act on it in a serious way in Saskatchewan? And does he believe that human activity is at the cause of it, or does he think this is some sort of, I don't know, witchcraft reasoning?

The Speaker: — Recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker. I believe, Mr. Speaker, that human activity has an impact on our land, on our soil, and on our climate. And I believe we need to balance that impact with the positive economic opportunities that we have in the province of Saskatchewan, in the nation of Canada, Mr. Speaker. And I believe we need to promote the sustainable agriculture, the sustainable energy production that we have in this province, and sustainable extraction of our mining goods, Mr. Speaker, and our manufacturing too, our 150-plus countries that we export to all around the world, Mr. Speaker.

And I have a question for the Leader of the Opposition. Does he

believe that a federally imposed carbon tax that he supports, Mr. Speaker, would actually reduce emissions and enhance anything in this province of Saskatchewan?

The Speaker: — Recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Meili: — Mr. Speaker, a great deal of bluster over there, but I am happy to hear that the Premier recognizes that climate change is a reality. It would be good to get beyond bluster a little bit more often and hear some practical answers.

The Premier's launching a desperate, eleventh-hour constitutional reference case without having taken any action to implement a made-in-Saskatchewan plan. If the Premier's belief in the merit of this case should prove unfounded, Mr. Speaker, he's leaving the entire province wide open to having a carbon price imposed on us, one designed by Trudeau rather than developing our own plan, Mr. Speaker. Brad Wall said . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — The member from Meadow Lake can come to order. I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The former premier, the predecessor of the current Premier, said that "The people of Saskatchewan must be assured that any challenge based on the *Constitution Act* has a reasonable expectation of success."

What we saw today in today's announcement was the Premier saying that he believes it does, but blind faith can only get us so far, Mr. Speaker. Every legal opinion sought by other provincial governments has told them a challenge would be unsuccessful. The overwhelming legal consensus is that a failure to act will result in exactly what this government says they don't want: a plan being imposed on us by Trudeau, Mr. Speaker.

The people of Saskatchewan expect our government to act on evidence. What evidence does the Premier have that this challenge will be successful?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, I will always take my legal advice from the Ministry of Justice and the Minister of Justice, Mr. Speaker, as opposed to the Leader of the Opposition, the good doctor from Saskatoon.

Mr. Speaker, it is this government that will always stand with the jobs, Mr. Speaker, and the families in this province of Saskatchewan. We will continue to ensure that this tax will not be, will not be, Mr. Speaker, imposed on the people across this province of Saskatchewan.

What I see today, Mr. Speaker, what I saw again here this morning, and I believe, I believe what I saw was the Leader of the Opposition in an opposition party that is continually asking for a made-in-Saskatchewan carbon tax, Mr. Speaker. They're asking to wave the white flag, Mr. Speaker, and let's take the Trudeau carbon tax. He doubled down on that this morning, Mr. Speaker, and he continues, he continues to reinforce the fact that the NDP in this province is nothing more, Mr. Speaker, than a shill for the Trudeau government, Mr. Speaker. They're a

subsidiary, they're a subsidiary of the federal Liberal government, Mr. Speaker, in their acceptance of this cost on the industries in the province of Saskatchewan.

The Speaker: — Recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's the job of government to be thoughtful, to plan ahead, anticipate problems, and to address those problems efficiently and proactively. And climate change is just one such problem, Mr. Speaker, a problem that requires strong leadership to protect Saskatchewan jobs, protect our economy, protect agricultural producers, to protect families from life becoming less affordable as we seek to live up to our obligations today and to future generations.

So my question for the Premier is, because I still have not heard any answer to this, Mr. Speaker: if the reference case that he announced this morning is unsuccessful, is this all we've got for protection? Where's his plan B? If it's unsuccessful, what is he going to do? Because right now all that I see is a plan to make sure that Trudeau's plan is imposed upon us and no resistance whatsoever.

The Speaker: — Recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, it's weak leadership, Mr. Speaker, and the constant thinking, a belief in failure from those members on that side of the House that has caused this province to not grow for some seven decades.

Mr. Speaker, we will always stand up for the sustainable nature in which our agricultural products are produced here in the province of Saskatchewan, that are produced essentially on a carbon-neutral standpoint, Mr. Speaker, and in addition to that, our grasslands, our forested lands, the sustainable energy production that we have here in this province, and our ability to get that production to ports around the world — never mind to customers here in the province, here in the nation of Canada — and offset some of those energy products that are coming from all around the world, Mr. Speaker.

We will continue to stand for the people of the province of Saskatchewan in enhancing the opportunities that we have to continue to export our sustainable products all around the world, Mr. Speaker. That's the leadership the people of this province expect, Mr. Speaker, unlike the members opposite that are supporting the Trudeau carbon tax.

The Speaker: — Recognize the member for Saskatoon Centre.

Emissions Reduction and Prairie Resilience Strategy

Mr. Forbes: — Mr. Speaker, no plan B, no plan B at all. Those Sask Party ministers love to talk up their prairie resilient plan, but a plan just isn't a plan unless it has some targets.

Let's look at a few of the targets set out in the prairie resilience framework. What's your target for natural systems? TBD, to be determined. The target for community preparedness, TBD. Physical infrastructure, TBD. Human well-being, TBD. And the list goes on and on, Mr. Speaker.

This is a government that's unserious about climate change. And that unseriousness leaves the door wide open for Trudeau to impose his scheme on us. When will this government finally come to the table with a plan and a real target for addressing our greenhouse gas emissions?

The Speaker: — Recognize the Minister of the Environment.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have engaged with a number of organizations around the province — businesses, industry associations, municipalities, universities — over the last two months. Over a hundred organizations have been consulted just in the last two months.

What we will be doing late this spring, we'll be finalizing the resilience measures that we will be using. By this summer, we'll be finalizing the performance standards that we'll be using for each of our heavy-emitting industries. And late summer, early fall, we will be finalizing the resilience targets and how we're going to measure those for the people of Saskatchewan going forward, Mr. Speaker.

So, Mr. Speaker, that information will be provided. And at that time, I don't think the member opposite will be able to hide behind this question that he's answering, because he'll have to make a decision. Does he stand with a made-in-Saskatchewan approach that doesn't include a carbon tax, or is he standing with the federal government that believes they have the ability and the constitutional authority to impose a carbon tax, despite the fact that Saskatchewan will have a very broad and bold plan for the people of this province?

[14:00]

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

Mr. Forbes: — Mr. Speaker, I love how the plan has now been downgraded to an approach. Mr. Speaker, they have no plan and what they're doing on the climate change file is being cut. They cut 18 per cent from the climate change branch again this year, for a total cut of 80 per cent since 2012. They clear-cut the reforestation budget to zero. They scrapped tax credits and exemptions for green appliances or renovations to reduce your emissions.

This government isn't taking any steps forward when it comes to climate change, only steps backward. How can the minister claim to be taking climate change seriously when the only thing this government has to offer is more cuts and more emissions?

The Speaker: — Recognize the Minister of the Environment.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, first of all the member opposite, I think, probably should take a little bit of caution when he talks about more emissions because he was Environment minister in this province when emissions went up by 70 per cent over 16 years, Mr. Speaker, 70 per cent. And I'll remind the member opposite, the David Suzuki Foundation, of all organizations, pointed out that the orange of the NDP should be turned brown for how bad their environmental record was, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, with respect to reforestation, frankly I'm embarrassed to have to inform the member of this because he is a former Environment minister. Beginning in 1939, there was a reforestation plan for the province that saw the provincial government pay for over 700 million trees being planted in the province. But beginning in the late 1980s, that obligation started to transfer from the provincial government, from the taxpayers, to the industry, Mr. Speaker, meaning that last year was the last year the provincial government had any obligation in reforestation, Mr. Speaker. He should know this. This is embarrassing.

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

Evaluation of Carbon Capture and Storage

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, on November 3rd, 2017, the president of SaskPower told the media that it's "highly unlikely that SaskPower would recommend further carbon capture and storage projects because of the price tag." Then he told me and the minister during committee last December, a month later, that a recommendation to the SaskPower board on the future of CCS [carbon capture and storage] in Saskatchewan would be coming by the end of that month. Now that was four months ago, Mr. Speaker.

The SaskPower president and Crown corporation experts on this project have made their feelings about this project clear, but we can't get a straight answer from the minister. Has SaskPower sent that recommendation to the minister, and when can we finally expect a decision about the future of CCS?

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

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, what I would point out is that we have been working towards an equivalency agreement. That does change the time frame when it comes to Boundary dam 4 and 5. That's why it's very critical for us to be able to achieve that equivalency agreement, Mr. Speaker. And that has taken a couple of months longer than we thought that we would be at, at this point in time. So that has pushed those timelines back, but that certainly is very important.

Mr. Speaker, obviously a recommendation, when it does come forward, will have to go through the CIC [Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan] board, as well as ultimately cabinet to make that decision.

And, Mr. Speaker, also keep in mind that this is not the future of CCS. This is the future of Boundary dam 4 and 5 because CCS will continue to be used on Boundary dam 3 until 2044, unless the members opposite . . . It's their position that we should shut down CCS in this province, Mr. Speaker. And obviously we'll have decisions on other power units going forward beyond 4 and 5, Mr. Speaker. So the decision on CCS isn't related alone to 4 and 5, but we do have to make decisions on 4 and 5 first, coming up.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, we're talking about Boundary dam 4 and 5. Saskatchewan people just are not confident in the Sask Party's stories about CCS. It was the Sask Party and Brad Wall and Bill Boyd who spun glowing stories about the performance of the plant, and it wasn't until we were given briefing documents in our office that we were able to let the public know what was really going on at Boundary dam 3. Last week when I questioned the minister, he said:

We . . . appreciate the deliberations that the SaskPower board makes on a number of issues, but at the end of the day the Government of Saskatchewan is the shareholder of SaskPower, Mr. Speaker. So ultimately the government does have a decision that we need to make . . .

Now, Mr. Speaker, these cabinet ministers are the ones who are making this decision. So if they say yes to CCS, how many more rate hikes will there be?

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

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think the member opposite is aware of the fact that, according to the UN [United Nations] IPCC [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change], a 2-degree reduction in world global temperatures isn't possible with carbon capture and sequestration technology, especially at a time where the world is developing over 1,500 or 1,600 coal-fired power plants, either under construction or in development around the world, Mr. Speaker. So this is very important technology, not just for Saskatchewan but in fact for the world, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we are certainly going through a process of making that deliberation, that evaluation, on the next units, Mr. Speaker, knowing that there will be future units that we'll have to make that decision on, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I would also note as well that the Boundary dam unit, Boundary dam 3, the carbon capture and sequestration has been working just like the NDP surrender flags on the carbon tax: at 100 per cent in 2018, and we look forward to continued success in this unit going forward.

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

Availability of Government Official

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, yesterday we saw another senior official do something that is perfectly normal, or at least perfectly normal for anyone who isn't Laurie Pushor, the senior official at the centre of the GTH [Global Transportation Hub] land deal.

Yesterday a senior official in Education came into the rotunda and took questions from the media. The journalists didn't bite him. He answered their questions as best as he could, and he made it out of there in one piece.

Now there's nothing for Mr. Pushor to be afraid of, and we're not asking for anything out of the ordinary. We just want to know, finally, what went down at the GTH. So when will the Sask Party let Laurie Pushor out of the deputy ministerial

witness protection program? When will they free Laurie?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Trade.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Well, Mr. Speaker, I think we canvassed this issue yesterday with respect to Mr. Pushor. He is deputy minister of the Ministry of Energy and Resources. He'll be attending estimates with the Minister of Energy and Resources, and at that point will be there to support the minister in responding to questions at estimates, Mr. Speaker, as that member should very well know. That's how estimates work.

But what we heard earlier in question period today, Mr. Speaker, with regard . . . I heard some talk of plan B. Well you know what plan A for the NDP is, Mr. Speaker, on the carbon tax? Plan A is to surrender to Justin Trudeau, Mr. Speaker. Plan A for the Leader of the Opposition is to wave the white flag, to knuckle under, to do whatever Justin Trudeau tells him, Mr. Speaker.

That is in stark contrast to this side of the House, the strong leadership shown by our Premier. The strong leadership shown by this government; the weak leadership shown by that member opposite, Mr. Speaker. We are going to continue to fight for this province. We are going to fight this carbon tax, Mr. Speaker, all the way.

The Speaker: — Recognize the member for Regina Rosemont.

Mental Health Services for Children

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Children's Advocate told reporters that the current wait-lists for children to receive mental health care are shameful. He again raised concerns about the two-year wait-list to see a child psychiatrist, an unacceptable reality and one that hits our northern children the hardest.

The advocate has said that barriers to accessing mental health services simply because of where they live amounts to a violation of their rights under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. He also said that counsellors dropping in and then leaving communities simply isn't the solution, that they need supports developed within these communities that stay within these communities.

What specific actions is this government taking to level the playing field for northern children to ensure that they have the same access to the help and hope they so desperately need?

The Speaker: — Recognize the Minister for Rural and Remote Health.

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I've stated in the House before — and I'll state every time I stand when it comes to our northern citizens, and particularly our children in the North and some of the struggles that they have — it does touch one's heart when you hear some of the struggles and some of the issues that they have gone through and continue to go through, Mr. Speaker.

That's why as a government we focused very strongly on supports in the North. If we look at our health care budgets,

which support the Saskatchewan Health Authority particularly in the North, our northern health regions have enjoyed increases to their health budgets that outpace the southern part of the province: 83 per cent in the former Mamawetan regional health authority; and Keewatin Yatthé, almost 60 per cent, which outpaces our southern regions, former regions.

So we are investing in those areas, Mr. Speaker. That's helped to fund things like suicide prevention protocols that have been implemented in northern mental health and addiction services. That includes 93 staff that have been trained in mental health first aid, which is very effective, 228 in applied suicide intervention skills, and many others. And I'd be happy to answer more detailed questions if more come.

The Speaker: — Recognize the member for Regina Rosemont.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, as tragic as it is, we know the problem isn't isolated to northern Saskatchewan. The advocate spoke of challenges facing kids in our major cities. He says that children suffering in mental health crisis and that are going to the ER [emergency room] are "... waiting 10, 12, 14, 16 hours ... and our system sends them away and they end up in one of our reports." Tragically, kids are giving up all hope and we're losing lives.

Saskatchewan has a serious shortage of psychiatrists. We fall well below the rest of the country. The advocate called on the government to prioritize the recruitment of child psychiatrists because we need to do so much better for these kids. When will we see the full complement of child psychiatrists within our province? And when will we see action on the damaging and unacceptable wait-lists in our ERs?

The Speaker: — Recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to the point of the member opposite, those lengths of wait-lists aren't province wide. They're much shorter in Regina. They're much shorter in Prince Albert. But there is an unacceptable length of wait time in Saskatoon, Mr. Speaker. We're extremely concerned about this.

Recently, Mr. Speaker, the deputy minister of Health sent a letter to the chief executive officer of the Saskatchewan Health Authority, Mr. Speaker. I'll read parts of that letter. It talks about an 18- to 24-month wait time for child and youth psychiatry in Saskatoon as unacceptable, and they deserve a more timely service. It goes on, Mr. Speaker, to talk about strategies that have been successful in Regina and Saskatoon. And the fact, Mr. Speaker, that we're in a situation now that we move to one single health authority, it's reasons like this that I think are extremely important.

So, Mr. Speaker, we've asked the Saskatchewan Health Authority to look at the strategies — Regina, Prince Albert — implement them in Saskatoon, and to get those wait-lists down to a more acceptable level. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Recognize the member for Regina Rosemont.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, we hear new talk from the government about mental health supports in schools. This is

something that we wholeheartedly support and that we'd press the government for an investment and action on. But the fact is their talk doesn't match their walk. In fact they're going in the exact opposite direction. Last year's budget eliminated mental health services and supports throughout Prince Albert schools.

When will the Sask Party's government talk match its walk? When will they step up and save lives?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as you'll know, there's additional resources in the budget this year, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Health and I have been having an ongoing conversation with respect to a program which we've seen work very, very well in the province of Alberta, Mr. Speaker. We're going to continue to have that discussion in terms of rolling out some of that programming in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

The health, mental health, the physical health of the children that are in our school systems and across the province is a high priority for this government, Mr. Speaker. We'll continue to look to see how we can enhance resources, not just in our classrooms, Mr. Speaker, but across the entire province to make sure that we're taking care of the most vulnerable people in our community, and that's our children.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, we wholeheartedly support an investment and action and for mental health services throughout our schools. But how can the Deputy Premier, the Minister for Education, stand in his place and suggest that there's going to be some sort of action on this front when we know that the reality of last year's budget eliminated mental health services and counselling throughout Prince Albert schools?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, we understand that for children to learn properly, Mr. Speaker, that they have the proper resources. And that's why in this year's budget, Mr. Speaker, there are resources to enhance the delivery of services within our schools.

And as I'd mentioned before, the Minister of Health and I and the Minister of Rural and Remote Health have had this discussion, Mr. Speaker, to see how we can implement the program, which we've seen work very successfully in Alberta, work within our school system, Mr. Speaker. We're going to continue to have that discussion, Mr. Speaker, and help to roll out that program across our schools to provide the appropriate support that our children need.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, we don't need ongoing conversation. We don't need this across the floor. What we need is an investment in our kids.

Will the Minister of Education, the Deputy Premier, reinstate

the dollars to the Prince Albert region to ensure that those services, mental health services and counselling, can be reinstated for children, students all through Prince Albert and area?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

[14:15]

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, I've stood up twice now and told the member opposite what our plans are with respect to the funds that are going to be available in this year's budget, Mr. Speaker, but let me give you some detail.

Mr. Speaker, there's over \$30 million in funding that provides over 400 counsellors, psychologists, and social workers in our education system — 236 counsellors, 70 psychologists, and 78 social workers, Mr. Speaker. We support other programs, Mr. Speaker, like the Kids Help Phone, anti-bullying resources and grants, Mr. Speaker, and mental health first aid training.

So, Mr. Speaker, we continue to do what we can do with respect to supporting our children in our classrooms. The additional programming that we're going to be moving forward with, Mr. Speaker, as a result of the funding in this year's budget, Mr. Speaker, is going to go directly to help those children in our school system that need that assistance.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Government of Saskatchewan Challenge to Federal Government Carbon Tax

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm honoured to rise today to inform the House that the Ministry of Justice has launched its reference case to challenge the Trudeau carbon tax. Mr. Speaker, we are asking the Saskatchewan Court of Appeal a simple and clear question on the constitutionality of the federal government's legislation.

Mr. Speaker, the question we are asking is The *Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act* was introduced into parliament on March 28th, 2018 as part 5 of Bill C-74. If enacted, will this Act be unconstitutional in whole or in part?

Mr. Speaker, the federal government's Act consists of two main parts. The first part imposes a charge on the use of fuels such as gasoline, diesel, and natural gas that are burned in listed provinces. The second part provides emission limits for businesses within certain industries in listed provinces. Mr. Speaker, the federal government determines which provinces are listed provinces.

The Act indicates the federal cabinet should ensure that greenhouse gas emissions across Canada are priced at levels that it, the federal government, considers appropriate. They will take into account if provinces have created their own carbon taxes. So this means that these changes and emissions will apply in some provinces and not others, Mr. Speaker.

Saskatchewan objects to the constitutionality of this tax, Mr.

Speaker, primarily on the ground that the tax will be applied only in certain provinces. And, Mr. Speaker, because the application of the tax in those provinces depends on whether the province has chosen to create its own carbon tax at a level that satisfies the federal government, Mr. Speaker, it is the Ministry of Justice's position that the selective application of a federal tax in only certain provinces is not authorized by our constitution. This does not respect the principles of federalism, Mr. Speaker — principles that are the bedrock of our constitution. As well, Mr. Speaker, the carbon tax does not respect the province's right to make decisions about matters within its jurisdiction.

It is our position that part II of the Act, which imposes emission limits on businesses within certain industries, encroaches on provincial jurisdiction. The regulation of specific businesses within a province has traditionally been seen as a matter of falling under provincial jurisdiction over "local works and undertakings," "property and civil rights," and local matters.

Mr. Speaker, in addition the emission limits created by part II of the Act encroach on provincial jurisdiction over resources. The provinces own most of the natural resources within their boundaries, Mr. Speaker, and have jurisdiction over these resources by virtue of sections 92(5) and 92(A) of the *Constitution Act, 1867*.

Section 92(A) in particular provides that the provinces have exclusive legislative jurisdiction to make laws in relation to development, conservation, and management of non-renewable natural resources in the province, including laws in relation to the rate of primary production therefrom, Mr. Speaker. Emission limits directly interfere with this power.

Mr. Speaker, there will be a period of time before the Court of Appeal hears our case and we anticipate that additional provinces and, potentially, industry leaders may intervene to bolster our case against the Trudeau carbon tax.

Mr. Speaker, there's more that I would like to say on this matter, but as the case is now before the Saskatchewan Court of Appeal, it would be inappropriate to discuss our legal arguments further. But I will add that the Government of Saskatchewan is not a subsidiary of the federal government. We will not apologize for standing up for Saskatchewan rights now and we will continue to stand up for Saskatchewan's rights in the future. Mr. Speaker, thank you very much.

The Speaker: — Recognize the member for Regina Douglas Park.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And as is custom, I'd like to thank to minister opposite for giving us his remarks ahead of time. This is certainly an interesting case that many throughout the province and the country will be paying close attention to. We heard from the previous premier, Brad Wall, about the importance of assuring the people of Saskatchewan that any challenge based on the *Constitution Act* needs to have a reasonable expectation of success.

Mr. Speaker, we have stated for a long time that we need a made-in-Saskatchewan plan to protect us from Trudeau's carbon pricing scheme — a made-in-Saskatchewan plan that

takes into account our emission-intensive and trade-exposed industries such as jobs in steel, jobs in our mines, jobs in agriculture, and jobs in oil and gas. We need a plan that protects our producers and people living in remote northern communities. But to this day we have seen little action from the Sask Party government. Now Saskatchewan is at risk of a Trudeau-imposed plan.

As the Justice critic I'm looking forward to finally seeing the legal arguments that this government will be bringing forward. For years as the opposition we have been asking in the House, through freedom of information, and in the rotunda for the government's arguments on this case, but they've refused to provide them time and time again. Saskatchewan needs leadership on climate change. For more than a decade this government has failed to deliver. We need a made-in-Saskatchewan plan, a real plan with targets that takes into account the real needs of Saskatchewan's unique economy. Thank you.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

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

Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

Mr. Bradshaw: — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 95, *The Miscellaneous Statutes Repeal and Amendment Act, 2017* without amendment.

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

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

The Speaker: — Minister of Justice and Attorney General has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 95, *The Miscellaneous Statutes Repeal and Amendment Act, 2017* and that the bill be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Minister may proceed to move third reading.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 95 — *The Miscellaneous Statutes Repeal and Amendment Act, 2017*

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 95, *The Miscellaneous Statutes Repeal and Amendment Act, 2017* be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is third reading for Bill No. 95, *The Miscellaneous Statutes Repeal and Amendment Act, 2017*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

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

Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

Mr. Bradshaw: — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 97, *The Arbitration (Family Dispute Resolution) Amendment Act, 2017* without amendment.

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

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

The Speaker: — Minister of Justice and Attorney General has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 97, *The Arbitration (Family Dispute Resolution) Amendment Act, 2017* and that the bill be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Minister may proceed to move third reading.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 97 — *The Arbitration (Family Dispute Resolution) Amendment Act, 2017*

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 97, *The Arbitration (Family Dispute Resolution) Amendment Act, 2017* be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is third reading for Bill No. 97, *The Arbitration (Family Dispute Resolution) Amendment Act, 2017*. Is it the pleasure of the

Assembly to adopt the motion.

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

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

Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

Mr. Bradshaw: — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 98, *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Family Dispute Resolution) Amendment Act, 2017*, a bilingual bill without amendment.

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

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

The Speaker: — The Minister of Justice and Attorney General has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 98, *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Family Dispute Resolution) Amendment Act, 2017* and that the bill be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The minister may proceed to move third reading ... [inaudible interjection] ... The minister may proceed to move third reading.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 98 — *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Family Dispute Resolution) Amendment Act, 2017/Loi modificative diverse (résolution des conflits familiaux) de 2017*

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, we move to move third reading. I understand the member opposite wishes to make comments.

The Speaker: — Now? Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member for Regina Douglas Park.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you for the opportunity to add a few more remarks to this bill. We're largely supportive of this bill and the move of the Ministry of Justice to allow for more options for alternative dispute resolution in family law proceedings. We're supportive of that. We're supportive of doing what we can to ensure there are less delays in the court system. But there are some concerns that we

have that I want to make sure are on the record because there are some changes in this bill that may do the opposite of the intended goals as stated.

The bill will now require a mandatory family dispute resolution process for anyone who is going through a family law proceeding, with some exceptions that are made in the bill, which is a very major change to the family law court process. There are some concerns that this will result in some extra costs for many and it may slow down a process, when the actual intent was to make it more efficient. This is adding, potentially, an extra cost in a system that's already expensive.

And when we talked about this last night at committee, the minister suggested that the Family Matters program could be an alternative to some of the more expensive options like arbitration, Mr. Speaker. But what we are hearing is that Family Matters is also suffering from some delays in terms of individuals who are contacting their services and then being able to access those services as intended. And when we have individuals who are trying to seek remedies that deal with children, for example, it's important that they get to be able to obtain those remedies as soon as possible.

So we urge the ministry that if Family Matters is being considered as the alternative, the low-cost alternative, that that Family Matters program funding and the Family Matters mandate be more directed toward those who are of limited income, those who are of limited means, Mr. Speaker, because of the long waits that we're hearing of right now.

Further, there's also some concerns about the extra work, that this will be placed on legal aid lawyers, Mr. Speaker, because legal aid covers some family law proceedings. But we've seen from this government little additional funding. In fact it's been several years that we've seen new legal full-time equivalents and legal assistant full-time equivalents in Legal Aid. So we want to raise that also as a concern to make sure that legal aid is being properly ... [inaudible].

We also suggest an amendment to section 44.01, that in the section (6) amendment that they allow for an exemption for petitioners whose opposing party has been noted for default, to ensure that those folks do not have an extra step that they need to go through after they've been able to successfully serve the respondent, and the respondent has not responded to the petition. That petitioner should therefore then be able to obtain a default judgement without having to go through this additional alternative dispute resolution process.

Further, in subsection (c) there's an exemption for those who experience interpersonal violence, that they don't have to go through this process. We welcome that. We just want to ensure that the ministry monitors that to ensure that the requirement to be able to get that exemption is not too onerous on the applicant, Mr. Speaker.

So largely we wanted to put a few more concerns on the record, and we do hope that the ministry — understanding that this is going to be a slow roll-out process — continues to monitor this change, because it is a major change, and continue to solicit feedback with practitioners and those involved in this process. Thank you.

[14:30]

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is third reading for Bill No. 98, *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Family Dispute Resolution) Amendment Act, 2017*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — Recognize the Chair of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

Mr. Bradshaw: — Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 104, *The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code, 2017*, a bilingual bill, without amendment.

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

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

The Speaker: — The Minister of Justice and Attorney General has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 104, *The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code, 2017* and that the bill be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 104 — *The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code, 2017/Code des droits de la personne de la Saskatchewan de 2017*

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 104, *The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code, 2017* be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is third

reading for Bill No. 104, *The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code, 2017*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

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

Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

Mr. Bradshaw: — Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 105, *The Saskatchewan Human Rights Consequential Amendment Act, 2017* without amendment.

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

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

The Speaker: — The Minister of Justice and Attorney General has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 105, *The Saskatchewan Human Rights Consequential Amendment Act, 2017* and that the bill be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 105 — *The Saskatchewan Human Rights Consequential Amendment Act, 2017*

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

The Speaker: — It's been moved by the minister that Bill No. 105, *The Saskatchewan Human Rights Consequential Amendment Act, 2017* be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is third reading for Bill No. 105, *The Saskatchewan Human Rights Consequential Amendment Act, 2017*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Bill No. 123

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Hargrave that **Bill No. 123 — *The Snowmobile (Fees) Amendment Act, 2018*** be now read a second time.]

STATEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

Withdrawal of Privilege Case

The Speaker: — Never a dull moment. Yesterday the Opposition House Leader raised the question of privilege concerning the release of details related to Bill No. 126, *The Energy Export Act*, before its introduction in the Assembly. At the beginning of routine proceedings, the Minister of Energy and Resources apologized and provided an explanation to the Assembly about how a news release on the bill was released to the media in error. She assured the Assembly that steps will be taken to ensure such an error will not happen again.

Subsequently, the Opposition House Leader wrote the Speaker to indicate she would not put forward her question of privilege as a consequence of the minister's apology. This obviates the need for the Speaker's ruling for the reason of the minister's apology and the formal withdrawal of the case. I consider the matter closed.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Lawrence: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to order the answers to questions 231 and 232.

The Speaker: — Ordered 231, 232. I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Lawrence: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the answers to question 233.

The Speaker: — Tabled 233. I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Lawrence: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to order the answers to questions 234 and 235.

The Speaker: — Ordered 234, 235. I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Lawrence: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the answers to questions 236 to 239.

The Speaker: — Tabled 236 to 239.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise today to speak to Bill No. 123, *An Act to amend The Snowmobile Act*. This is a very straightforward piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker, basically at the request of the Snowmobile Association. They've asked for some changes to how fees are handled in certain instances, Mr. Speaker, and the government is accommodating that request.

Currently the fees are funnelled through the GRF [General Revenue Fund] and then moved back out through to the Snowmobile Association administrator. And of course, Mr. Speaker, you've always got to be worried when money flows through the GRF because sometimes the government might want to keep some of it for themselves. But in this case they're not doing that at all. They're agreeing with the Snowmobile Association.

Basically SGI [Saskatchewan Government Insurance] is collecting all these fees on behalf of the province and then they funnel that money to the GRF. Then they find out how much of that money belongs to snowmobiles, advise the Ministry of Parks, and then they provide that amount to the associations because it is designated. Those funds are designated for trail maintenance.

So this makes actually quite a lot of sense, Mr. Speaker. They're just changing subsection 41(1)(t) to allow the regulations to be passed prescribing the manner in which the administrator may use the fees. And then section 42, which is the fee section, is being repealed and substituted so that the administrator will pay over to the General Revenue Fund the fees for driver's licences and registration permits, but they may retain from those fees mentioned in subsection (1) any monies designated by the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

So it still needs to go through regulation and we'll see what the regulations say when they come out. Of course we don't get to see those until after they're passed. But at any rate the administrator will be able to keep something rather than going through this tortuous path that it currently goes through.

I think we have no reason to be concerned about this bill at this point in time. Certainly we'll want to be able to ask some questions in committee when that opportunity arises. So at this point, Mr. Speaker, I believe that this needs to be moved forward into the committee process. And that's the extent of my comments on Bill No. 123, *An Act to amend The Snowmobile Act*.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion by the minister that Bill No. 123, *The Snowmobile (Fees) Amendment Act, 2018* be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

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

Hon. Mr. Brkich: — I designate that Bill No. 123, *The Snowmobile (Fees) Amendment Act, 2018* be committed to the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

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

Bill No. 91

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Hargrave that **Bill No. 91 — *The Snowmobile Amendment Act, 2017*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to enter into debate on Bill No. 91, *The Snowmobile Amendment Act, 2017*. This bill proposes to update what is now I think a 20-year-old piece of legislation, or last updated about 20 years ago.

It would seem that the main reason that we see this bill in front of us is a change in responsibilities, a shift of responsibilities from the Highway Traffic Board to SGI, and this bill largely updates that transfer and assigns a lot of the responsibilities currently assigned to the Highway Traffic Board to SGI. So that makes up the bulk of the bill.

But there are some other changes and updates in this bill as well. One is around updating of the definition of “snowmobile” to conform with current standards. Like everything else, Mr. Speaker, snowmobiles have changed over the last 20 years and I understand that that clause is to update that reality.

There are some changes around . . . or some restrictions placed, if this bill passes, for the use of snowmobile trails between December 1st and April 15th. I guess that seems a reasonable time to have winter in this province. It doesn’t always conform to those dates, but I’m sure that there is a reason that those dates were chosen.

And one of the other pieces that I’m sure that we’ll have more questions of the minister and his officials in committee is around the removal of the authority of trail managers to set permit fees. The change is now that snowmobile trails will be funded through registration fees. And I’m not sure if that currently is the practice and we’re just updating that, Mr. Speaker, how much is raised through registration fees and how those are applied to the trails. But those are some of the questions we will have the opportunity to ask in committee.

So without further ado, Mr. Speaker, I move to move Bill 91 to committee.

The Speaker: — Question before the Assembly is the motion by the minister that Bill No. 91, *The Snowmobile Amendment Act, 2017* be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

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

Hon. Mr. Brkich: — I designate that Bill No. 91, *The Snowmobile Amendment Act, 2017*, be committed to the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

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

Bill No. 110

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Stewart that **Bill No. 110 — *The Animal Protection Act, 2017*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I’m pleased to rise again to enter into debate on Bill No. 110, *The Animal Protection Act, 2017*. This again is a bill that replaces *The Animal Protection Act* of 1999, again almost 20 years ago. This is of course a very important piece of legislation when we’re talking about the protection of animals, very vulnerable and dependent on us, Mr. Speaker. And as government, there’s a responsibility to ensure that we are providing the necessary protection for animals in this province.

I know that there are a lot of people who are very happy to see this bill come forward. There’s been a . . . Again this has been almost 20 years since this bill was last updated, and during that time Saskatchewan fell in terms of protection, the standards across the country. The *2016 Canadian Animal Protection Laws Rankings* put Saskatchewan in 11th place, the last place of all of the provinces and one territory ahead of us. So there was some definite need for updating this Act.

I understand that there’s been some consultation with those in the sector, specifically the Sask Veterinary Medical Association. And there are some comments on record with regard to that consultation, both by the minister and members on this side.

I think that there are a number of questions that I do have about this, but I think that I will ask those questions in committee. And with that, I will conclude my remarks.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the minister that Bill No. 110, the animal protection amendment Act, 2017 be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

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

[14:45]

Hon. Mr. Brkich: — I designate that Bill No. 110, the animal protection amendment Act, 2017 be committed to the Standing Committee on the Economy.

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

Bill No. 126

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Eyre that **Bill No. 126 — *The Energy Export Act*** 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 and join in the debate for Bill No. 126, *An Act respecting Energy Exports*. Mr. Speaker, our party's position on this has been clear for many years. This is a federal project that is in Saskatchewan's interest and it very much needs to go forward. We support a triple bottom line process that ensures social, economic, and environmental benefit. Unfortunately the Trudeau Liberals have not shown leadership on this file and they really need to do so, so that this project can get built. We also support the 1,100 workers at Evraz who will be supplying 75 per cent of the pipeline for this project, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we also have a problem with the Sask Party's failure to address climate change or have any real credibility on the environment, and that makes it harder for these projects to get built. In fact this government has failed to lay an inch of pipeline to tidewater over the last 10 years, and they've cut funding for the climate change branch and green energy. This is a government, Mr. Speaker, that has no plan to deal with pollution in this province.

Mr. Speaker, our number one concern is for jobs for Saskatchewan people. We're also concerned, not only about the jobs at Evraz but also the jobs at Lloydminster Upgrader, the Co-op Refinery, and in the trucking sector. We're fighting for all Saskatchewan jobs. We can't trust the Sask Party and we'll never write them a blank cheque. What we need to see, Mr. Speaker, is federal leadership from the Trudeau government so that we can see progress on this project.

Mr. Speaker, we should never have gotten to this point to begin with. If Trudeau and the Liberals would have stepped up to the plate and done their job, we would not be in this situation at all, Mr. Speaker.

I know I have a lot of my colleagues who wish to enter into this debate so at this point I'm ready to adjourn debate on Bill No. 126.

The Speaker: — The member for Regina Douglas Park has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 126, *The Energy Export Act*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion? Okay, carried.

Bill No. 73

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

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to rise this afternoon to enter into the debate on Bill No. 73, *The Insurance Amendment Act*. I've had a lot of my colleagues have the opportunity to speak to this bill already, and I'm happy that I was able to benefit from their knowledge and their remarks and enter my 2 cents on this before it finally makes its way into committee.

This bill is going to make several changes to how insurance is provided across the province, but also includes some housekeeping amendments as well. It includes a new section that addresses medical assistance in dying, and that being a new thing in this country pursuant to some changes with respect to a Supreme Court ruling, Mr. Speaker, and then subsequent to that some legislative changes federally, Mr. Speaker. As a result of that being now legal in some respects, that results in some provincial legislative changes that therefore need to happen, Mr. Speaker. So I can't even think off the top of my head how many things would need to change as a result, but I suppose insurance would be one of them.

So the change in this bill will state that if an insured person receives medical assistance in dying, they will be assumed to have died from the illness or disability for which they received assistance. And I think if that's reading the way I think it's reading, it addresses a concern we've been hearing from some folks that when an individual has chosen to use medical assistance in dying, on their death certificate will be marked "suicide." And that's not comfortable or appropriate for both the deceased as well as their friends and family who wanted to see this change that their death certificate should in fact reflect the fact that they are dying from the disease. Now this isn't changing the death certificate necessarily, Mr. Speaker, but it will change how it's treated under insurance purposes, Mr. Speaker.

There's also a new section being added to this Act which allows for more recovery options for survivors of interpersonal violence. And I stand in this House too often to speak about Saskatchewan's high rates of interpersonal violence and how much more we need to do as a community and as a province to address this crisis, Mr. Speaker. So I'm happy to see that this is being put in place in *The Insurance Amendment Act*, but we do need to do so much more as a province, Mr. Speaker.

We put forward private member's Bill No. 609, which calls for some workplace supports that we've been calling for for the last two years. It's the fourth time we've put it forward. This government refuses to pass it, still hasn't passed it, although to their credit they have passed some other legislative options that we have presented to them in opposition. They still refuse to pass the five paid days' leave, Mr. Speaker, despite the calls from those who work on the front lines of this issue: PATHS [Provincial Association of Transition Houses and Services of Saskatchewan] for example, many folks in the transition house sector, Mr. Speaker, the YWCA [Young Women's Christian Association], the University of Regina, and so on and so forth, Mr. Speaker.

And there's many studies that have shown that . . . And PATHS in particular did a study with respect to Saskatchewan and showed how beneficial that legislative change would be for survivors of interpersonal violence and how, in fact, the cost on employers would be very minimal. I know that some employers have spoken out, some employer groups have spoken out against the bill, but we also saw the same thing frankly, Mr. Speaker, when the call came out for maternity leave, that there was some pushback.

But ultimately the cost for this provision is actually quite minimal on employers, and that's seen through Australia for example who's had the provision in for a while now. And they've found that the cost is quite minimal and that the folks who are using it, there's a small percentage that use it and when they use it they only use about a day or so, Mr. Speaker. But those who do use it desperately need it, Mr. Speaker.

So with respect to this particular bill, I'm happy to see that there is a provision in place to allow for more recovery options for survivors of interpersonal violence, Mr. Speaker, but I do want the government to remember that there are many other things we can be doing to ensure that we're adequately providing the supports that we can as legislators to survivors of interpersonal violence, Mr. Speaker.

And when we have the highest rates in the country amongst provinces, we should be doing everything we can and, at a minimum, bringing ourselves up to the level that other provinces are at. If anything, I think we should be leaders in addressing this and we should be actually working on a domestic violence provincial strategy, which I know the government about a year ago said they were going to do. From what I've heard, it's stalled. It may not be happening anymore, which is a real shame, Mr. Speaker.

Also there's the domestic violence death review panel, which was created about a year and a half ago, two years ago, and we still haven't seen a report come out on what their recommendations are, even though I know, because I speak to the folks that are in the group, that their work has been done and that report has been concluded for a while. I'm not too sure what the holdup has been but it's . . . Again I am happy to see, like I said, the provision in this bill, but there is much more that we could be doing, Mr. Speaker. And I hope that it's not dollars and cents that are getting in the way.

Some other changes in this bill, Mr. Speaker, include a new definition of "unlicensed insurer," a new subsection which

makes it a requirement for licence applicants to comply with the regulations. There's some changes to ensure that a managing general agent or a third party administrator can only act on behalf of an insurer if they hold the appropriate licence. It also includes some changes to the penalties associated with insurance licensing, Mr. Speaker.

So I know that there'll be some questions at committee. One of the questions I'm thinking, and I'm looking at the minister's remarks when he moved second reading of this bill, he mentioned that *The Insurance Act* was passed in the spring of 2015 but had not yet been proclaimed into force. So I'm curious to know what has been taking so long in proclaiming that into force. What I see, that there's been some consultations with industry stakeholders that had identified some minor technical wording issues. They're being addressed in this legislation. So I'm curious to know more about the original consultation process that happened back when *The Insurance Act* was created prior to 2015, what work had happened prior to that and why it took this long for a consultation to occur and why it's taking so long for *The Insurance Act* to be proclaimed.

The worry is that if they didn't do their due diligence, the government didn't do their due diligence back in 2014, perhaps 2013 when *The Insurance Act* was originally drafted, it's concerning, Mr. Speaker. And it's concerning that we're already having to have an amendment Act to a legislation that was just passed, 2015, but because there were errors in it there's already . . . They haven't been able to proclaim it, Mr. Speaker, which is what we've seen from this government several times. Again and again and again, Mr. Speaker, a lack of consultation and then, once they put something forward, they get pushback from stakeholders and pushback from the people who know and who are affected by the decisions that we make in this House. And had they consulted with them to begin with, we wouldn't have been in this position in the first place.

So, Mr. Speaker, I know I'm going to have the opportunity to ask questions at committee. I look forward to that opportunity. I look forward to spending time with the minister. Nothing like going to committee on a beautiful spring day. So as such, I'm ready to allow Bill No. 73 to move on.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the minister that Bill No. 73, *The Insurance Amendment Act, 2017* be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

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

Hon. Mr. Brkich: — I designate that Bill No. 73, *The Insurance 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. 99

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

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to rise this afternoon to speak to Bill No. 99, *The Interpretation Amendment Act*, and I very much look forward to this bill moving on to committee.

Now this is an interesting bill, Mr. Speaker. This bill seeks to repeal the definition of privatize from Bill 40 and substitutes the following: “‘privatize’ does not include a winding-up and dissolution of a Crown corporation.”

Now this is essentially a partial repeal of Bill 40, the bill that we saw just get passed after much protest from the opposition side, passing on to the government what we've been hearing from the larger community — that they saw through the government's backdoor plan of selling off Crowns, that the definition of “‘privatization’” did not mean what the government was trying to pretend that it meant, that selling up to 49 per cent of a Crown did not constitute privatize. And the government rammed it through, rammed through Bill 40 despite all the protestation, despite how many people were upset.

And now, look where we are now. After spending hours and hours at committee with the Minister of Justice, the now Deputy Premier, the minister of Justice at the time, where the government and the minister and the committee members all supported this Bill 40. Every single Sask Party MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] supported that definition of privatized.

[15:00]

Here we are now with Bill No. 99, partially walking back Bill 40. So how did we get here, Mr. Speaker? When Bill 40 was tabled we heard quite an uprising from the province, Mr. Speaker. Thousands and thousands of people were attending protest rallies, writing their MLAs saying, this is not on for the province of Saskatchewan. The people of Saskatchewan support our Crowns. They value our Crowns and they don't want to see those Crowns be diminished in any way. They saw through the government's attempt for a quick fire sale on as much of their Crowns as they could get their hot little hands on, as my colleague would probably say. And they fought very hard against this bill.

And I do want to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank all of the community leaders who organized rallies, who organized letter-writing campaigns, who have been signing petitions, who fought hard and continue to fight hard against Bill 40 and are continuing to fight. And why do I say continuing to fight? Because, Mr. Speaker, this is just a partial repeal.

Last summer . . . I think it was last summer. Last summer just before we sat in the fall, the then premier, Brad Wall, came out with a Facebook Live video and told the people of Saskatchewan that he listened and as a result he was going to repeal Bill 40. He was going to repeal what his government had just done a few short months ago, Mr. Speaker. He had seen the light. He had heard the call of Jesus. He was ready to repent.

And then what we get is Bill No. 99. And we looked at Bill 99 and we thought, hmm, this isn't quite what the premier said it was going to be. Because it's not a full repeal of Bill 40. It's a partial repeal of Bill 40.

I'm not sure if the government thought that, you know, we couldn't, you know, we couldn't sell off the Crowns straight . . . [inaudible] . . . we couldn't, you know, try to privatize half the Crowns, upwards of half the Crowns through Bill 40. But maybe we could, you know, try this other route. The front door was closed; the back door was closed. Let's try the kitchen window, Mr. Speaker, or up the chimney perhaps. There's a few windows that I'm sure the Sask Party's going to try to gain a quick buck off of our Crowns, Mr. Speaker.

The people of Saskatchewan have seen through that. They've seen through this partial repeal. And when we've asked questions of the minister about this in question period, the minister has told us, and I think the Premier has also told us that this partial repeal . . . that the intention was a full repeal.

And I hope I'm not putting words in the mouth of the minister. I do hope that . . . I do trust in the sincerity of members that the intention is to repeal all of Bill 40, but there was some advice given to government from those on that side — I'm not sure if it was counsel or it was other people who were giving this advice — that they still needed the wind-down section because they've sold off STC [Saskatchewan Transportation Company], which is a whole other conversation we can have, and maybe we will have, Mr. Speaker. I haven't quite decided how long I feel like speaking about this bill today. But I do know I've got a lot of bills to speak about this afternoon, me and my good colleague, the member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre, holding down the fort this afternoon, Mr. Speaker.

So they've said, you know, now hold on; don't panic. Don't anybody panic; we're only repealing half of Bill 40 because we needed to wind down STC. So the presumption is that as soon as STC's wound down that the remainder of Bill 40 will then be repealed. But STC is wound down now, so I'm not too sure what's taking so long, Mr. Speaker. I'm not too sure why we aren't seeing the government table an amendment to this bill to call for the full repeal of Bill 40.

And knowing how legislative proceedings work, Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure why they wouldn't have just done that in the first place, understanding that this bill would take a while before it would finally get to a vote, Mr. Speaker. So forgive me if I'm, you know, a little bit untrusting, Mr. Speaker, but I do hope that, as the minister had alluded to in question period, that he would be open or would consider amendments put forward by the opposition. I didn't realize that all of a sudden the minister was incapable of amending his own legislation. But if he wants the opposition to do that, then fine, maybe we will choose to do that. I'm not sure. Don't want to give away all my cards in my

hand.

Anyways, Mr. Speaker, this is interesting. And we're obviously very concerned, Mr. Speaker, because we saw what happened with STC. And we're still hearing from people across this entire province how valuable that Crown was to them. Was it turning a profit? No, but the value it had on so many people across the province was immeasurable. Providing that public transportation was necessary, especially in a province like ours — small population, spread far apart. It was what bound us together as a province, Mr. Speaker.

We hear folks up North who are hitchhiking into the city, who are putting themselves in dangerous situations to try and get to where they need to go. We're hearing from elderly people in rural locations who can't get to their medical appointments, Mr. Speaker. We're hearing from small-business owners in small towns who relied on STC's parcel shipment process to be able to get parts sent to them, to be able to send parcels out, Mr. Speaker. We hear from newcomers to Canada, who relied on STC to get around the province because they're working through the process of obtaining a licence, Mr. Speaker. These are just a few examples of how important STC was to this province.

This government consulted with nobody before they ripped that service away, Mr. Speaker. They decided they wanted that quick fire sale, and they didn't care who it affected, Mr. Speaker. And that's why we have the Crown corporation protection Act, Mr. Speaker. It's our covenant with the greater province that we, as legislators, are going to respect our Crowns for the intergenerational, multigenerational asset that it is, Mr. Speaker, and we are not going to mess with them, Mr. Speaker. This government has completely ignored that covenant, Mr. Speaker, with the Saskatchewan people and it's very disappointing, Mr. Speaker.

So the people of Saskatchewan rose up, they spoke loud and clear against Bill 40. Part of that was because of what they saw happen to STC, how they didn't get a say. There was no referendum. This did not go to the electors. The government didn't talk about it during the 2016 election. They didn't talk about it during the Meewasin by-election which just happened a few months before Bill 40. I think it was Meewasin. Yes. Bill 40 was tabled in the House, Mr. Speaker, and the Saskatchewan people were upset. They don't want to see that happen again.

So while we're happy to see Bill 99 come forward, it's not enough. It's not what the Premier promised Saskatchewan people. It's not what Saskatchewan people are asking from us, and it's not enough, Mr. Speaker. And you have to forgive us if we have, as Saskatchewan residents, a hard time trusting the Sask Party with our Crowns, Mr. Speaker. And that's the stressful thing with all of this, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, in three separate elections, the Sask Party promised they wouldn't sell off our Crowns. And I've already talked about what happened to STC, and that's the problem that we're talking about now. And that's why we need to make sure that this is a full repeal, not just this partial repeal, Mr. Speaker.

We need to ensure that what happened to STC does not happen to any other of our Crowns. And you can understand why we're

concerned. We were hearing and we were seeing through the lobbyists registry that meetings were happening with private companies, private telephone companies with SaskTel. We were hearing concerns about what was happening with SGI. And there's no surprise that there is a lack of trust, Mr. Speaker, between the Saskatchewan people and this government, Mr. Speaker.

So I'm looking forward to having the opportunity to ask questions about this bill, to delve with the minister into why on earth this wasn't the full repeal of Bill 40, like we were promised. I know that the former minister of Justice had a great time talking about Bill 40 and how great it was at committee with myself and I think five of my colleagues for several hours. I'm sure he'd love to join the current Minister of Justice to talk about how great Bill No. 99 is, how even better it would be had it not fully repealed Bill 40, Mr. Speaker.

So as such, so that I can have the opportunity to ask these questions at committee, I am going to allow Bill No. 99 to move on.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the minister that Bill No. 99, *The Interpretation Amendment Act, 2017 (No. 2)* be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

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

Hon. Mr. Brkich: — I designate that Bill No. 99, *The Interpretation Amendment Act, 2017 (No. 2)* be committed to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

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

Bill No. 106

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 106 — *The Missing Persons and Presumption of Death Amendment Act, 2017*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to rise this afternoon yet again to speak to Bill No. 106, *The Missing Persons and Presumption of Death Amendment Act*. Now this bill may not be as exciting as the last bill I just talked about, Bill No. 99, but it's just as important, Mr. Speaker, because all of the legislation that we pass in here is very important.

This bill, Mr. Speaker, makes a few housekeeping amendments. It also adds a new section that allows police services search orders and access to records when conducting an investigation into a missing person, which makes sense, I think, to me, Mr. Speaker. We want to ensure that police, while respecting privacy and whatnot, that police have the authority that they need to be able to conduct investigations appropriately to make sure that missing people are found and that these investigations can reach the conclusion that they need to for families.

I can imagine that this would be an extremely distressing experience for families, if their loved ones have gone missing, especially if their loved ones are missing for an extended period of time, Mr. Speaker. I can't even imagine what that would be like. It would be quite awful. And I want to thank first responders for their hard work, not only in these types of investigations but in all the work that they do, Mr. Speaker, in their interactions with people throughout the province, Mr. Speaker. It's hard work that they do but it's important work.

Mr. Speaker, this bill also allows for an emergency demand for records which could come from chiefs of police or commanding officers in cases where they believe a person is at risk of imminent harm. So I suppose this would be, for example, in the case of an Amber Alert. If there's a child that goes missing, a chief of police would have, or a commanding officer would have the ability to be able to obtain more documents and more information than they originally could.

So it's a temporary . . . I suppose it's a small breach or step into privacy, or the protection of privacy, that we all need and deserve and should have, Mr. Speaker. But I suppose the intent is an honourable one to ensure that especially, for example, if a child is in imminent harm that the police can do what they need to do to ensure that they can get the information they need to make sure that that child is found and that child is found safe, Mr. Speaker.

[15:15]

I just want to read a little bit into the record the provisions around this emergency demand for records. I think it's important for us to know what it says. So subsection (2) of what will be new 14.5 says:

A member of a police service may serve a written demand on a person requiring that person to give members of the police service access to those records that are in the person's possession or under the person's control if the member has reasonable grounds to believe that:

- (a) a missing person is at risk of imminent serious bodily harm or death;
- (b) immediate access to the records mentioned in subsection (3) may assist the police service in locating the missing person before he or she suffers any harm; and
- (c) it is not practicable to obtain a record access order given the urgency of the circumstances.

So I suppose the question will be what constitutes imminent

serious bodily harm or death. I'm guessing maybe it could be something about the individual that they believe that person is with, the missing person is with, and what they know about them. I'm trying to see here if there's anything in the legislation that defines that, Mr. Speaker. But if it doesn't, then it's possible that this could be further defined in future court cases, Mr. Speaker.

I'm not too sure if there's other jurisdictions that already have provisions like this and whether or not there are other jurisdictions that have already determined what constitutes imminent serious bodily harm or death, Mr. Speaker. But I will be curious to know some more information about that when I'm at committee.

Mr. Speaker, another provision I want to read into the record is 14.7, a new 14.7, and it deals with how this information can be used, for what purpose. So it states:

Notwithstanding *The Local Authority Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, a police service may use information and records obtained pursuant to this Act only for:

- (a) the purpose of locating a missing person or a use consistent with that purpose; or
- (b) a purpose for which the information may be disclosed pursuant to section 14.8.

And then subsection (2) says:

If the investigation into a missing person becomes a criminal investigation, this section does not prevent information and records obtained by a police service pursuant to this Act from being used in the criminal investigation.

So this limits the purpose for which this information can be used to ensure that the grounds are and the purpose is narrow, so we're respecting the fact that we need to be protecting privacy.

And in typical circumstances there is a presumption of innocence and there is a process for obtaining — the name escapes me right now — there's a process for obtaining further documents, Mr. Speaker. There's a process for an application you make to the court to get access to that sort of information — a warrant, Mr. Speaker. There we go. I finally figured it out. But in extreme emergent circumstances, this is what this legislation is for.

Mr. Speaker, because it talks about, the one that I just read, talked about section 14.8, I do want to read a little bit of that section into the record. 14.8(1) states that:

Any information or records obtained by a police service pursuant to this Act are confidential and may not be disclosed except in accordance with this section.

So in subsection (2) it describes when that information can be disclosed, disclosed only:

- (a) for the purpose of locating a missing person or a use consistent with that purpose;
- (b) if required by law;
- (c) to another law enforcement agency in Canada or a law enforcement agency in another country under an arrangement, written agreement, treaty or legislative authority, but only to the extent necessary to further the investigation into the missing person;
- (d) if the person to whom the information or records relate has consented to the disclosure; or
- (e) in accordance with subsections (3) to (6).

And I won't read the rest of that provision into the record because it is quite long. But I know I will have the opportunity to ask some more detailed questions about this particular bill, Mr. Speaker, in committee.

Mr. Speaker, one interesting provision in this bill is the definition in the bill for a missing person. I think it's a bit interesting, so maybe I'll read that into the record as well.

Mr. Speaker, 14.1, which is the definition section of Part II of this bill, defines "missing person" as:

'missing person' means a person whose whereabouts are unknown despite reasonable efforts to locate the person and:

- (a) who has not been in contact with those individuals who would likely or normally be in contact with the person; or
- (b) whose safety is feared for given the person's age, physical or intellectual capabilities or the circumstances surrounding the person's absence.

Mr. Speaker, so I suppose there would be the instance where some people choose to go missing, who choose to no longer be a part of whatever world that they're a part of, and we do need to respect that.

This bill, to my understanding, is to deal more with if someone is missing and there's reason to believe that they're in some imminent harm or risk of imminent harm or death, Mr. Speaker. And we do need those provisions to make sure that the authorities have what they need to ensure that they can do everything they can to get people home safe, Mr. Speaker.

So that, I think, will conclude my remarks on this bill. Mr. Speaker, I know I'll have the opportunity to ask more questions at committee, so I'm ready to allow Bill No. 106 to move along to committee.

The Speaker: — Question before the Assembly is a motion by the minister that Bill No. 106, *The Missing Persons and Presumption of Death 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: — Designate that Bill No. 106, *The Missing Persons and Presumption of Death 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 Douglas Park.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to rise this afternoon to speak to Bill No. 121, the cannabis control Act.

Mr. Speaker, this is a piece of legislation we've been waiting for for some time. To say the government dragged their feet on this file is an understatement, Mr. Speaker. We were the last province to finally come forward with what the plan was going to be for what happens in this province when cannabis is legalized. We were the last province to come forward with what the legal age was going to be, Mr. Speaker. We were the last province to determine the retail, wholesale market layout for Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. And through this bill, we're finally able to see some of the finer details of what that's going to look like when legalization happens.

Now I know because of the delays in the federal government world and some of the holdup with the Senate. And I think that's something, some disdain for the Senate, it's probably something we can get some bipartisan love on in this Chamber, Mr. Speaker. Some of the comments that I saw coming out of the Senate committee on this was comical, to say the least. It's probably the kindest thing I can say about some of those senators' comments on the legalization of cannabis, Mr. Speaker. Finally it's rolled its slow way — pun intended — past the Senate, and is now making its way through the rest of the legislative world federally, Mr. Speaker.

We don't know for sure when cannabis will be legalized. I think everyone thought it was going to be July 1st. Now it's sounding like it's going to be closer to maybe early fall. We don't know for sure, Mr. Speaker. But all that's to say is that we've known for a while now that this is coming down the pipe — pun intended, Mr. Speaker — but I was disappointed to see how long it took the provincial government to finally come forward with a plan.

And you know, I understand that the members opposite were going through a leadership race, but while you are going through a leadership race, you're also still running government. So I was concerned when I was hearing some of the leadership candidates' thoughts on cannabis. None of the . . . Oh, I can't, especially around the topics of legal age, Mr. Speaker. I do not want to speak to the presence or absence of members, so I'm just going to move on, Mr. Speaker. It was a bit concerning to see.

I was happy, and we were happy to see that the government made the legal age be 19. It makes logical sense, which I always like when the government does something that's logical. It doesn't always happen, but sometimes it does. It matches close to what Alberta has done. It's close to what our neighbours to the east, Manitoba, have done. It matches what we're doing, what we have for liquor, Mr. Speaker. So we were happy to see that that decision was made by government, and I will give the government credit for doing what they needed to do, internally, to make sure that the legal age was 19, Mr. Speaker.

That's all to say we still do have some other concerns about, you know, I don't want to give the government . . . I don't want to stand here and give the government credit all afternoon, Mr. Speaker, because then I wouldn't be doing my job. I know they can give themselves credit when they need to. I think it has been too much already. Let's move on to where they've gone wrong on this bill, Mr. Speaker.

I know this isn't particularly laid out in this bill, but it's still important. It does apply to this bill. It does deal with this bill, but that's the retail structure, Mr. Speaker. So the government has chosen, despite what came out in the government's own consultation process and public survey that came out.

And we heard lots of concerns about the public survey, as an aside. Concerns about the fact that you could make multiple entries into it. They didn't really provision for the fact that people could enter it from multiple devices. Also you could participate in this survey even if your IP [Internet protocol] address was outside of Saskatchewan. So there was some worry about some outside-of-Saskatchewan influence into that survey. But despite that, the survey is still the survey and the survey is still part of the consultation process that this government chose to put forward. So we should talk a little bit about what the results were of that survey, Mr. Speaker.

And I'm hoping that I have a copy of that survey in this binder, that would be really nice. But what I will say is that what I do remember off the top of my head, Mr. Speaker, is that the survey was quite definitive in terms of what the province wanted, what the people of the province wanted for the wholesale side of things, Mr. Speaker. The people that participated in this survey were quite adamant that they wanted the wholesale portion of the legalization of cannabis to be done through public means, through SLGA [Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority], Mr. Speaker.

And from our perspective, that makes sense. It's an infrastructure that already exists, Mr. Speaker. It's already doing that regulation-type role for our system, our liquor system. Don't get me wrong, there's some challenges

associated with that and some modernization that has to happen from the liquor front, but I'm concerned about us throwing out the baby with the bathwater when we're going through a fully private route.

The other concern is we're the only province in Canada that is going to go through, is going to have a private wholesale system, Mr. Speaker. So I'm all for Saskatchewan being leaders. But we do have some concerns, especially when it's something as new, as uncertain as legalizing cannabis, Mr. Speaker.

[15:30]

And then from what I remember from the survey, Mr. Speaker, the survey indicated that I think the folks were a little bit more on the fence in terms of what they wanted to see for the retail model. But I will convey, as I have been, I will convey again concerns we're hearing around the retail model as it's been set out by this government.

Now there's a two-step process that we're currently undergoing, Mr. Speaker, where applicants can apply and then, if they make it through the screening process, then they will be subject to a lottery system, Mr. Speaker. Now we've been hearing some concerns about the screening process. We have been advocating that if you're going to go through the process and you're going to go through a private retail model, that we'd like to see — because we've been hearing people in the province, small-business owners, entrepreneurs who want to see a leg-up or a benefit for Saskatchewan businesses, for Saskatchewan people — we feel that we should do everything we can to ensure that as much business opportunity is kept in this province, Mr. Speaker, so that we as a province can benefit as much as we can, as much as we should, Mr. Speaker, from the legalization of cannabis.

We feel that this is an economic opportunity, Mr. Speaker, and if done right, we could have a real exciting market here in this province. We're seeing a real blossoming, especially over the last several years, of the craft beer industry in Saskatchewan. And one thing that I see out of it when I hold meetings at my secondary office in Regina Douglas Park, which is at Maltby National, Mr. Speaker, across the street from my constituency office, is the level of pride and the level of . . . It's almost like a civic pride, a bit of a nationalist pride. That's not the right word; a civic pride is probably the one.

An Hon. Member: — A malty nationalist pride.

Ms. Sarauer: — A malty nationalist pride, yes, in these local brewers and these local business owners. The owners of Maltby National all live essentially within a two-block radius of where they're producing and selling their beer. It's kind of a cool thing, Mr. Speaker, and it's really become a community hub.

We could be doing the same thing with cannabis as long as we're allowing for a leg-up for local entrepreneurs. So it was very disappointing to see that the Sask Party has done nothing to provide for a leg-up for small-business owners, for local people. In fact, one of the provisions in the first round of selection is a requirement for . . . It's a financial stress test, is sort of what I've been using as a summary way to describe it,

making sure that they have, I suppose, sufficient capital assets, sufficient access to capital before they make it through the first round of screening.

There's some very serious, legitimate concerns that that's going to weed out — pun intended — some of these local business owners, some of these people who really want to participate in this market but may not have access to multi-millions of dollars of capital, Mr. Speaker. I don't know what the cut-off limit is. I'm not privy to that level of information, Mr. Speaker, but what I've been hearing is that the applicants aren't privy to that information either.

So there's some concern about when subjectivity gets inserted into the selection processes, that that will be used in a way to narrow down who will be successful. We learned last week, and I was really excited that the minister was going to put forward some further information about how the selection was going, really excited to see that he chose 4/20 to do it, but very disappointed to not hear any further information about how folks were moving around that selection process.

It was interesting to hear that, I think it said, 1,500 or so applicants were received for the limited amount of retail licences that will be handed out. Mr. Speaker, it's no surprise to see there was so many licences. I am hearing some concerns from some stakeholders that there are some folks who are using numbered companies to submit multiple applications, even though they're only supposed to put one forward.

So I'm hoping then in that first round of selection process — and I'm hoping that this is putting the minister on notice — that that first round of selection process, that they're using that process to ensure that multiple applicants are being vetted out, Mr. Speaker, and that process is maintained with the integrity that it needs to, Mr. Speaker.

We're happy . . . or we understand, I suppose, the caution in not necessarily putting out 1,500 licences. That seems a little extreme. But seeing that the market, as it was starting to build before some of these weed shops that were opening up, Mr. Speaker, over the course of the last year in places like Regina and Saskatoon, and seeing the market that was for them, we were cautioning the government, warning the government that the numbers that they were putting forward for licences may not be enough to serve the need. And you might find that quite quickly we're going to need to do this process again to allow for more licences.

We do understand and think it's probably prudent to allow for a restricted number of licences, but we would have liked to see something slightly more, maybe about a dozen more retail licences being offered than what are offered now. This is an expensive process and it's a time-consuming process, both for applicants as well as for ministry officials and the third party that's contracted out. So we don't want to see it have to go through a process again in short order, when we see that the market is what it is.

So, Mr. Speaker, we're looking forward to seeing more details about how the first phase worked, and I know business owners are very anxiously awaiting the results of the first phase in particular. They really want to know the results of the second

phase. I was disappointed to hear that it's going to take quite a bit longer before we know the results of the second phase, Mr. Speaker.

There's many business owners who are eagerly awaiting to know whether or not they get those retail locations, and once they get that permit they're going to have a lot of work that they need to do. They're going to have to find space to rent. They're going to have to work to obtain product, Mr. Speaker. They're going to have to apply . . . They're going to have to hire employees, Mr. Speaker. It takes a while to get a business off the ground, and you can't really start that process in advance too much, because of the way the system works. If you're not successful in getting a retail permit, there's . . . Any other way of doing this type of work is illegal, Mr. Speaker. So you don't want to spend too much time or spend too much capital setting up a shop that you may not have access to.

So I encourage the minister to ensure that this process moves expeditiously so that these business owners can get the job, or get the work that they need to do so that they can be ready as soon as cannabis is legalized, because, Mr. Speaker, the whole point . . . well one of the points of legalizing cannabis is to do what we can to cut out the black market. And if these business owners aren't ready to go in time for the legalization of cannabis, it could take several months for these business owners to be able to know if they're successful, and then to get their businesses off the ground. It's defeating the purpose and the black market is still what's taking precedent, Mr. Speaker.

We do also have some concerns about, as I had said already, about the warehousing side of this. So we've talked a lot about the retail permitting process. There's also a warehousing permitting process going on at the same time. That piece we know even less about in terms of when that's going to be completed. I look forward to getting more details from the minister at some point about this. We've heard a lot of questions about what that's going to look like. How many licences are going to be handed out? I think the last time I saw some media about this, I think the minister said, I think he said unlimited. Or I think he said that they weren't sure how many yet.

So we have some questions. We don't know yet if it's just going to be one person who gets a licence or if it's going to be 10 people who get a licence. If they're going . . . and the government has decided to go through the private route, you know, there's an opportunity there for, like I was talking about, the craft beer market, how there could be an opportunity for smaller businesses to have permits. I'm not sure if there's a plan to just have one large business.

In any event, there are some similar concerns to the wholesale permitting process as there is to the retail permitting process around the financial stress test. That piece is in the wholesaling piece as well. So we're not sure who that's going to weed out — pun intended, Mr. Speaker — and who's going to be able to qualify for one of those permits.

That's a pretty lucrative permit to get. I would say all of those permits are quite lucrative to get, but wholesaling in particular is going to be a really big piece of the pie. It's going to be a really important permit. It's going to be a really important piece

of this whole new regulatory and economic sphere that we'll have in this province, Mr. Speaker.

So I'm looking forward to hearing more details from the minister about this process, about what the requirements are. I'm not totally sure if this is similar to the retail process, that there is a first-stage screening process and a second-stage lottery process. I don't think I've seen any of that in the media yet. So we'd have some concerns if there isn't some sort of objective portion to that licence being obtained.

But that's another one actually, Mr. Speaker, that now that I think about it is even more in need of being expeditious than the retail permitting process, because that's going to be, like I said, a very large piece of how this is going to roll out. Those successful retail applicants will have to utilize the wholesaler to be able to get their product, Mr. Speaker. So the wholesaler's also going to have to be set up and ready to go for the retail locations to be able to utilize that.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I see that I do have the survey. I think this is the survey . . . yes, the survey, Mr. Speaker, that was done by the government. I do want to talk a little bit more about what the people of Saskatchewan wanted to see with respect to this.

Now I would say . . . Here's one in particular. The survey asked what requirements should be considered in developing rules and regulations for cannabis retailers. The vast majority of respondents wanted to ensure that there were some requirements around whether minors should be allowed in the premises and where retail cannabis stores can be located. Now I think this bill has a provision in there regarding minors being allowed in the premises — and that they're not, and that there's some authority for investigators to ask folks for their ID [identification] for proof of age if they're in there. As well as, I believe, police have that authority as well.

I don't think there's anything in here about where retail cannabis stores can be located. I can't quite recall. I do know that a large piece of that is going to be municipal, that municipalities are going to have to make that decision. And we're starting to see municipalities actually have that consultation and have that discussion. I think I just saw Saskatoon has been talking about this lately, along with North Battleford. Frankly, Mr. Speaker, I've been reading so much, so many news articles across the province, about cannabis over the last year now, that it all sort of starts to blur together, Mr. Speaker.

Municipalities have a large role to play in this, Mr. Speaker. We're starting to talk about that right now and where the stores can be located, what they're allowed to be around, Mr. Speaker. We're hearing a lot of concern from municipal leaders that they feel that a lot of this regulatory burden, the financial regulatory burden, is going to be on them and that they're not getting the cut of the tax revenue that they feel they should get. And we agree with them, Mr. Speaker. Some of these bylaw enforcement pieces are going to be quite, quite important, Mr. Speaker, as well as some concerns around policing, Mr. Speaker, and whether or not there's going to be an extra cost associated with that.

I know, for example, the Regina police and the Saskatoon

police have a bit of a difference of opinion on how much that's actually going to cost them. It's a pretty significant difference actually, Mr. Speaker, but I think it's fair to say that there may be an increase. In any event, the province should be ensuring that they have what they need to make sure that this new process gets rolled out and continues to be in effect as safe as possible, Mr. Speaker. So that's one of the things we have been calling on, Mr. Speaker, because we have been hearing that from municipal leaders. And we're interested to see what more of the municipalities do, Mr. Speaker.

[15:45]

There are a lot of municipalities that the province has agreed to provide retail location permits for. I think there were a few municipalities that actually chose to opt out. Five of them that opted out were Pilot Butte, Biggar, Kindersley, White City, and Shellbrook. Mr. Speaker, there are the other municipalities that were granted permits. I have that list somewhere. Mr. Speaker, I certainly have that list somewhere. It's several different locations. I know that there was, I believe, the government used a minimum population limit to choose who would be entitled to these permits.

So the permits that are going to be made available will be located in the following communities: Assiniboia, Battleford, Canora, Esterhazy, Estevan, Fort Qu'Appelle, Humboldt, La Loche, La Ronge, Lloydminster, Maple Creek, Martensville, Meadow Lake, Melfort, Melville, Moose Jaw, Moosomin, Nipawin, North Battleford, Outlook, Prince Albert, Regina, the RM [rural municipality] of Corman Park, the RM of Edenwold, Rosetown, Saskatoon, Swift Current, Tisdale, Unity, Warman, Weyburn, Yorkton.

One thing I read that was kind of interesting recently was around . . . actually something I was surprised to read was that in the states where cannabis has been legalized for a bit now, they found actually that the communities where these cannabis stores were located in, these retail locations, the property values of the homes around them have actually risen, which I was actually a bit surprised by. Where I live in the city we had quite a few of those shops open up. I never went into any of them but I did walk by them on the street, Mr. Speaker. And you know, I was surprised to hear that that would have gone up in . . . would cause my property to rise in value, Mr. Speaker. It was very interesting to learn.

So I guess that's to say, that's to add to what I was talking about earlier. Regina's only getting six retail permit locations. I think when the police chief started in Regina, he started to shut them down. We were sitting at about 12, I believe, 12, 13 retail locations, none of whom I entered into, Mr. Speaker. It was about 13 locations. But although I did not enter into any of them and I live quite close to them, I could see how busy the traffic was around those locations, how many people were coming and going. And actually what was interesting was how some of the businesses beside them were actually doing more business. There was just more traffic, foot traffic coming in.

So all that's to say is that . . . That's again to express the concern that six retail permits may not be quite enough for Regina, that perhaps a few more might have been the smarter move, Mr. Speaker. But we are going to wait and see how this

whole thing rolls out.

Moving to the bill in more specific detail . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Oh yes, pun intended, Mr. Speaker.

Moving to the bill in more specific detail, from what I understand based on what I've heard in the media and what I've seen in the legislation, I believe the intent of this legislation was largely to mirror what we are doing with liquor and move it into this sort of context. So some of the provisions around the authority, some of the structure is largely analogous to what we see in how we handle liquor, Mr. Speaker.

One thing that's interesting that I do want to point out, Mr. Speaker, to those who are listening, as I believe there is something in here. Yes, it's 1-4, Mr. Speaker. It's at the beginning of the bill. It states that this bill does not apply to cannabis for medical purposes. It says:

Unless otherwise prescribed, this Act does not apply to the consumption, possession, distribution, purchase or sale of cannabis for medical purposes that occurs in accordance with the requirements of the applicable federal law.

So, Mr. Speaker, while I've been doing an extensive amount of outreach and consultation with respect to this, to the legalization of cannabis and how it will be effected and how folks want to see it effected in Saskatchewan, I'm hearing a lot about medical cannabis and I'm hearing a lot from medical cannabis users and the problems that they're experiencing in the system that they are forced to deal with, Mr. Speaker.

Now from my understanding, the federal government has not given authority to the provinces. They haven't delegated their authority over to the provinces to deal with medical cannabis. So that's still a federal jurisdiction issue and this is actually separate and apart from medical cannabis. So we're hearing a lot of folks talk about medical cannabis as if the province has the authority to deal with it. Unfortunately, we don't. And those who go through the medical cannabis stream still have to deal with the federal government, which means that they can't go to a front-line store, they can't go through a . . . There's no storefront for them. They have to go online, on the phone, to deal with the federally regulated licensed producers. They have to deal with somebody who may or may not know their particular ailment, their particular issue.

And another concern we're hearing is that there's a requirement for you to have a credit card to be able to access those federal licensed producers, and that actually inhibits many folks from being able to obtain medical cannabis. If they don't have a credit card, then they can't get medical cannabis. And it's actually quite expensive, Mr. Speaker, and from what I've heard, the quality is not quite up to snuff yet. And that's what happens sometimes when government gets all — pun intended — when government gets involved with, gets up to, gets in the business of growing weed, I suppose, Mr. Speaker.

This is a really important thing that we need to be talking about, and I do think that we should be calling on the federal government to be doing a better job in the medical cannabis stream. We're so focused on retail cannabis and what that means that we've lost focus on this also very important stream.

And many folks are feeling caught between the cracks. Many folks are feeling left out of this conversation.

When recreational cannabis is legalized, there are certain things that . . . Only a certain kind of cannabis is going to be legalized. It's just dried-form cannabis, Mr. Speaker. So many folks rely on cannabis oil, for example, and they need that particular oil and that's what they have found works for them. That's not going to be legalized, Mr. Speaker. That's still only legal through the medical cannabis stream, Mr. Speaker. So when you have all these limits to being able to get that and we're so focused on the retail cannabis side, it's leaving a lot of folks in the lurch, Mr. Speaker. And they're coming to us because they're frustrated because their members of parliament aren't listening to them.

And they're seeing all of this attention, all of this focus on retail cannabis, and they're frustrated and rightly so that . . . I can't hear what the member from Moose Jaw is yelling at me, Mr. Speaker. If they're frustrated with . . . If they're having a difficult time getting access to the medical treatment that they need and that works for them, Mr. Speaker, that's a problem. We need to ensure that we're doing what we can to lift up their voices to ensure that the federal government steps up to the plate and also reviews the medical cannabis sector.

From what I've read, Mr. Speaker, the federal government says that they're going to take I think the next five years, or in the next five years they're going to be reviewing medical cannabis and how that's working in light of recreational cannabis being legalized. And I have some pretty serious concerns about what's going to happen in the meantime. All these folks that we talk to that desperately need this medication . . . And I do and I stand by saying that it is medication because it does help a lot of people, Mr. Speaker. I had a meeting with someone who has stage IV cancer who it's the only thing that . . . Cannabis oil is all he has to help with his chronic pain, Mr. Speaker.

So it's an important piece of the discussion that sadly I think is being lost out of this whole thing through the excitement of recreational cannabis, and understandably so. The piece that's being lost is those who rely on the medical cannabis and how difficult it is for folks to be able to obtain what they want, Mr. Speaker. So I did want to point out that provision in the bill and the fact that . . . Because I do think that there's some confusion jurisdictionally as to who has what power over what — that the province does not have the power to issue retail locations for medical cannabis providers; they only have the power to issue retail locations for recreational cannabis providers.

There's a few other concerns that we had with respect to the bill. I understand there's some powers in here, that there's a cannabis authority that's going to be created. So we're curious to know more details about that cannabis authority. That's another piece that I'm thinking is probably supposed to be similar to what we see for the Liquor and Gaming Authority. Mr. Speaker, I'm curious to know if there's going to be a separate . . . if that's going to be rolled into SLGA — pun intended — or if that's going to be something completely separate, Mr. Speaker.

There is also some concerns that we've raised already and I want to raise again around some of the powers that are provided

to officers. So one of them in particular is set out, I think it's set out in section 4-4. And I'm just going to read this into the record, Mr. Speaker. It states:

For the purposes of administering and enforcing this Act and the regulations, a police officer may:

(a) at any reasonable time, enter and inspect:

(i) a premises for which a cannabis permit has been issued;

(ii) any other premises, place or conveyance that the police officer reasonably believes is being used for the sale, possession, consumption, transportation or distribution of cannabis in contravention of this Act and the regulations;

(b) make any inspection, investigation or inquiry that the police officer considers necessary regarding cannabis permits and related activities;

(c) subject to subsection 4-10(3), at any reasonable time, enter any place or premises containing any record or property that is required to be kept by a permittee pursuant to this Act or the regulations or that relates to the sale, possession, consumption, transportation or distribution of cannabis, and inspect those records or that property; [and then]

(d) in order to produce a record in readable form, use data storage, information processing or retrieval devices or systems or other devices or systems that are ordinarily used in carrying on business at the place or premises;

(e) make a copy of any record described in clause (c) or, if the police officer is unable to make a satisfactory copy, after giving a receipt remove and retain the record for any period the police officer considers reasonable;

(f) with respect to a person who is in, or has been in, a premises and to whom the police officer believes cannabis may have been furnished:

(i) ask the person for proof of his or her age; and

(ii) make other inquiries of the person;

(g) with respect to a person who may be a minor in a premises for which a cannabis permit has been issued:

(i) ask the person for proof of his or her age; and

(ii) make other inquiries of the person.

Now I have no concern about a police officer entering a retail permit location and asking for proof of age, but I am concerned about what "make other inquiries" of this person means, Mr. Speaker. It's quite broad. And also I'm concerned about the ability for the police officers to have the power to inspect at any reasonable time the records of that property, Mr. Speaker.

There's systems in place to ensure that businesses — and this

will be a business, a legal business — has the ability . . . There's processes for police officers to obtain warrants and things like that to ensure that privacy is being protected, Mr. Speaker.

[16:00]

When we're giving police officers this kind of power, especially in a system like this when we're talking about legalizing cannabis, you can understand why there'd be some caution. You can understand why there'd be some hesitancy. Mr. Speaker, there is some stigma still attached to cannabis users. That stigma is not going to necessarily go away just because it's been legalized.

So there's some concerns as to why this much power is being provided to police officers to get this kind of detailed information, this type of information from businesses about who their clients are and who's utilizing their services, Mr. Speaker.

And I imagine the wider public would be concerned about that too. I imagine those customers to those businesses are going to have some concerns once they realize that these provisions are in place, Mr. Speaker. So I'm going to be asking some questions around why that authority is necessary, Mr. Speaker, when I have the opportunity to ask questions of the officials at committee, Mr. Speaker.

Because I think it's important that what we're doing, while we're making sure that the system is safe, is respecting these customers, Mr. Speaker. Considering the government that we have now, you would expect that they wouldn't want a whole lot of government infringement or government fingers in these businesses. But we see provisions like this in legislation, and they raise some flags for us. We just want to ensure that people's rights are being respected, Mr. Speaker.

And like I said again, this is going to be legal, Mr. Speaker. These are legal businesses. While we do think that it's important that there be provisions, especially for the cannabis authority to ensure that everything that's happening, that these permit holders, these businesses are following the regulations and following the law, Mr. Speaker, we do have to be cognizant of the other challenges as well.

Mr. Speaker, I think the last thing I want to talk about with respect to this bill, the concern that we have around — and I brought this up before when I asked questions about this — around some of the other provisions in this bill and whether or not they're actually enforceable. Mr. Speaker, there is a provision in this bill, and I can't quite find it right now because frankly I've been talking for a long time and everything's starting to look a little blurry — pun also intended — that I think that there is a rule in here that stipulates that you cannot have cannabis in your vehicle unless you are travelling from the point of purchase to point of consumption, Mr. Speaker. And well that reminds me that there's some questions that we should talk about around where you're allowed to actually consume cannabis. So I hope I don't forget that before I sit down, but it is important to talk about the restrictions around having cannabis in your vehicle.

So when I first learned this, or I first learned this was a provision in the bill and I first read that, one of our . . . I realized that this is quite similar to how we treat a restricted firearm. You can't have, so you can't have . . . For example, you can't go to a retail location, pick up your, you know, the cannabis, the legal cannabis you're allowed to have because it's legal, and go perhaps to fill up your car with gas or go to the grocery store, run some errands before you head on home. No, you've got to . . . the government, Big Brother, wants you to go directly to the point of purchase, to the place of consumption. Do not pass go. Do not stop. Do not collect \$200, Mr. Speaker.

There are some pretty major concerns. First of all, why we're treating cannabis like a restricted firearm, Mr. Speaker. And second of all, how on earth is this going to be enforceable? So how is . . . If someone pulls someone over, how will the officer be able to prove that you weren't driving home at that time? And how much manpower or person power is going to be spent enforcing a rule like that, Mr. Speaker? I'm guessing not a ton, Mr. Speaker, but then why are we putting this provision in place?

And then I learned, I think it was from the minister's comments in the media — and I thank him for this information — that is actually the rules around alcohol, that you cannot have alcohol in your vehicle, and that simply this rule is mirroring what we have for liquor, which was a surprise to me, Mr. Speaker. I didn't know that I could go to a liquor store, pick up my bottle of wine, and I had to go straight home. I could not stop for gas, could not go get groceries. That's unreal to me, Mr. Speaker. I had no idea.

And clearly that's not being enforced. And I don't know why we're putting new legislation forward that's based on legislation that's not really enforceable to begin with, Mr. Speaker. I don't know why we're . . . I guess some of these provisions come from our history of prohibition, Mr. Speaker, and what's flowed out of that. But why are we doing that in this new sphere? It doesn't make sense to me. I'm not a fan of unenforceable legislation, Mr. Speaker, and so that's just why I'm putting those concerns on the record.

Now I thought that was the last thing I was going to say about this bill, but there's one more thing I wanted to say about this bill that I remembered, was the provisions around where you can consume cannabis. So from my understanding you cannot consume cannabis in a public location. So parks, streets, basically anywhere essentially, you're not going to be able to consume cannabis. You also can't consume cannabis in the place of purchase so we can't have shops where you can . . . Yes, no pot shops where you can smoke and then walk home, because we wouldn't want . . . You know there's also rules in place around driving. There's a zero tolerance rule around driving. That's a different bill so I won't speak about that right now.

But I do want to raise the concern — and this actually also flows out of another bill but all of these are interrelated — that because of the rules around you not being able to consume cannabis in public, those who are renters, if your landlord chooses, as is provision under another bill that we're debating right now in second reading, if the landlord chooses to state that you cannot consume cannabis in your rental location, you

cannot smoke cannabis in your rental location. Renters don't really have a place where they can smoke cannabis. You better hope that they have a friend who owns a home who has that private residence that they can live in.

Again this is pretty restrictive. Again I'm raising a flag about the enforceability of something like this, Mr. Speaker. I know you could walk down Vic Park right now and probably see a few folks imbibing on something that's not necessarily legal. And I'm not totally convinced that that's going to go away once cannabis is legalized, Mr. Speaker. I'm not saying whether or not that's appropriate. All I'm saying is that as legislators we should ensure that the legislation that we're passing is enforceable or as enforceable as we can make it.

So I think I've expended all of the comments I wanted to make with respect to this bill. Frankly I've run out of steam. And I know I'll have the opportunity to ask questions at committee, but I do have other colleagues who want to enter in debate on this bill. So I'm going to adjourn debate on Bill No. 121.

The Speaker: — The member for Regina Douglas Park 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 Douglas Park.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise in debate once again this afternoon to speak to Bill 121's sister bill, Bill 122, the cannabis control consequential amendments Act, 2018.

Now I know members opposite really are hoping that they're going to hear me speak for another 40 minutes on cannabis and all of the concerns and all of the interesting issues that pertain to the legalization of cannabis in Saskatchewan. It is actually a really interesting thing that's going on, Mr. Speaker. And it is going to be interesting to see it all roll out, Mr. Speaker — once again, pun intended.

But I think I've put all my remarks on this legislation on the record when I talked about Bill No. 121. So as such I know I have other colleagues who are also going to want to talk to Bill 122, and I'm going to at this time adjourn debate on this bill.

The Speaker: — The member for Regina Douglas Park 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. 127

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Harpauer that **Bill No. 127 — *The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2018*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Always good to take my place in this Assembly and join the debate on the matters before us, in this case Bill No. 127, *The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2018*.

Now the bill itself relates to other pieces of legislation that we'll get to later in the agenda here, Mr. Speaker. And anyway it's always interesting to see the approach of members opposite to the tax code. And certainly coming on the heels of last year's budget, the measures contained in this year's budget are of course very much, they refer to very much what had gone before. So I guess file this one under measure once, cut twice, Mr. Speaker, in terms of the personal income tax rate changes that were announced last year, wherein there'd be a two-stage reduction. An initial half-point reduction on July 1st, 2017. Well, they made it for that one, Mr. Speaker. And then a second half-point reduction on July 1st, 2019. That one's been frozen in this piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker.

And again, if you'll cast your mind back, that was part of the then minister of Finance, the member from Regina Northeast . . . Got to see him the other day, out for lunch with the former member from Regina Douglas Park at one of the finer Vietnamese establishments in this town, Mr. Speaker, and it was good to see them doing well. I'm sure they were getting ready to pay the, you know, not just the bill for their meal, but the expanded PST [provincial sales tax] as well on that fine repast, Mr. Speaker.

But certainly when the budget was introduced last year, there was a lot made of the way that this was going to finally get us off the income tax roller coaster. And that of course has shifted this year into, you know, we're going to get off the resource revenue dependency. But at the time, Mr. Speaker, there was a lot made that they needed this big, expanded focus on PST expansion, on consumption tax expansion, to get us off the income tax roller coaster. And of course the reductions that were referenced, Mr. Speaker, again the half-point reduction, again July 1st, 2017, and then the second one which was to come, well that's been frozen, and that is accomplished in this piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker.

And there's not much reference given to the fact that, you know, what's this going to do to the great move, the great policy shift on the part of that government, to moving off the income tax roller coaster and getting into consumption taxes. Because they certainly got into the consumption taxes, Mr.

Speaker. But as regards to the income tax shift, you know, zap you're frozen, you know, seeing as we're all interested in the sayings of Pierre Elliott Trudeau these days in the House.

Oh, and I hear the tax freezer herself, the tax-cut zapper herself talking from her chair, and you know it's always interesting to see. Oh, and now the member from Martensville is upset and saddened and I think disappointed in me — more so than usual, because normally her approval is, I have to say, kind of scarce, Mr. Speaker. And you know, every day though, I get up and soldier on despite that. But you know, you do what you can. You do what you can.

[16:15]

But again, it's an interesting budget that we've got in front of us, Mr. Speaker, in terms of Bill No. 127, and again, the big sort of bold news that were ballyhooed in last year's budget and the way that some of that stuff is silently or quietly taken out with the trash in this budget, Mr. Speaker. But again, the promised income tax reduction frozen, frozen in this particular budget, Mr. Speaker.

Bill 127 also involves the existing . . . And again I'm referring to the minister's second reading speech from April 24th — in *Hansard* of course, Mr. Speaker, so any mistakes of course are my own in the quotation here. But I'll try to be as faithful to the speech as I can, Mr. Speaker. But in terms of the legislation maintaining the existing provincial infirm dependent tax credit and caregiver tax credit, quoting from the minister's second reading speech:

In its 2017-18 budget, the federal government announced a consolidation of federal caregiver-related income tax credits into a single Canada caregiver [tax] credit. Saskatchewan will not mirror the federal change in order to ensure that dependants who are currently eligible to be claimed under these tax credits remain eligible.

I guess in this case, Mr. Speaker, it's good to see, you know, if the feds jump off a cliff, that the province doesn't have to jump off as well. But they're certainly . . . Good to see that they're making sure that those eligible dependants can still be claimed, and certainly for folks that are claiming that caregiver tax credit, Mr. Speaker, there's often a significant tax need there, income support need there. So we're glad to see that part of it.

Again, you know, following the lead of the . . . or, you know, responding to federal moves where:

In October 2017, the federal government announced an adjustment to the taxation of non-eligible dividends, generally those received from small business corporations, beginning in 2018. As a result of the linkage between the federal and provincial personal income tax systems, the federal change would automatically increase provincial income taxes on this type of dividend income. To offset this potential increase to provincial income taxes and to maintain the current level of provincial tax on non-eligible dividends, Saskatchewan will amend provincial legislation.

This is one that I'd be interested to hear more about and certainly will look to the good work of our Finance critic taking

up the line of inquiry in committee, Mr. Speaker, in terms of the tax implications of this and in terms of how the expenditure is booked in the budget, how many filers this will apply to, the particulars of the measure, Mr. Speaker. But again this is something that we'll be interested to see how this plays out in terms of the way that federal-provincial relations are carried out and as impacts Saskatchewan, and whether or not . . . Is this one where the province has been asleep at the switch? Or does it advance the Saskatchewan interest, Mr. Speaker? We'll be mightily interested to see.

In terms of the . . . Again we'll get into these in further debate, Mr. Speaker, but anticipated in Bill 127, there's also mention of the value-added ag incentive and the Saskatchewan technology start-up incentive. And again on these two measures, Mr. Speaker, we'll be interested to see more of the rationale in terms of the particulars. Again with the technology start-up incentive, Mr. Speaker, we've seen this government go around the block a few different times in a few different ways on this particular policy front, Mr. Speaker, introducing, repealing, trying to figure out, you know, what the heck's going on, it would seem.

But certainly, Mr. Speaker, in terms of the tech start-up initiative, we've got a great cluster in tech in this province, Mr. Speaker, and anything that will genuinely help out that growth sector in this economy, we would look on that favourably, Mr. Speaker. But as ever, the devil's in the details. And we'll be interested to see if this is just a matter of this government parcelling up taxpayers' dollars to hand over to different organizations to help them as they move out of the province. We'll be interested to see what sort of safeguards are there in that regard, Mr. Speaker. We'll be interested to see in terms of, does this genuinely help out start-ups or does it add advantage to established players and sharpen their already significant presence in the sector? So again we'll be looking at that one closely and, you know, examine more, on a more thorough basis in committee, I am sure, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

As regards to the value-added ag incentive, again, Mr. Speaker, you know, diversifying the Saskatchewan economy and diversifying the ag sector is something that numerous governments have thrown a lot of effort at over the years. We'll be interested to see how that one takes place, and perhaps I'll save my discussion of that for a more close discussion under the bill directed at that itself, Bill No. 125.

But again on that, Mr. Speaker, we'll have questions on the threshold that was arrived at in terms of eligibility, in terms of refundable versus non-refundable, how that plays out. The administration, ease of administration, there will be a number of questions certainly for that front, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

And certainly mid-year, this government introduced the increase of the small-business income threshold from 500,000 to 600,000, Mr. Speaker. And again in terms of anticipated job spin-off, in terms of anticipated economic activity that would usher forth from this threshold increase, you know, in terms of where this came from on the part of the government, you know, it had the hallmarks of the government looking for something to change the channel from some particularly bad moves that they made in the budget to, you know, try and rally up their credentials as somehow a defender of small business — small businesses, many of which that government had increased the

PST burden upon mightily in the last year's budget, Mr. Speaker.

So I get that they needed something to be able to go out and say, look, isn't this a great thing? But in terms of being able to explain the benefit of it, in terms of anticipated job growth, in terms of anticipated economic activity, Mr. Speaker, and how that would in turn offset the increased . . . the billion-dollar tax increase that went with the PST expansion, an increase in last year's budget, Mr. Speaker, that discussion was, and I've . . . You know, it's a funny thing about this job. Sometimes you get to follow it live in committee and sometimes you're home and you tune in on *Hansard* TV. And, Mr. Speaker, that was when I followed from the home front and it didn't . . . I'm sure it made about as much sense live and in concert, Mr. Speaker, as it did on television, which is not to say very much, which is to say not very much, Mr. Speaker.

So again there are a number of things that, you know, Bill No. 127 sets out to accomplish as part of the budget and is subject to the requirements under the budget around the amount of time that we'll have to debate. But again, Mr. Speaker, I think the big picture for Saskatchewan people is still they can tinker around the edges on some of these things, but it's pretty hard to get over the billion dollar tax increase that went with last year's budget.

I know other of my colleagues will have more to say on this front, Mr. Speaker, but for the time being, I'd move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 127, *The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2018*.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 127, *The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2018*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 128

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Harpauer that **Bill No. 128 — *The Provincial Sales Tax Amendment Act, 2018*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. You know, picking up where we left off under the last piece of legislation, again in terms of the . . . There's some tinkering around the edges that went with this year's budget. There is some helpful things, for sure, provided in this budget, Mr. Speaker. But again it's against this backdrop of the billion dollar tax increase that went with last year's budget. So they can rearrange the deck chairs on that particular *Titanic*, Mr. Speaker, all they like, but it doesn't take away from the fact of the significant impact that has on business, on small business, on organizations throughout the province, and certainly on families, Mr. Speaker, in terms of the impact of last year's budget.

But as to the particulars in this one, and again it's . . . You know, you pay attention to what's happening in this place over time, Mr. Speaker. And you know, there's this old saying that, you know, history happens the first time as a tragedy and the second time as farce. You know, the removal of the PST off of used vehicles, Mr. Speaker, the way that that was put forward in the 2007 budget.

And mind you, I can also remember when this government, in opposition was talking about how they were going to take off gas tax or provide some kind of a gas tax rebate, Mr. Speaker. And you know, I'll be interested to see if we hear anything about that in the days to come from members opposite because again, the price of gas is going up. And in opposition they certainly had a lot of things to say about it but, you know, threw that to the sides come the hustings in 2007.

But one thing they did run on and certainly had some fancy things to say about it, was the removal of PST from used vehicles in the 2007 election. I think the then leader of the Sask Party, soon to be premier, Brad Wall, talked about, you know, having a tax on used vehicles was a stupid idea. You know, it certainly gets the point across, Mr. Speaker, but again what was stupid back then is now soon to be government policy, Mr. Speaker, and brought to us courtesy the work of Bill No. 128, *The Provincial Sales Tax Amendment Act, 2018*.

And again they've tried to dress it up with, you know, coats and hats and scarves and all this, Mr. Speaker, in terms of the \$5,000 ceiling, Mr. Speaker, or the way that that's going to be adjudicated post facto by SGI, Mr. Speaker. You know, for people that preach the values of small government, they keep having these plans to come forward that involve an awful lot of government intervention to make them happen, Mr. Speaker.

So that they're that desperate to go after something that they'd once decried as a stupid tax, Mr. Speaker, you know, having screwed up the way that trade-ins are an incentive and quite helpful to people selling cars in this province, Mr. Speaker, in the last budget they compound that by, you know, reversing course, but again engaging in something that they'd once decried as stupid.

So I guess, you know, to borrow from the great sage, Forrest Gump, Mr. Speaker, "stupid is as stupid does," I guess would be one of the takeaways there, Mr. Speaker.

[16:30]

In terms of . . . Again other things that are updated in the legislation, there's, oh, an exemption on the PST for naloxone and certain other non-prescription drugs used to treat life-threatening conditions; an exemption of PST on prepared food and beverages sold by charitable or non-profit organizations at concessions. Again, Mr. Speaker, these would seem to be pretty straightforward, but again get into the kind of territory that you have when you expand the PST so massively onto food and onto restaurant meals, Mr. Speaker. These are the kind of, you know, in terms of the food sold at concessions . . . Again this is a government that ran on, in 2106, the home-based business, sort of special treatments, Mr. Speaker, to enhance the, I don't know, the sale of pies or cookies or what have you.

And again, Mr. Speaker, great. But all of those initiatives take on a certain ironic hue, Mr. Speaker, when it comes to the way that — again with no consultation, going back on years of policy for that government — the PST was massively expanded onto restaurant meals and onto many items of food.

And, Mr. Speaker, it's again perhaps a sign of a government that's grown in its desperation, where the chickens are coming home to roost in terms of bad choices that have been made, in terms of revenues that have been blown through, and where you've got to paper it together. But you know, I can well remember the petitions being delivered in pizza boxes and all of that, Mr. Speaker, and aided and abetted by many of the members opposite.

And I also know, Mr. Speaker, that in terms of what's happening for PST impacts in the constituency that I have the privilege to represent, Mr. Speaker . . . The downtown is a big part of the great riding of Regina Elphinstone-Centre, and the impact that that has had — that PST expansion, Mr. Speaker — to employment and to businesses and their bottom line all the way through Regina Elphinstone-Centre it's, you know, like job-killing comes to mind, business-killing comes to mind, Mr. Speaker, in terms of the impacts that this government is having, I know, throughout what has been a thriving part of the economy in Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

And I guess, Mr. Speaker, what a shame that, you know, they brought this in under the guise of oh, we're going to shift to consumption taxes and get off the income tax dependency. But what a shame they didn't feel so as emboldened to share that with the electorate at electorate times and say, hey, we've got this great idea, this great policy initiative. We're going to shift it onto, we're going to expand the PST onto restaurant meals. Yes, no, we thought that was stupid in other years, Mr. Speaker, but here we are, you know, what do you think? And I think they know what people would've thought of that, which is why of course it was brought in last year. And for the tinkering that goes on in this particular piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker, it's not going to turn that damage around.

We'll be interested to see what a chilling effect, what a hurtful effect their ongoing changes make to the sale of used vehicles in this province, Mr. Speaker. And, you know, there's a great thing went around on social media the day after the budget, the day of the budget, you know, trying to guess how many cars do you think are going to be . . . used cars are going to be for sale at \$4,999.99, Mr. Speaker? And of course the government's answer to that is that they're going to send in SGI to do a bunch of after-the-fact evaluations, Mr. Speaker.

It sounds like they're making up some of these things as they go along. It sounds like it's a pretty small back of the envelope that they're making up some of these things on, Mr. Speaker. So we'll be interested to see how this all comes out in the wash, Mr. Speaker but again in terms of the damage that was done in last year's budget, Mr. Speaker, particularly under the heading of the provincial sales tax, that damage goes on, is real, and is not turned around by this piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I know other of my colleagues will have more to say on this front so at this time I will move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 128, *The Provincial Sales Tax Amendment Act, 2018*.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 128, *The Provincial Sales Tax Amendment Act, 2018*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 124

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Duncan that **Bill No. 124 — *The Environmental Management and Protection (Environmental Handling Charges) Amendment Act, 2018*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Again, good to join debate, take my place and get a few thoughts on the record as regards Bill No. 124, *The Environmental Management and Protection (Environmental Handling Charges) Amendment Act, 2018*.

Again, Mr. Speaker, there's a fairly interesting speech put on the record April 23rd, 2018 by the Minister of the Environment as regards different of the desired impacts of this particular piece of legislation. But in the main, Mr. Speaker, it's about increasing the amount that the government takes in terms of deposit and essentially moving what you pay on a . . . Here we go. Again, so as to get this as straightforward as I can, Mr. Speaker, it was again put over the side by the government in advance of the budget in a pre-budget release March 23rd.

March 23rd, was that a Friday? I think it was. It was a Friday. I stand to be corrected on this but of course, you know, there's nothing like . . . Always keep an eye out for those releases coming on a Friday, Mr. Speaker, because the government I think, you know, regards them as taking out the trash or, in this case, the recycling, and again, in terms of what people are paying, Mr. Speaker, for the actions of this government. And that's often where that news shows up, is on a Friday.

So in terms of the pre-budget release, they want to get these things out over the side before the budget, Mr. Speaker, to focus on, you know, how you're kicking resource revenue dependency or whatever other sort of watch-the-birdie exercise you're trying to engage in while you're, you know, making people pay more and get less. In terms of what happened with the environmental handling fees, this particular piece of legislation will enable an increase of 2 cents on the environmental handling charge for all recyclable beverage containers purchased in Saskatchewan.

And you know, very important to point this out, Mr. Speaker:

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 the government holds with Sarcen to deliver the beverage container collection and recycling

program.

Moving further down in the minister's speech, it is referenced that:

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 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.

Carrying on in the speech, Mr. Speaker:

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 terms of, again, just to give you some context, as a kid, like I had a paper route and, you know, delivered flyers and did what I can to make a little walking-around money in that regard. But one of the other ways the McCall kids certainly made money, Mr. Speaker, was collecting bottles, collecting cans. And you know, I don't know if it was like this in everybody's case, but in the McCall household we were very attuned to what was happening for the deposit that you'd get back when you took it in to the SBA [Saskatchewan Brewers' Association] or into then SARC [Saskatchewan Association of Rehabilitation Centres] or what happened, Mr. Speaker.

And you know, I can recall when it went from a cent to 2 cents for a beer bottle, Mr. Speaker. And you know, who could imagine it going up to a whole 5 cents? Perhaps the member from Cannington did some bottle picking in his time too and he's looking to chime in here too.

Anyway, so you know . . . There were some occupational hazards to be sure when it came to picking bottles, Mr. Speaker, you know. Like try not to cut your hands on them; that would be a good one. Or you know, when somebody finds out your good bottle picking spots and gets to them before you do on the weekend, Mr. Speaker.

But as a kid, my brothers and my sister and I, we were quite

well attuned to what was happening for the deposit. So when I first heard this I could of, I just thought, you know, it's going up by 2 cents. Well that must be going back to, you know, what you get in the deposit.

And again, Mr. Speaker, I want to also go on record here and say, you know, the people at Sarcan and SARC generally do a tremendous job. And the way that that, the way that SARC was established I believe or, you know, provincialized in . . . You know, far be it from me to pass up an opportunity to say, you know, even the Grant Devine government got a few things right and this would be one of them, Mr. Speaker.

An Hon. Member: — We'll print that on a T-shirt.

Mr. McCall: — I await the T-shirt offerings from the member of Martensville. But certainly, Mr. Speaker, you know, credit where credit is due. That was a good thing. That was a good thing.

And I know that . . . You know, my particular Sarcan depot, over by Humpty's, Mr. Speaker, it's the big depot in North Central and it gets a lot of business, Mr. Speaker. And there are people that, they're kind of like urban miners, Mr. Speaker, in terms of the collecting bottles. And that is the way that some of those folks supplement some very meagre incomes.

And you know, it's a great piece of work that Sarcan does, both in terms of recycling where I think our conversion rate is something on the order of 80 per cent which is, you know, quite a high level in the national comparison, Mr. Speaker, but also in terms of, you know, providing employment for folks that may not have many other employment opportunities; in terms of recycling and, you know, care for the environment, and in terms of again providing that income for folks that, when you think about it, work very hard for what those few dollars represent. So when I'd heard the word that, you know, the fee was going up by 2 cents, I thought, oh that's, you know, there's going to be a lot of rejoicing down at the Sarcan by Humpty's. But that's not the case, of course, Mr. Speaker.

[16:45]

The fee is going up those 2 cents, and again there's some time lag in terms of how that gets disbursed, and some of it, you know, will rightfully be going to the folks at Sarcan to underwrite their operations and to pay the cheques for the folks that work there — again a great thing, Mr. Speaker — in terms of the other cent, that's going to be rolling back into the ministry and into the nebulous void of administrative pressures, Mr. Speaker.

So I don't know if the instructions went forth from cabinet and said, you know, here's a way where you can sort of, you know, get some cash on hand in terms of the cent that the ministry will be keeping under its purview to deal with, again, administration or associated pressures, and what those are precisely. I know that we'll have many questions on that front to come. But in terms of that 2 cents on a can or, you know, on the 5 cents or on the 7 cents or, you know, pick your item, Mr. Speaker, that of course is not going to be handed back over when all my urban miner friends go into Sarcan and look to get their deposit. There's no increase to the payday for those folks, Mr. Speaker.

Because this government, as imaginative as it is in terms of ways to find to raise revenue . . . I mean last year they said, hey, hey, universities, go back out and like, you know, raid your reserves. Or hey, we'll tear up grants-in-lieu, Mr. Speaker. Like there are a lot of really imaginative ways that this government went at covering up for their mistakes, Mr. Speaker. But in this case that they'd go after that 1 cent from the 2 cent increase to the handling fee, this one's got to be up for a prize or something, Mr. Speaker. In terms of all those people that'd be looking forward to that extra 2 cents on the can or the bottle or what have you, well it ain't coming. It ain't coming, Mr. Speaker.

So I understand that there are costs to all these things, and I'd refer you to my earlier remarks that the member from Martensville is going to put on a T-shirt and all that to remind me for the rest of my life. But you know, Sarcan does a lot of great work, but it ought not be seized upon as a way to go out there and squeeze out some extra revenue on the part of this government so that they can underwrite the mistakes that they have made.

So, Mr. Speaker, we'll be . . . I'm sure to have more questions on this matter in the days to come. But one thing is for sure, the people that, you know, have that very limited time for political matters and, you know, these things dawn upon them as they go to pay their bills or as their paycheque comes in and it's less or what have you, Mr. Speaker, I know that those people that heard 2 cents increase to the handling fee, they're going to be, you know, maybe thinking that that would be passed on through to the deposit. And that is not the case, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Anyway, I know other of my colleagues will have more to add on this bill, but with that I move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 124, *An Act to amend The Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2010*.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 124. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 125

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Harrison that **Bill No. 125** — *The Saskatchewan Value-added Agriculture Incentive Act* be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. McCall: — Thanks very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. You're probably wondering, you know, why the opposition couldn't have gotten it together in the Speaker's list and, you know, trade off one against the other, but, you know, that occurs to me too.

Anyway, good to join debate this afternoon on Bill No. 125, *The Saskatchewan Value-added Agriculture Incentive Act*.

Again, I'd referenced this early on in debate, Mr. Speaker.

I guess one of the main questions we've got for this one, there are a few questions arise, but in terms of again referring to the member from Meadow Lake, the minister's second-reading speech of April 23, 2018 *Hansard* . . . Again, thanks for all the great work, Hansard. But in terms of the threshold of \$10 million, quoting the minister:

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 one after the facility enters operation, 30 per cent in year two, and 50 per cent in year three . . . [And] a maximum carry-forward of 10 years on any remaining credit amount.

Ten-year carry-forward. So I guess again, Mr. Speaker, a number of questions that arise here. We want to see our ag sector grow and develop, Mr. Speaker, diversify. And I guess some of the questions that we'll certainly have in committee, Mr. Speaker, one that automatically recommends itself is, why the figure of 10 million? What underserved part of the incentive host was, you know, kicked up the threshold of \$10 million?

Is there a particular project that they have in mind or projects that they have in mind, Mr. Speaker? Will that await the post-budget, you know, staunching up of the government's fortunes, Mr. Speaker, in terms of the selling of the budget? What do they have in mind in terms of actual projects?

And it's hard to sort of . . . When you see specific figures like that in a measure, Mr. Speaker, you've got to know that they've been tailored in some regard for a particular . . . like there's something obviously on the mind of the government. So you know, I guess let's let the cat out of the bag, you know. Let us in on the secret. What is this specifically targeted at, Mr. Speaker?

Because again in terms of, you know, what happened with the expansion on PST and the deleterious effect that's had on the construction industry or, you know, different of the tos-and-fros that have come with the tax sector or, you know, pick your measure, Mr. Speaker. Is this particular measure custom-made for sets of initiatives or an initiative in particular? And, you know, let's hear it out. Let's see how that measures up, Mr. Speaker.

Again in terms of there's a lot of vague language about more jobs, diversifying the economy, but again in terms of booking these things in proper estimates that we all know that the members, you know, in Treasury Board, they should be going through these things in terms of what is the predicted impact of these measures. What is the uptake going to be? What is the spinoff in terms of jobs and economic activity? And also, Mr. Speaker, the carry-forward of 10 years in terms of the unused credits, how that was arrived at.

But again, these are all sort of . . . They should be some relatively hard and fast details that went into the decision made on this particular initiative. So I guess what I'd beseech the government is to let the province in on it, and let's see what this is specifically being aimed at, Mr. Speaker.

But I guess, well some of the other questions we'd have, Mr. Speaker, would . . . In terms of companies being required to apply to the government for a Saskatchewan value-added agriculture incentive certificate, that'd be one where we'd be interested to see what sort of safeguards there are made against shifting of capital exercises, Mr. Speaker. What sort of . . . Again, as has happened with other incentives offered by this government and other governments, is it going to go to Saskatchewan value-added, or is there a way that this can be circumvented, and activity that takes place outside of Saskatchewan is booked against the tax credit? How does that work, Mr. Speaker? What sort of safeguards are there for the Saskatchewan taxpayers that are putting up these precious dollars?

In terms of, again, the \$10 million and in terms of the . . . For the threshold on new capital, in terms of submitting to inspections from government officials to ensure that all rules are being followed, we'll be interested to see what the intended regime is for those efforts, Mr. Speaker. And again, in terms of the year one after the facility enters operation, how these are all sort of accounted for under the law will be most interesting to see.

Anyway, Mr. Speaker, I could go on, with but the limits of the hours of the day to constrain me, Mr. Speaker. But anyway, we'll be interested to see, again, what this is specifically geared at and, you know, so people can make up their own minds as to the value or the benefit of what it is and the rationale that has gone into the particulars on this particular measure. Is it borrowing from best practice in other jurisdiction? What does this do for our competition throughout Western Canada, comes to mind. What does this do in terms of the existing, sort of, the host of incentives that are already on offer? Why was this particular part of the front seized upon when you've got this — again, to use the minister's word — host of incentives on offer?

But, Mr. Speaker, I know other of my colleagues will have more to say on this score, but it will certainly make for an interesting discussion at the committee level. But for me in this debate, I would move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 125, *The Saskatchewan Value-added Agriculture Incentive Act*.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre 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 Deputy Speaker: — Carried. It now being very near the time of adjournment, this House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 10 a.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 17:00.]

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