



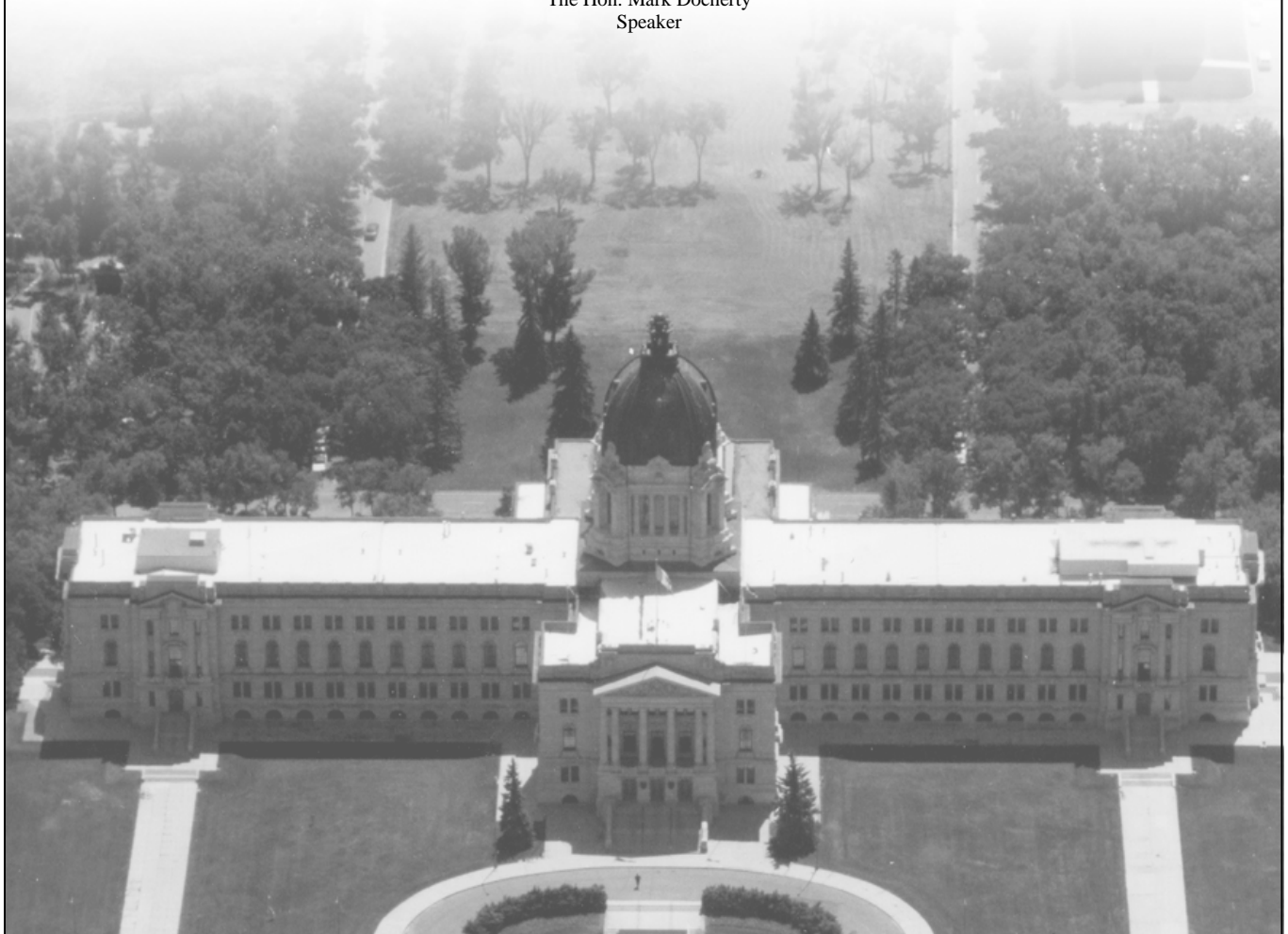
THIRD SESSION - TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

(HANSARD)
Published under the
authority of
The Hon. Mark Docherty
Speaker



MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN
3rd Session — 28th Legislature

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

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Lambert , Lisa — Saskatoon Churchill-Wildwood (SP)	Young , Colleen — Lloydminster (SP)
Lawrence , Greg — Moose Jaw Wakamow (SP)	

Party Standings: Saskatchewan Party (SP) — 48; New Democratic Party (NDP) — 13

Clerks-at-the-Table

Clerk — Gregory A. Putz

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

Principal Clerk — Iris Lang

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[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to you and through you, to all the members of the Assembly, to introduce a number of very special guests in the west gallery from Diabetes Canada. In fact the Minister of Health and I, over the lunch hour, along with a few other members I noticed from both sides of the House, got their risk assessments done down in the MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] dining room.

With us today — we'll be meeting with them again later today, a number of them, and also seeing a number of them at the reception tonight — with them is Joan King, government relations for Western Canada; Kim Hanson, director of federal affairs; Don Henriksen, southern Saskatchewan regional volunteer Chair; Gavin Bush, who is an advocate.

Also in the House today is Brie Hnetka, somebody that we know very well, regional director for Saskatchewan; a friend of mine from the North — north of me, anyway, Mr. Speaker — Melissa Johnson, northern Saskatchewan regional volunteer Chair. I know I saw at least another Johnson with her up there. Renee Mochnacz, the southern Saskatchewan delegate, and of course as I said many other delegates from Diabetes Canada, advocates and volunteers, Mr. Speaker. So I ask all members to welcome them to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the minister in welcoming these guests from Diabetes Canada to their Legislative Assembly here this afternoon. I know the member for Athabasca and the member for Regina Northeast had a very good meeting this morning with Brie and Joan and Kim and Ritesh — very impressed with the issues that were brought to us and the manner in which they were presented. And also appreciated the risk assessment this afternoon over the lunch hour, and I think thank you, Tristan, for that. I'll keep going to the gym and try to reduce that risk.

I just wanted to note one of the pieces that were especially interesting that were brought to our attention was the fact that Saskatchewan is one of only two jurisdictions in Canada that doesn't have a strategy for the management of type 1 diabetes in schools. So I think that that was important and I thank them again for all of the messages that they brought to us. We will continue to have conversations about this very important issue that affects so many in our province. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Estevan.

Hon. Ms. Carr: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you

and through you it is my pleasure to introduce two beautiful ladies seated in your gallery: my mother, Jolene Wicks — if you could just give a wave, Mom — and my sister Lynda Chamney. These are two women in my life that are there for me for continual support, and I am so blessed to have them. So I'd like all members of this Assembly to welcome them here today. Thank you.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you I'd like to introduce a few guests. First of all I'd like to join the minister welcoming her family to the legislature. Of course had a chance to meet them this summer at our family wedding. I don't see Miranda up there, but it was a very good time, very good time.

So, Mr. Speaker, to you and through you I'd like to introduce some very special guests that are seated in your gallery. If they could give a wave when I say their name. Dr. Fran Forsberg and Renn, Skylar, Krista, and Gracie. They're here today to see the passage of Bill 146, *The Vital Statistics Amendment Act*, a very important Act in terms of human rights.

Fran has been a real activist in that area, and that's how I think you earned the doctor title from the university — very good. And Renn, of course for her, she is now 11 years old, but the battle started when she was five, just starting kindergarten. And so it's been a long, long journey to get here. So I'd ask all members to join me in welcoming the Forsbergs and all the kids here to their legislature. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the member from Saskatoon Centre in welcoming Fran and Renn, Skylar, Krista, and Gracie to their Legislative Assembly.

As the member opposite mentioned, I know they're here to watch the proceedings on the bill to amend *The Vital Statistics Act* and I would ask all members to please join with me in welcoming them to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Request leave for an extended introduction.

The Speaker: — The member has requested leave for an extended introduction. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, it's my honour to introduce, seated in the east gallery, Mike Dalrymple here today. I've known Mike most of my life. Early on I knew Mike in the capacity as one of the parents on the hockey team that was always there to help and always there to guide. Mike's also a dedicated New Democrat his entire life, someone who's been a real leader as well, fighting for

workers' rights and fair treatment.

And Mike and his Lucille are just really good people, and their family in northwest Regina. They're in the constituency of Regina Walsh Acres. They're active within the riding. They're active within the community as a whole and always, it's always a pleasure to get together with Mike and Lucille. They always have an open door and good conversation and good food. Mike's been just an incredible person to work with for many years, from the hockey rink through politics and much more. I ask all members to welcome here today.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Corrections.

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you and to all members of this Assembly, I'd like to welcome today 28 grade 5 students from École St. Elizabeth School. Give us a wave.

Accompanying them today is their teacher Meagan Lane. The parent chaperones are Tiffany Moore, Thomas Miller, Craig and Carla Matt. I ask all members to join me in welcoming them to the Assembly.

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

Mr. Dennis: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To and through you, in the west galley, I'd like to introduce a couple of constituents and friends of mine. They farm out in my area by Norquay — Melissa Johnson and her son Salem. They're here with Diabetes Canada. And I met with them earlier and did an assessment, and I think they're going to change my life. So I would like everybody to . . . I'm going to meet with them after session here and look forward to meeting them. And I welcome them to their . . . I'd like everybody to welcome to their session today. Thank you.

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

Mr. Michelson: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's an honour to stand here and introduce two individuals in the west gallery. And I'd ask Devin Der just give us a little bit of a wave. Devin was from my constituency. They since moved out to a farm, but he goes to Sunningdale School in Moose Jaw and is here with this Diabetes Canada today.

I spent a little bit of time at noon with him, just learning from him. And he let me actually videotape his injection, as he has to take insulin with his meal, and he does that twice a day. So I was quite proud to meet him. I noticed on his little school profile, it says that the things he likes to do is to play superheroes. And, Mr. Speaker, I think Devin himself is his own little superhero, and I'd like everybody to welcome him to the Legislative Assembly today.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Highways.

Hon. Ms. Carr: — Thank you again, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you I would like to introduce a member that just came into the west gallery. As a Member of the Legislative Assembly for the constituency of Estevan, I would like to greet a former member, Dr. Grant Devine, who is with us today, former premier of Saskatchewan. So welcome to your Legislative

Assembly, Mr. Devine.

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

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the members opposite in welcoming Mr. Devine, our former premier, a farmer here in the province — someone who, while we would have the occasional difference, I imagine, if we were debating across the floor here today, we always recognize the service of those who have given so much to the province. I ask the members, all members to join me in welcoming him to his Legislative Assembly.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Mr. Buckingham: — 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.

I'd like to read the prayer:

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

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by the citizens of Borden and Saskatoon. I do so present.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you I rise to present petitions on behalf of Saskatchewan people, businesses all across our province as it relates to the imposition of the PST [provincial sales tax] onto construction labour — really the epitome of a job-killing tax, Mr. Speaker, at a time where we need nothing more than job creation; something that's having a damaging impact on jobs across Saskatchewan, on investment across Saskatchewan. Of course we see that in the GDP [gross domestic product] numbers. We see that in the permit numbers that are way down, Mr. Speaker. We see that in the job numbers. And the impact is real for Saskatchewan people.

And the petition reads as follows:

We, in the petition that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Sask Party government to stop saddling families and businesses with the costs of their mismanagement and immediately reinstate the PST exemption on construction and stop hurting Saskatchewan businesses and families.

These petitions today are signed by concerned residents in Regina. I so submit.

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

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a

petition to restore public control over Wascana Park. Those who have signed this petition wish to draw our attention to the following: that Wascana Park is a treasured urban park and conservation area that has been responsibly managed through an equal partnership between the University of Regina, the provincial government, and the city of Regina for more than 50 years; that the government unilaterally gave itself majority control of the board of the Provincial Capital Commission through changes brought on by Bill 50, *The Provincial Capital Commission Act*, just last year; that the city of Regina and the University of Regina have both expressed an openness to return to a governance model based on equality; and that more and more people in Regina and right across the province are becoming concerned with the growing commercialization of Wascana Park, and they want to see it stopped, Mr. Speaker.

I'll read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the government to restore the governance structure of the Wascana Centre Authority and end the commercialization of Wascana Park.

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

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Today I'm rising to present a petition calling for a public inquiry into the GTH [Global Transportation Hub] land deal. The people who signed this petition want to bring to our attention the following: the Sask Party has refused to come clean on the GTH land deal, a deal where Sask Party insiders made millions flipping land and taxpayers lost millions. The Sask Party continues to block key witnesses from providing testimony about the land deal, and it is Saskatchewan people who footed the bill for the GTH land deal and deserve nothing less than the truth.

I'll read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Sask Party to stop hiding behind partisan excuses and immediately call for a judicial inquiry and a forensic audit into the GTH land deal.

[13:45]

And, Mr. Speaker, the individuals who signed this petition today are from the city of Moose Jaw. I so submit.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition to get big money out of Saskatchewan politics. And the undersigned residents of the province want to bring to your attention the following: that Saskatchewan's outdated election Act allows corporations, unions, and individuals, even those living outside of the province, to make unlimited donations to our province's political parties.

And you know, Mr. Speaker, the people of Saskatchewan deserve to live in a fair province where all voices are equal and money can't influence politics. And we know that the federal government and the provinces of Alberta, Manitoba, Quebec, and Nova Scotia, and now British Columbia have moved to limit this influence and level the playing field by banning corporate and union donations to political parties.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, the people signing the petition today come from the cities of Saskatoon and Swift Current. I do so present. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm proud to stand in my place to present a petition as it pertains to dialysis services for northwestern Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, I'll read the petition and the prayer:

To cause the provincial government to provide the public funding to set up a satellite unit in northwestern Saskatchewan to provide hemodialysis treatment that is in closer proximity to the patients' homes. This would greatly lessen the burden of out-of-pocket costs for the people from this area who are undergoing kidney dialysis. This will also allow northwestern people with kidney failure to live where they want to live and not to be forced to move in order to stay alive.

Mr. Speaker, the people that have signed the many papers of petitions are from all throughout the province. And on this particular page, the people that have signed this petition are primarily from La Loche. And I so present.

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

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present a petition calling for support of in-house security services at Saskatchewan health care facilities. Mr. Speaker, the undersigned residents of the province of Saskatchewan wish to bring to your attention the following: (a) that there is a Government of Saskatchewan security services review in the Saskatchewan Health Authority under way which appears to be driven by a desire to contract out and cut costs rather than improve safety in health care.

Mr. Speaker, the petitioners also point out that safe, quality health care means having adequately trained, properly trained and equipped in-house security teams, not cutting jobs and contracting out to the lowest bidder. Mr. Speaker, these are individuals that are very concerned about the increasing incidents of oftentimes violent circumstances in the health care system and various challenges to the safety that should be there for all of our

working men and women, especially in health care of all places,
Mr. Speaker:

In the prayer that reads as follows, the petitioners respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the government to commit to maintaining quality publicly funded, publicly delivered, and publicly administered security services.

Mr. Speaker, this particular petition, amongst many, many others to come, is signed by citizens from the good city of Regina. I so submit.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Batoche.

Mr. Kirsch: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is with a great deal of pride I rise to present a petition for a private bill on behalf of petitioners from Luther College, my old alma mater. The prayer of the petition requests to repeal *An Act to incorporate Luther College, Regina* and replace with *The Luther College Act, 2018* which incorporates changes for good governance.

And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Assembly may be pleased to repeal *An Act to incorporate Luther College, Regina*, being chapter 84 of the *Statutes of Saskatchewan, 1969* and is amended by chapter 5 of the *Statutes of Saskatchewan, 1996* and replaced with *The Luther College Act, 2018*.

And as in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, the petition is signed by the president, Chair, board of regents, and Chair of governance committee of Luther College. And I'm pleased, very pleased, to present on their behalf. I thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Pursuant to rule 101, this petition is referred to the Standing Committee on Private Bills.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Children's Hospital Radiothon

Mr. Fiaz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last week was the 16th annual Children's Hospital Radiothon held at Hill Tower II in Regina and was presented by CIBC Wood Gundy. The radiothon took to the airwaves on November 7th and 8th for nearly 24 hours of live broadcasting. The broadcast included inspiring stories from Saskatchewan children, parents, supporters, and pediatric medical communities. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to be able to announce that this year's radiothon raised a whopping \$401,870.65.

These funds will be going towards equipping Saskatchewan's first and only dedicated pediatric surgical suite with equipment such as IV [intravenous] infusion pumps, patient monitoring systems, and pediatric defibrillators. Mr. Speaker, the Jim Pattison Children's Hospital will better meet the needs of our province's children, expecting mothers, and their families.

Mr. Speaker, the facility is currently 92 per cent completed and is on time and on budget. Our government has invested \$257 million into the project which will cover 90 per cent of the total cost. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask all members to join me in congratulating the Children's Hospital Radiothon for a successful event, and thank all the sponsors, donors, and volunteers for their dedication to this amazing cause. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Grand Council Post-Secondary Scholarship Banquet

Ms. Rancourt: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On October 22nd I was pleased to attend the Prince Albert Grand Council Women's Commission's 18th annual Post-Secondary Scholarship Banquet. Out of 90 applicants, nine young women received scholarships. There was a delicious supper provided by Seven Sisters Catering and entertainment by the Rez Boys.

Mr. Speaker, members of the local leadership also showed off their singing talent. FSIN [Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations] Vice-chief Heather Bear joined the band on stage and belted out "Satin Sheets" and "Honky-Tonk Angels." Not to be outdone, Grand Chief Brian Hardlotte serenaded the audience with his rendition of "Orange Blossom Special" and Vice-chief Chris Jobb followed up with "Folsom Prison Blues."

The nine recipients of this year's Women's Commission Scholarship are Farrah Pische, Miriam McKay, Taylor Roufosse, Shelby Constant, Gail Head, Marcella Tsannie, Janice McLeod, Ann Dorion, and Michelle Head. These young women are all from First Nations across the North that make the Prince Albert Grand Council. The singing group, Constant Reminder, was also honoured in the Youth Ceremony category.

Mr. Speaker, it was an inspiring evening. I ask all members to join with me in congratulating the Prince Albert Grand Council Women's Commission for their work in helping young women across northern Saskatchewan receive post-secondary education and to commend each of the scholarship recipients on their hard work. Thank you.

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

I Am Stronger Campaign

Mr. Nerlien: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This week is National Bullying Prevention Week. In honour of that, SaskTel has dedicated the entire month of November as I Am Stronger Month. I Am Stronger is SaskTel's bullying and cyberbullying prevention program designed to encourage youth to be kind in person and online.

Mr. Speaker, bullying won't be eliminated by one group alone, but SaskTel and the Ministry of Education believe that the youth of our province can be part of the solution. That's why they've partnered through the I Am Stronger program to empower our province's young people to be part of the solution by offering grants up to \$1,000 to support youth-led initiatives that address bullying in all its forms.

Mr. Speaker, last year, Greenall School was awarded one of these grants to fund their outdoor school program which promotes being kind to one another and the environment. On November 14th, Greenall School will celebrate the strides their students have made toward anti-bullying by hosting the first ever I Am Stronger rally to be held outside of Regina and Saskatoon.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking SaskTel and the Ministry of Education for organizing a program that allows youth to be part of the solution, and to take charge and create a better province for all of us today and into the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Party Administrator's Years of Service Recognized

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to take the opportunity to recognize a good friend to many of us, and a constituent of mine, Cathy Duncan. Cathy has dedicated 31 years to the Saskatchewan NDP [New Democrat Party], and we are so grateful for her incredible dedication, commitment, and service. During her more than three decades of service, Cathy has worked with numerous leaders, provincial secretaries, presidents, MLAs, and party members. And as I can attest, everyone that's worked with Cathy has gained something from her skills, talents, and experience.

Even though she's now retiring, I don't doubt that she'll be receiving calls and inquiries from those seeking her advice. Cathy has set the bar extremely high, and she'll be a very tough act to follow. Cathy has worked as our party's administrator through thick and thin. She attended provincial conventions and councils all across the province, as well as planned them. But her forte was the day-to-day oversight and operation of everything and everyone at provincial office. Cathy has worked humbly and tirelessly for the Saskatchewan NDP in an effort to build Saskatchewan, always without expecting a thank you.

But today I'm calling on all members of this Assembly to thank Cathy Duncan for her years of service, not only to the NDP, but to Saskatchewan, and to offer her our best wishes as she retires. Thank you, Cathy.

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

Hope's Home Helps Children and Families

Ms. Ross: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. This year, Hope's Home celebrated 13 years of helping children and their families with complex medical needs. In recognition of her work, Jackie Tischer, the founder of Hope's Home, was awarded the Humanitarian and Community Service Award at the University of Regina 2018 Crowning Achievement Awards celebration.

Mr. Speaker, Hope's Home was created in 2005 and was the first medical daycare in Canada. Jackie recognized that there were few community supports for families with children with complex medical needs. Once they were discharged from the hospital, there wasn't any support. Her own daughter, Mr. Speaker, Acacia, was born with spina bifida and passed away in 2011. Jackie also became a foster mom to a child named Hope Dawn Marie, a baby girl born with spina bifida. Sadly, Hope passed

away due to her disease and Hope's Home was named in her honour.

Under Jackie's leadership, Hope's Home has grown into a multi-million dollar not-for-profit charitable organization that has provided community care to more than 1,000 children with the highest medical needs in our province. Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in congratulating Jackie Tischer on her award, but also to thank her for the work she continues to do to ensure that children with complex medical needs can just be kids. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Saskatchewan Teams in Football Playoffs

Mr. Olason: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm proud to stand here today and announce that for the first time since 2006, the University of Saskatchewan Huskies have won the Hardy Cup. They completely dominated the previously unbeaten Calgary Dinos, winning 43-18 on Saturday. This is the team's first conference title and they will now advance to the semifinal against the Western Ontario Mustangs.

Mr. Speaker, I'd also like to highlight the success of a local high school here in Regina, the Miller Marauders, as they captured the 4A provincial title on Saturday. They secured this championship with a 45-0 win over the Saskatoon Centennial Chargers.

Now, Mr. Speaker, this may be a little too soon to mention for the fans who are here with us in the Assembly today, but our beloved Roughriders saw their season come to a close this past Sunday. Thousands of great fans braved the weather to cheer on our green and white here at home. However they came up short, losing to the Winnipeg Blue Bombers in the west division semifinal. Though it was heartbreaking, we know that this will be a great lesson for the boys, and that they will return back in the 2019 season, hungry for another chance at the Grey Cup.

[14:00]

Football has always united our province, as players from all over have created lasting memories here for the fans and for our schools. I'd like to wish the Huskies all the best on their quest for the Vanier Cup as well as congratulate all teams on a great 2018 season. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Lloydminster.

International Education Week

Ms. Young: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to stand in the House today to announce that November 12th to the 16th is International Education Week. This week is celebrated in more than 100 countries and brings awareness to the great benefits international education provides to not only schools and students, but to economies as well.

International education is a wonderful tool that connects Saskatchewan and Canada to other parts of the world. It is a great proponent to help grow this province. It gives students the opportunity to develop new skills and learn new languages,

cultures, and traditions.

The Saskatchewan post-secondary international educational strategy, established by this government, sets out three goals: to increase the number of international students in Saskatchewan, to increase the number of Saskatchewan students studying abroad, and to increase the number and value of international research partnerships. I am pleased to report, Mr. Speaker, that the Government of Saskatchewan is on target for meeting these goals.

We also encourage our students to broaden their horizons and study abroad. Since 2012 there has been a 41 per cent increase of Saskatchewan students studying abroad, and our students have expanded their education in over 60 different countries.

Mr. Speaker, international education enhances the rich and diverse tapestry of Saskatchewan. We are pleased to celebrate this special week. Thank you.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Provincial Elections

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This Sunday members from both sides of the Assembly were in their communities recognizing the service and sacrifice of Canadian veterans. One thing we've learned more about in recent years is the often unrecognized service and sacrifice of First Nations veterans, women and men who often enlisted in a time when they still weren't allowed to vote, who went and signed up to protect a democracy of which they weren't yet fully a part.

This past week we heard serious concerns about access to the polls for voters in the United States. Here the choice of election dates for political advantage and the refusal to commit to by-elections in unrepresented constituencies, along with past choices by this government around identification and electoral boundaries, have raised serious questions about their commitment to fair elections and to universal suffrage, Mr. Speaker.

Saskatchewan's Chief Electoral Officer has identified low turnout among First Nations and Métis communities as a major challenge facing democracy in Saskatchewan. Will the Premier help to make sure indigenous voices are heard this election? Will he join me in writing to our Chief Electoral Officer to recommend that there be a polling location in every home First Nations reserve in 2020?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition can write letters as much as he chooses to whomever he chooses, and I encourage him to do just that.

Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition is also correct. There has been many First Nations communities and individuals from First Nations communities that have participated and volunteered in serving in our nation's military, Mr. Speaker, in multiple wars. And I think of the community that I represent, Mr. Speaker, of

Muskeg Lake First Nations, which has the highest per capita of war veterans of any First Nations community in the nation of Canada, Mr. Speaker. I believe it's in excess of 35 individuals from that small community that have put their name forward and served in our nation's military in various efforts, Mr. Speaker.

With respect to our election system here, we've worked with the elections officer, Mr. Speaker, with respect to some challenges that were identified, dating back to first of all the federal election a number of years ago, Mr. Speaker, and addressed challenges more recently with respect to our municipal elections. And we continue to work with the Chief Electoral Officer, Mr. Speaker, ensuring that everyone in this province has an opportunity to participate in our great electoral system here.

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

Diabetes Care

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Disappointing to not hear a straight answer on that. I think the record should show that when given an opportunity to further enfranchise people who have not been able to participate as much as they should in our elections, that this Premier took a hard pass.

Mr. Speaker, I do want to acknowledge the Diabetes Canada representatives in the Assembly today and note that it's been six years since the auditor's report highlighted the shortfalls in this government's approach to managing diabetes, and that there are still a number of outstanding recommendations.

The auditor found a lack of coordination and a lack of oversight on delivery and performance of regional programs. And as people across the province can attest, the reality is the quality of care — and as a result, health outcomes — differ greatly in this province, depending on where you live. It shouldn't be that way.

In addition to the impacts on quality of life for those living with diabetes, annual per capita health costs are three to four times greater for an individual with this illness. With the prevalence of diabetes set to increase by 33 per cent in the next 10 years — an increase of \$130 million a year to our health system, Mr. Speaker — Saskatchewan people, promised a centralized, coordinated single health region, are still waiting to see this reorganization make people's lives better in practice.

When will the auditor's recommendations from six years ago finally be implemented? When will we see a coordinated, province-wide strategy to prevent new cases and better support those living with diabetes?

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

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the member across would know, it's been about 10 months since the new Saskatchewan Health Authority has been rolled out. We've seen some really great successes in that rollout with some of the barriers that have been broken down between what would have been the old regions previously. We have made some great strides when it comes to diabetes care within the province, whether it's expanding the insulin pumps, test strips, and a lot of the other support services that are out there for diabetes patients

and those suffering with diabetes, Mr. Speaker.

Also when we look at ongoing care, when it comes to dialysis care throughout the province has been expanded. In fact just recently we, through a partnership, expanded dialysis care into All Nations' Healing Hospital in Fort Qu'Appelle. We're looking at expanding even further in the North and working with our partners, including those in the gallery through Diabetes Canada, and expanding these services and making sure that people in this province have accessibility to their diabetes needs.

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

Health Care Wait Times

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Accessibility really is the question. Saskatchewan has one of the highest rates of mortality from diabetes in the country, and patients in need are currently waiting an average of seven months to see an endocrinologist, 10 months if they need to see a nephrologist. These kind of waits to deal with diabetes and its complications are simply unacceptable. It's an increase of over 30 per cent in wait times in just two years. We've seen similar increases in wait times in emergency rooms.

Now when we brought this information forward last week, the Premier seemed surprised to learn of this increase in wait times. So I'm wondering if since then if he's had a chance to look at the numbers and if he's able to explain to us what's happening. Why have we seen this precipitous rise in the rates of wait times for specialists? What's the root cause of this? And more importantly, what is his government going to do about it?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Mr. Speaker, as when we discussed this last week and when I scrummed with the media, I indicated that we were concerned about, in some specialities, that wait times had increased because we have substantially increased funding to recruiting every type of doctor, Mr. Speaker, general practitioners included.

But specifically to specialists, there are 62 per cent more specialists, Mr. Speaker, than there was a decade ago in this province. So, Mr. Speaker, there had an increase over a period of two or three years. More recently though, however, province-wide so far in this calendar year there's been a decrease in the range of about 15 per cent. But, Mr. Speaker, we still absolutely need to do better.

Minister of Rural and Remote Health and myself have raised this with the Saskatchewan Medical Association as recently as about a week ago. They've committed to working with our ministry officials to look at better ways to deal with referral systems so that people aren't waiting to see one specialist when there's room to see another one.

We've had some success in when we've targeted specific specialities for that, Mr. Speaker, and we're optimistic that we can do that across the board. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Management of Provincial Economy

Mr. Meili: — Mr. Speaker, a couple of years ago Alberta and Saskatchewan were faced with serious challenges due to lower resource prices. Our province chose to double the PST and cut services, while our neighbour chose to make needed investments in people. They doubled the amount that they took in by PST. It went up from \$1 billion to \$2 billion, Mr. Speaker, something that made life far less affordable for people.

Well last week Statistics Canada showed us what happened. They released the GDP numbers for 2017, which showed very clearly which was the better choice. Economic growth in Alberta was twice as high, twice as high as growth here in Saskatchewan where we had the worst rate of growth outside of Atlantic Canada.

Albertans aren't any more hard-working than Saskatchewan people are, Mr. Speaker. I can assure you that. But what they do have is a government that isn't making a slow economy worse by deep cuts to services at the same time as they've increased taxes on regular people.

Mr. Speaker, will the Premier finally admit that this government's austerity approach is doing real harm to our people and to our province's economy? Will he finally change course, get our economy and Saskatchewan people working again?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, I hope the member opposite will indulge me in taking sort of counsel from Moody's, which is a credit rating agency that quite frankly maintained Saskatchewan's AAA credit rating while degrading the credit rating for his cousins in Alberta.

Our debt-to-GDP level in Saskatchewan is the third lowest in the country, Mr. Speaker. Our debt per capita is also the third lowest in our country, Mr. Speaker. And I think that Moody's credit rating speaks for itself, so we will go with that rather than what the member opposite is suggesting.

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

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's disappointing to see the Premier unable to take responsibility and address what's really happened to our economy. Last week's dismal GDP numbers should come as no surprise to this Premier. It was an entirely predictable result. In fact it's a result that we did predict. We said that an austerity approach would slow down our economy at the same time as it hurt people. And what happened? It slowed down our economic recovery and it hurt people by reducing the services that they need. Mr. Speaker, I don't like to say I told you so, but in this case we told you so.

And the members opposite, they love to say, oh we'll take no advice. We'll take no lessons from those members over there. Well you know what, Mr. Speaker? It shows. It shows and it's people of Saskatchewan who are forced to pay the consequences of the arrogance in the face of any question of ideologically based decisions, Mr. Speaker. And without any change in direction we're going to continue to repeat the same pattern.

The Bank of Montreal, Mr. Speaker, predicts that Saskatchewan will have even less economic growth in the next two years, that 2018 will see a decrease in jobs compared to 2017, and that we will continue to trail every province outside the Maritimes. How much worse do things need to get before this Premier will acknowledge that his austerity approach is further choking an already struggling economy?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, if the Leader of the Opposition wants to talk about ideological promises, he can talk about his two and a half billion dollars a year — \$10 billion over a term of government, Mr. Speaker — that he has promised in his leadership campaign, with no plan of how to replace that dollars or how to pay for those promises outside of charging the people in this province a carbon tax, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the fact of the matter is, is we will always take the credit rating agencies' opinion over the opinion of the members opposite. We have for the first time in the history of this government a AAA credit rating, Mr. Speaker. And Standard & Poor's said this, and I quote — he may want to listen, Mr. Speaker — “We believe that the province's creditworthiness is supported by its strong fiscal management.”

We see NDP budgets in this nation, Mr. Speaker, being called virtual budgets because they have absolutely no chance of not only not balancing but even coming in on target, Mr. Speaker. It's going to be a long time before the people of this province are going to be faced with a virtual budget from the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Speaker.

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

Construction Industry

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, last week I had the pleasure to meet with local business owners and workers in the construction industry in Moose Jaw, Mr. Speaker. Women and men that have stepped up, that have taken on risk, that have created jobs, and that are working hard to sustain their families, build their communities, and grow our economy.

But what are they getting from their government in return? A job-killing PST tax hike that threatens their livelihood and that's forcing cuts to needed jobs. Short-sighted decisions from this Sask Party government are doing real damage to local businesses and good jobs that drive our economy. When will this government understand that their damaging choices are leaving families, communities, and workers behind? And when will they do the right thing and scrap their decision to add the PST to construction labour?

[14:15]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, as I've said many times in this House, with the downturn in resource revenue there were difficult decisions that needed to be made. Of all the provinces that have PST, quite frankly, they have PST on construction. So we are no different than the other provinces. But we are next to

Alberta and we know that's competitive because they don't have any PST at all.

Mr. Speaker, it's rather interesting because I have letters from both the Saskatchewan construction agency and the Merit Contractors, both of which are saying we are glad that the province is trying to balance the budget; please can you revisit this when the budget is balanced, Mr. Speaker. And the number one ask that they have, Mr. Speaker, is that we invest in infrastructure.

And that is what this government has done year over year over year is massively invested in infrastructure. And that is what our construction industry wants to see us do.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, I'd be awfully careful, as the Finance minister, to characterize the position of the Saskatchewan Construction Association in that manner, Mr. Speaker. And it's clear — we see it right there; we see it each day — that this is a government that's clearly out of touch with what's happening on the ground within our economy. It's certainly the case in Moose Jaw. And we hear the member is heckling from his seat here today.

In 2012, I'm told that there were 120 new builds in Moose Jaw. This year just 10, Mr. Speaker, 10 builds — from 120 to 10. And of course we heard about the GDP numbers that were released last week that has us with the slowest GDP in all of Canada outside of Atlantic Canada. This is a government that saw a slowing economy, and put on the brakes. And it's our local businesses that are left to deal with the damage and forced to cut jobs, jobs of valued employees and friends.

My question is this: how much worse do things need to get before this government will recognize the damage it's done and scrap the PST on construction labour to fire up our economy and create the jobs Saskatchewan people deserve?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — It's rather interesting that the NDP have opposed every single thing that this government has ever done. Where were they when the construction of the Moose Jaw Hospital was happening? Where were they with the construction of the North Battleford hospital? Where are they with the construction of the children's hospital? And that member and a number of members on that side opposed the number of schools that we built in this province. All of that has created jobs. All of that has been welcome infrastructure for the construction industry.

What about the Regina bypass that we hear them criticize time and time and time again? Shame on them when that has meant great jobs right here in this community for the construction industry. What about the 13 long-term care homes? Mr. Speaker, all we hear them do is criticize. They have no plan. They want to be the government-in-waiting. It's the same old NDP. Nothing has changed. They would do nothing.

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

Condition of Regina Bypass

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, last week we heard how Saskatchewan people with genuine concerns about the flawed Balgonie roundabout were referred to as being entitled. When we asked the minister whether she agreed, she wouldn't answer that simple yes-or-no question.

Well, Mr. Speaker, it seems that this kind of disdain for Saskatchewan people might just start at the top. In an email, Alanna Koch, then deputy minister to the Premier, dismissed the frustrations of Saskatchewan residents over the Regina bypass's problems as "urban myth hysteria," and the farmers', business owners', and local residents' legitimate questions for this government as nothing more than "griping." This, despite hundreds of emails, panicky meetings, and even staged video productions this government was undertaking at the time to try to bury this so-called myth.

Does this government consider all the hardships it has created, brought to their attention by concerned Saskatchewan people, just myths and hysteria? Where is the respect and service the residents of this province deserve?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Highways.

Hon. Ms. Carr: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's rich to hear the members opposite criticize our government's record on highways. We all know the NDP don't care about highways. The former premier Lorne Calvert admitted it when he said, "we've been doing things ad hoc without a long-term plan."

Their new leader must have been taking notes. In his previous two failed attempts at becoming leader, he never mentioned highways once. In his most recent leadership bid, he again never mentioned highways once. The NDP release in this Throne Speech? No highways mention there either. Their former leader Cam Broten, in his leadership platform? Never highways. Again, they don't care about highways.

The only one who ever had a plan, even if it was a bad one, was former leader Dwain Lingenfelter when he once hinted the government was very seriously looking at the idea of volunteer maintenance, Mr. Speaker. We will take no lessons from the NDP.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, we all know that in July of 2017, when the Saskatchewan government opened their poorly designed Balgonie roundabout, they learned after the fact it wasn't designed to fit farming equipment and big trucks. And, Mr. Speaker, despite what they were telling the public and the media, this government knew it had a problem. Records show Highways employees, and even the Premier's office, were scrambling to clean up the mess.

After weeks of claiming there was no problem, Highways officials asked the Regina bypass consortium to fix the flawed roundabouts. Two months later, after absolutely nothing had been done, the minister's chief of staff ordered the roundabout be fixed right away. And then, by October of 2017, Highways officials were begging for something to happen before winter.

Well, Mr. Speaker, it took a year to fix that faulty, unsafe roundabout at Balgonie — July 2018. One year is way too long.

So to the minister: is this the service standard that we can expect moving forward?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Highways.

Hon. Ms. Carr: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member opposite for the question. I'm very proud of the work that our Department of Highways done, and all of our contractors do, with any of these projects.

Mr. Speaker, there was no additional cost to the project. The only ministry staff that were ever involved in this incident were out of scope and therefore no additional costs.

We have worked hard with the town of Balgonie to make sure the overpass and the roundabouts work properly. Everything has been fixed. And I would think that we have been successful. In a scrum just last week, the member from Nutana was asked if they are still hearing about the Balgonie overpass, and she said, I quote, "We haven't received anything on this recently."

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

Traffic at Global Transportation Hub

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, when you compare . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order please. I recognize the member.

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When you compare what happened at the Balgonie bypass to what happened at the GTH, it really is a tale of two overpasses. At Balgonie we have an overpass that was underbuilt, that couldn't handle legal trucks and farm equipment, and a P3 [public-private partnership] conglomerate that sat back and made millions. At the GTH we have multiple massive overpasses that were overbuilt, truck traffic that isn't justifying the massive expense, and a P3 conglomerate that sat back and made millions. Well at least they have that in common, Mr. Speaker.

We know that the traffic at the GTH isn't anywhere near the 6,400 trucks a day the bypass was originally designed for. Last year there was only 657 a day and that's actually down from 686 a day the year before. So with the number of trucks actually declining, what is the new target for truck traffic at the GTH? And how can this government justify the massive overbuild of the west bypass in light of the dismal underperformance at the GTH?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Highways.

Hon. Ms. Carr: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member opposite for asking a question about traffic counts. The member opposite likes to talk about how traffic count is and how we have no idea of what we're talking about. So as a new minister I was curious as to exactly how these traffic volumes are determined.

Predicted traffic volumes were generated in partnership with the city of Regina using their traffic demand model. This sophisticated computer model uses data from a number of sources to predict traffic volumes and traffic patterns well into the future. In this case the model was also regionalized to factor in changes to traffic demand regionally and on the national highway system.

I would also like to note that this bypass wasn't built for trucks coming out of the GTH today. It was built to handle local traffic, regional, national, and international traffic coming from and to Regina, and this will happen for years to come, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Funding for Education

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, the Education minister had some puzzling things to say on his portfolio last week. First he appeared to threaten our education sector with teacher layoffs because of a federal policy that hasn't even been implemented yet, saying, "... the application of the carbon tax to public education in this province will be 100 teachers, Mr. Speaker."

Interesting math, Mr. Speaker. So let's take his formula at face value and apply it to the net \$78 million that his government has cut from our schools over the past two years. The question to the minister: exactly how many teachers has his government's damaging cuts cost our classrooms?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Well, Mr. Speaker, what's troubling with the member's question is she takes no note of the fact that there is going to be a significant impact to public education funding as a result of the carbon tax, and I pointed that out last week, Mr. Speaker — the equivalent of 100 teachers if the carbon tax comes in at \$20 a tonne.

So it concerns me that that member isn't concerned about that threat to public education funding, Mr. Speaker, that those costs will come right out of the school divisions, Mr. Speaker. And presumably she's going to stand up at some point in time and say, you know, Minister, you need to backfill that amount of money that the federal government's taking out of the classrooms. She's going to ask that question, Mr. Speaker.

But let me tell you about the commitment that we've made to public education, Mr. Speaker. Since we formed government in 2007, enrolment is up 12 per cent; 33 per cent increase in funding to public education over that period of time, Mr. Speaker, including, including the \$30 million commitment that the Premier made which is in the last budget, Mr. Speaker. We'll continue to have conversations with the sector, Mr. Speaker, as we build our platform to bring forward in our next budget.

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

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, what I'm going to continue to ask that minister to do is to backfill the \$78 million that his government has taken out of education in the last two years. Using his math, that would be close to 1,000 teachers fewer over

the last two years.

The minister said last week that he's hearing concerns from teachers and school boards, and I have no doubt. But when he's pressed to do something about the concerns, he offers nothing but spin and tired lines while turning a blind eye to his government's cuts that are currently — today — crippling our classrooms.

Last week the minister claimed, and I quote, "... we've gotten 86 more teachers in the classroom since last year..." That was news to us, Mr. Speaker, when the latest numbers reported from the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation in January showed 188 fewer teachers in the classroom over last year.

Now can the minister confirm that we're now only down 100 teachers over a year ago, and state exactly where he got those figures from to make that claim?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'll state again for the record, our numbers indicate another 86 classroom teachers in the classroom, Mr. Speaker, since last year. Mr. Speaker, we've also got 177 more EAs [educational assistant] in the system last year as a result of the funding commitment that this government made. And as we go forward, as we have our conversations, as we start to build our case for the budget in the spring, Mr. Speaker, I think the member opposite will be pleasantly surprised with some of the things that we're going to be talking about.

But we're listening to teachers and we're listening to school boards, Mr. Speaker. The proof is in the pudding when it comes to additional people in our classrooms, Mr. Speaker, with respect to the additional supports that this government has made to the classrooms. We have committed to ensuring that kids in our classrooms and our classrooms are properly funded, Mr. Speaker, and we're going to continue to do that.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport.

Government Support Program for Veterans

Hon. Mr. Makowsky: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. This weekend we honoured our active and veteran Canadian Armed Forces members through, of course, Remembrance Day ceremonies. We are incredibly fortunate to live in Canada where thousands of men and women very selflessly dedicate their lives to safeguarding our freedoms.

Saskatchewan is home to approximately 16,300 veterans who served in the Canadian Armed Forces and reserves through both wartime service and peacekeeping missions overseas. Saskatchewan's also home to the RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police], which makes us home to a large number of those veterans as well. The Canadian Armed Forces and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police are an important part of the country's national identity both at home and abroad.

On the international front these highly trained men and women

are repeatedly called upon to participate in humanitarian, peacekeeping, and security missions of international organizations such as the UN [United Nations] and NATO [North Atlantic Treaty Organization], while domestically their expertise is often needed in search and rescue operations and aiding citizens, helping them cope with natural disasters such as forest fires, floods, avalanches, and ice storms. They also assist in the protection of Canada's fisheries and in the detection and interception of shipments of illegal drugs, to name a few.

[14:30]

In 2015 our government requested help from the Canadian Armed Forces in fighting intense wildfires. About 850 CAF [Canadian Armed Forces] members were deployed in northern Saskatchewan to support our local and provincial firefighters. Members of the Canadian Armed Forces, with our brave firefighters, helped protect towns and critical infrastructure for those 12 days and helped prevent further devastation.

We are all aware of the military campaigns Canadian forces have bravely served in. However wartime conditions are not the only source of stress. In addition to military-specific stressors such as deploying overseas, frequent change of station, temporary duty away from family, day-to-day aspects of the job, those responsibilities, work hours, and intense training have a significant effect on the well-being of military and RCMP personnel. The psychological ill health of many military personnel may compromise their physical health, impair work performance, and decrease their quality of life.

This is why it's our turn to support our veterans who have served and put everything on the line. On Friday, our government announced a \$100,000 Legion and ANAVET [Army, Navy & Air Force Veterans in Canada] support program that will provide funding grants to Royal Canadian Legion branches and Army, Navy & Air Force Veterans units across Saskatchewan. We want to help Legions and ANAVET units so that veterans and their families and community members have access to facilities for the programming, activities, events, and meetings they host because their dedication to providing services for veterans is invaluable to our communities.

The Legion provides veterans and active members with services related to mental health, securing benefits, service dogs, athletic programs, and homelessness assistance. Legions provide these services to serving military personnel, RCMP members, and their families. In addition to providing fraternity for veterans, ANAVET units in Canada are also mandated to maintain and operate clubs, museums, homes, and meeting places for the benefit of veterans and Canada's war history. The provincial government will be working with the Legion and ANAVET to determine where this funding will be most impactful and release details on the application process in the coming months.

Mr. Speaker, this past weekend Canadians from sea to sea to sea gathered to pay tribute to Canada's veterans and thank those who are currently serving. Although we attend services and wear poppies in November, the service and sacrifice of those who have fought for freedom is something we need to remember year-round. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise to respond to the ministerial statement, and I do want to thank him, the office, for sending over an advance copy so we could take a look at it. And of course there is much to be appreciated in this announcement, that this is one that I'm sure the Legion and ANAVET will make very, very good use of.

And of course this past weekend was the marking of the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I and the armistice, and so it was a pretty special day and weekend for all of us who really appreciate the good work of those who protect our freedoms and particularly democracy. You know, it's one that we value and we cherish, just as we had the proceedings before us in question period, that people fought to make sure that we could have a rigorous discussion of how our process works. So that's very much needed.

We look forward to seeing the details in the months ahead. We do note that it's the RCMP, and of course there are others in municipal police forces as well that suffer from PTSD [post-traumatic stress disorder] and that type of thing. So we want to make sure that as many people are covered as possible with this, but we do appreciate the start here. It's very good, very important, and we thank the ministry for that. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

TABLING OF REPORTS

The Speaker: — Before orders of the day, I have a report to table from the Chief Electoral Officer: report of the Chief Electoral Officer pursuant to subsection 7(6) of *The Election Act, 1996* regarding actions taken during the constituency of Regina Northeast by-election, November 2018.

Orders of the day. The member for Regina Douglas Park, why are you on your feet?

Ms. Sarauer: — I have a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

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

POINT OF ORDER

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During question period today while the Leader of the Opposition was asking a question, could distinctly hear the member from Meadow Lake yell across the floor, quote, you're making it up. Mr. Speaker, speakers previously have ruled this type of language out of order.

Earlier this session the member from Cannington, what one can only assume was his bid to become Government House Leader, made a point of order about a very similar thing that was yelled across the floor. And the member from Saskatoon Centre had the class and the respect for this Chamber to stand up and apologize when that point of order was made. I'd like to see the same thing happen today with the member from Meadow Lake. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Brkich: — To respond to the point of order.

The Speaker: — Go ahead.

Hon. Mr. Brkich: — While I was sitting here there was much yelling back and forth from both sides of the House. I will ask that you review *Hansard* on this. I didn't hear anything.

The Speaker: — I certainly . . . Order. I'm not prepared to rule at this particular time. Let me review the tape and see if there's anything picked up. You know how difficult that's going to be, but if any members are saying any of these terms, unparliamentary language, please be prepared to just stand up and withdraw and apologize. I didn't hear it, but let me review the tape. And we'll go on.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 146 — *The Vital Statistics Amendment Act, 2018* *Loi modificative de 2018 sur les services de l'état civil*

The Speaker: — I recognize the minister.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Mr. Speaker, I request leave to consider all remaining stages of Bill No. 146, *The Vital Statistics Amendment Act, 2018* immediately.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Health has asked for leave to consider all remaining stages of Bill No. 146, *The Vital Statistics Amendment Act, 2018* immediately. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Health may proceed to move second reading of this bill.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to move second reading for *The Vital Statistics Amendment Act, 2018*. *The Vital Statistics Act* is bilingual legislation, therefore both the English and the French language versions must be passed by the legislature.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation will allow individuals who were born in Saskatchewan to request a birth certificate that does not display a sex designation. This bill amends section 65 of *The Vital Statistics Act*. That section sets out what information must be on a birth certificate. Section 65 states a person's sex designation must be on their birth certificate.

Mr. Speaker, in May of this year, the Court of Queen's Bench found section 65 breached an individual's rights under *The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code* because there was no option to remove the sex designation from a birth certificate. The court ordered the government and eHealth Saskatchewan to create new criteria within 45 days to remedy this breach. *The Vital Statistics Act* could not be amended in 45 days, so eHealth Saskatchewan created interim criteria that allows Saskatchewan-born individuals to request a birth certificate that does not display a sex designation. eHealth has been processing these requests through policy since July the 9th. Mr. Speaker, this amendment is necessary to remedy the breach of *The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code* and to comply with the court's order.

Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 146, *The Vital Statistics Amendment Act, 2018* be now read a second time.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Health has moved second reading of Bill No. 146, *The Vital Statistics Amendment Act, 2018*. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member for Saskatoon Centre.

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to enter into the debate on Bill 146, *The Vital Statistics Amendment Act, 2018*.

Before I start, I want to introduce a few guests that have joined us since we went into question period. In the east gallery, I see Jacq Brasseur of the U of R [University of Regina] Pride Centre and a couple of friends. Welcome to the legislature and for the debate here today. I see Joe Wickenhauser, the executive director for Moose Jaw Pride, has joined us as well, and Laura Budd who has also joined us. And I should mention Laura is also one who has won a significant human rights ruling in this area. So thank you all for joining us today.

So, Mr. Speaker, I join into the debate on behalf of the Saskatchewan loyal opposition. We welcome this amendment, a very important advancement to Saskatchewan's vital stats legislation. Mr. Speaker, I was particularly pleased to note the court ruling of May 2018, essentially a human rights ruling, a significant first in Canada that will allow people of all ages to change or remove their gender marker on their birth certificates.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate two brave young people, Renn and Jordyn, who led this fight for human rights and gender diversity. Judge Krogan in her landmark ruling insightfully said, referring to *The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code*, and I quote:

The Code is essential to the health and strength of our community. Section 3 captures the objects of the Code which include recognition of the inherent dignity and equal, inalienable rights of persons. The Code also supports the advancement of public policy that aims to eliminate discrimination.

Mr. Speaker, Renn is here in the gallery to witness the end of this struggle. And as I said in the introduction, it's been six years. It started when she was five and now 11. But in so many ways it's a vital milestone along the way to improve the lives of all of us here in the province. In many ways we can call this Renn's law. Thank you so much for your bravery.

The parents involved, Fran Forsberg, and the family of Dustin Dyck and Jordyn, as well Larry Kowalchuk who is not with us today, played a major role in this decision that we're fulfilling today. I want to recognize the role of Larry's son, Micah, also a lawyer, contributed so much to this decision. Micah passed away this Saturday, so thank you, Micah.

Health care remains a significant issue in the trans community, as we recently heard of new initiatives to recruit appropriate health professionals and much-needed services. Mr. Speaker, there are currently six recognized doctors allowed to give Saskatchewan people referrals, but only one of them is actually in this province, and she says her wait times are three years.

Mr. Speaker, next week North America, and here in Saskatchewan, will be marking Transgender Day of Remembrance, also known as the International Transgender Day of Remembrance. It is observed annually on November 20th as a day to memorialize those who've been murdered as a result of transphobia and to draw attention to the continued violence endured by the transgendered community. Mr. Speaker, this amendment is a clear signal that transphobia has no place here in Saskatchewan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The opposition is ready to move forward. Thank you.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is a motion moved by the Minister of Health that Bill No. 146, *The Vital Statistics 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.

Principal Clerk: — Second reading of this bill.

The Speaker: — To which committee shall this bill be committed? I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd also like to welcome the guests in the gallery. And, Mr. Speaker, I designate that Bill No. 146, *The Vital Statistics Amendment Act, 2018* be committed to the Committee of the Whole on Bills and the said bill be considered in Committee of the Whole on Bills immediately.

The Speaker: — This bill stands committed to the Committee of the Whole on Bills.

Principal Clerk: — Committee of the Whole on Bills.

The Speaker: — I do now leave the Chair for the Assembly to go into Committee of the Whole on Bills.

[14:45]

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ON BILLS

Bill No. 146 — *The Vital Statistics Amendment Act, 2018* *Loi modificative de 2018 sur les services de l'état civil*

The Chair: — The item of business before the committee is Bill No. 146, *The Vital Statistics Amendment Act, 2018*. Clause 1, short title, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried.

[Clauses 1 to 3 inclusive agreed to.]

The Chair: — This being a bilingual bill, we'll do the clauses in French. Clause 1, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried.

[Clauses 1 to 3 inclusive agreed to.]

The Chair: — Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan, enacts as follows: Bill No. 146, *The Vital Statistics Amendment Act, 2018*.

I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — I move that the committee report the bill without amendment.

The Chair: — It has been moved by the Minister of Health that Bill No. 146, *The Vital Statistics Amendment Act, 2018* be reported without amendment. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Mr. Chair, I move that the committee rise, report progress, and ask for leave to sit again.

The Chair: — It has been moved by the Minister of Health that the committee rise, report progress, and ask for leave to sit again. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried.

[The Speaker resumed the Chair.]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of committees.

Mr. Hart: — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the committee to report Bill No. 146, *The Vital Statistics Amendment Act, 2018* without amendment.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Health may proceed to move third reading. I recognize the minister.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 146 — *The Vital Statistics Amendment Act, 2018* *Loi modificative de 2018 sur les services de l'état civil*

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved that Bill No. 146, *The Vital Statistics Amendment Act, 2018* be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Principal Clerk: — Third reading of this bill.

The Speaker: — When shall the committee sit again? I recognize the minister.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Next sitting, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 147 — *The Oil and Gas Conservation Amendment Act, 2018*

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

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to rise today to move second reading of *The Oil and Gas Conservation Amendment Act, 2018*. The purpose of *The Oil and Gas Conservation Act* currently is, among other things, to develop, process, protect, and conserve the oil and gas resources of Saskatchewan.

In the decade since it was established, the Act has been updated to keep pace as the industry has evolved. These new amendments are part of this continual advancement and modernization. They primarily support the implementation of regulations related to greenhouse gas emissions. They also serve to streamline business practices and bring the Act into alignment with other pieces of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, the most significant changes are in support of Prairie Resilience, a made-in-Saskatchewan climate change strategy which was announced in December 2017. They will help both the Ministry of Energy and Resources and the Ministry of Environment move forward on this strategy. This includes the development of regulations which will reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the flaring and venting of methane by 45 per cent by 2025.

This results-based program will include penalties on emission exceedances by operators who fail to meet the emission reduction targets. In the case of emission penalties, this could include payment to a climate change technology fund established under *The Management and Reduction of Greenhouse Gases Act*. This is a fund specifically designed to support investments that help Saskatchewan achieve the goals set out in Prairie Resilience.

The proposed amendments also provide the basis for the negotiation of an agreement with the Government of Canada to prevent federal regulations related to methane emissions from applying to Saskatchewan producers.

Finally the proposed changes will also bring the current Act into alignment with amendments approved in 2017 to *The Pipelines Act, 1998*. These two Acts work together to regulate oil and gas activity in Saskatchewan, and it's important to ensure consistency in terms of their application.

Mr. Speaker, my ministry has consulted with the Ministry of Environment on these amendments, and we agree that these amendments will advance our provincial strategy to both reduce

greenhouse gas emissions and decrease regulatory red tape for the oil and gas industry in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, I now move second reading of *The Oil and Gas Conservation Amendment Act, 2018*.

The Speaker: — It has been moved that Bill No. 147 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased, as we've done on numerous occasions, to stand and give our first response to bills being presented by the provincial Government of Saskatchewan. And on Bill 147, *The Oil and Gas Conservation Amendment Act, 2018*, we pay very, very close attention on any issue brought forward by the government as it pertains to the oil and gas sector because, Mr. Speaker, I think it's important to go without saying that it's one of our robust industries. And it's certainly a sector of our economy that we must pay a lot of attention to and be very, very vigilant when it comes to this particular government's effort to try and build up this industry because we've seen the failures happen on many, many occasions.

Now, Mr. Speaker, as we've indicated from the opposition perspective, it's very important that, as Saskatchewan is a landlocked province, that we do all we can to ensure that we are able to get our product to market, whether it be potash, whether it be commodities in general, or the oil and gas sector, as indicated on previous occasions by myself and members of our caucus. I think what's really important, Mr. Speaker, is that as we look at the capacity to get our oil and gas, in this particular instance our oil and gas to market, that we have to do what we can. As we've indicated again time and time again, there's always the balance that people want us to achieve as government, and that is between the environment and the economy.

So as the government brings forward bills of this sort, what we want to do is we want to be able to look at the bills and be very, very meticulous in what the intent of the bills are meant to be and to really watch very carefully what some of the wording is and what some of the suggested changes to the legislation might be. So it's important for us, as the opposition, to have a look at what the bill is intended to do.

And at this time, I just wanted to point out that on Bill 147, as the minister spoke about the oil and conservation amendment Act, what the bill proposes, Mr. Speaker, is it changes some terms used in previous legislation and adds new ones. And we need to find out what the intent of those terms are because, as I've indicated time and time again, there is a lot of legal meanings behind different types of wording. And it's important that we examine those terms used in this particular Act to make sure there is no harm that may come from the Saskatchewan Party government.

The other perspective of the bill, it redefines the roles and responsibility of the minister. It also sets new rules for inspections and investigation of incidences. And, Mr. Speaker, we have to find out what the roles and responsibilities that the minister's inferring upon herself. And that's something that we often find at times, Mr. Speaker, becoming problematic for Saskatchewan's economy over and over again, is when some of

the ministers out there believe they have the right idea, and they don't do their due diligence. And we're seeing evidence of how this could really have a drastic negative effect on Saskatchewan for years and years to come.

And I would submit that the Global Transportation Hub is one example of a mess created by ministers that simply did not know what they were doing. And they conferred power upon themselves, didn't really do a good job of due diligence, got bought up with these shiny new projects that they thought would be great. And here we are, months later and billions of dollars more than we anticipated spending, Mr. Speaker. This is the reason why when ministers infer and assume greater powers, as opposed to going through the proper process. Mr. Speaker, it is concerning to the people of Saskatchewan.

The bill also sets out procedures governing the pooling interest in drainage unit and drainage area, Mr. Speaker. Again we want to make sure that we are doing all we can to support the oil and gas sector but, at the same time, as we've spoken about in this Assembly time and time again, there's always the issue of balance with the environment. I think the people of Saskatchewan deserve that. I think the people of Saskatchewan demand we do that. On the one hand, they want to see the resource development happen to the extent it should. By the same token though we also have to be cognizant of the fact that the environmental issues that Saskatchewan could suffer from, Mr. Speaker, are so vitally important. We have to be aware of that particular balance as well.

The bill also adds a new clause on the reduction of greenhouse gases, Mr. Speaker. People throughout the province and throughout the country know that the greenhouse gas emissions are high and that something has got to be done to address that particular challenge, Mr. Speaker. And the jury's out as to what approaches would work to mitigate that man-made impact on the environment overall. And this is the reason why, when we talk about the balance between the economy and the environment, we must do all we can to watch both interests to ensure that the Saskatchewan people that may be concerned on both fronts, their issues are both equally weighed, so to speak.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, this bill changes the penalty provisions, expanding the fees to 50,000 and 500,000. Of course, 50,000 is for the individual and 500,000 is for the corporation, the corporate players, if you will. So really, Mr. Speaker, if you look at some of the fine systems that are imposed when people do directly contravene the Act, again what this particular bill does is it expands the fees to 50,000 and 500,000 for individuals and corporations respectively each day for the offence that may have occurred.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would summarize that the bill itself needs more study by the opposition. We want to ensure that there is a smooth transition to get our goods and our products to market. We want to make sure that there is no leaf unturned, no stone unturned when it comes to ensuring that the oil and gas sector is indeed supported by legislation and bills such as Bill 147. So we are going to take our time. We're going to reach out to the various groups that are out there; then they give us a perspective and they give us some advice. And we intend to do that as the opposition.

And we would also point out that those who have issues with this

particular bill is that please contact our caucus office. And we'll certainly want to hear from you as well, so that communication is always a two-way street. So we would encourage people to do that as well. So, Mr. Speaker, I move that we adjourn debate on Bill 147, *The Oil and Gas Conservation Amendment Act, 2018*.

The Speaker: — The member has moved to adjourn debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 148 — *The Pipelines Amendment Act, 2018*

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

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise today to move second reading of *The Pipelines Amendment Act, 2018*. In March 2017 the Government of Saskatchewan announced the funding of the multi-year pipeline regulation enhancement program. Its purpose is to accelerate improvements to Saskatchewan's pipeline regulatory system.

[15:00]

One of these improvements is the expansion of the integrated resource information system, or IRIS, operated by the Ministry of Energy and Resources. Specifically, IRIS is being expanded to include the issuance and administration of licences for pipelines and flowlines. The ministry currently expects to implement its new online pipeline licensing system in 2019. During consultations on the development of the new system, industry representatives expressed support for two business improvements. These changes require amendments to the Act.

The first change is the establishment of IRIS as a legal online registry rather than simply a data system for issuing and administering licences. As such, IRIS would become the sole legal record of the existence of the licence as well as the terms and conditions applicable to that licence. The information in IRIS would prevail over any other documents that might exist outside the system. This proposed licence registry system is modelled after Saskatchewan's land title systems, as well as other electronic registries operated by the ministry for oil and gas leases and mineral claims.

The second change, Mr. Speaker, is the establishment of a legal mechanism for the minister to acquire historical flowline and pipeline surveys directly from Saskatchewan land surveyors. The new online system being developed will include the use of modern geographic information systems to map flowlines and pipelines. In order to build this system, the ministry requires original survey information to create an electronic map of a pipeline or flowline infrastructure. It is important to note that 90 per cent of any costs incurred to implement these changes would be offset against the annual administrative levy assessed against holders of oil and gas well and pipeline licences.

Mr. Speaker, both of these changes support the business improvement goals of the pipeline regulation enhancement program. Along with these changes, the ministry also proposes a

housekeeping amendment to the Act. This change will align the regulation-making powers in section 25 related to administrative penalties with those found in *The Oil and Gas Conservation Act*.

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved that Bill No. 148 be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion? Sorry. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. This certainly is a good segue to some of the earlier conversations I had as it pertains to the previous bill that was introduced, when we talked about the balance between the environment and the economy. I think it's really important, Mr. Speaker.

The Pipelines Amendment Act, 2018, I believe it certainly talks about the legislation introducing the amount of paper used for registration of some of these companies. It also talks about best business practices, Mr. Speaker, which is important that we pay attention to, certainly as legislators in this particular Assembly.

And I think it's important to note that when we talk about the pipeline surveys and the pipelines themselves, and the flowlines, and all the issues that pertain to this part of the Act, Mr. Speaker, that we have to look at the arguments around administrative penalty to sanction failure to comply with the requirements of the regulation. And also to talk about the survey plans, Mr. Speaker, and how people are going to be impacted by any sort of development as it pertains to pipelines, Mr. Speaker.

Now I notice that a lot of the challenge is around pipelines, Mr. Speaker. People throughout the province have articulated this in many ways and shapes and forms to demonstrations, to public meetings, through the media. There's been some arguments for the industry. There's been arguments against of course, Mr. Speaker, and as people that sit in the Assembly it's important that we do all we can to mitigate, as I mentioned, both parts of that equation between the environment and the economy.

And I think what's really important when we spoke about, on this particular side of the House, when we spoke about that balance, Mr. Speaker, we have to make sure that there's good consultation with all the players. Yes, we can regulate the pipeline industry as being proposed in this particular bill. Yes, we can talk about best business practices, Mr. Speaker, which is important that we do. We can talk about penalties, and we can talk about the requirements of the regulations that are in this particular bill. All those are very, very important aspects and parts of governing well, so we can encourage the oil and gas sector to thrive for many, many years in the province of Saskatchewan.

But you must have a robust approach. And I think the bill itself, something that I think is lacking is the consultations when it comes to the issue around the First Nations communities and certainly the Métis communities, as well when we were talking about legislation as it pertains to the duty to consult and the duty to accommodate, Mr. Speaker. There's no question that as we spoke about the challenge around pipelines, have we had any particular issues in the past number of years when the impact of pipelines and the spills of pipelines themselves? Have they

impacted First Nations and Métis communities? The answer is absolutely yes, when we're all familiar with the Husky oil spill, how it impacted certainly the James Smith Cree Nation and the Cumberland House Cree Nation. Both of these First Nations communities were impacted, and of course many communities along the river's route as well certainly had that impact as well.

So the consultation that we're talking about as it pertains to administrative penalties, to look at complying with the requirements of the regulation, Mr. Speaker, we must be robust in our approach to all people impacted in this instance that if there is a transgression or if there is a pipeline leak that we must reach out to as many people impacted as possible. And not be select in our approach because we've not refused — or we have refused from the Sask Party's perspective — to have been very, very thorough in their need as a government, in their required need, to come forward with legislation as it pertains to the duty to accommodate and duty to consult.

Now, Mr. Speaker, as we've indicated before, not being a lawyer of any sort, I would point out that when we talk to some of the people that have the notion around duty to consult and duty to accommodate, I believe that the obligation rests on the Crown's part to be able to provide the framework in which they would achieve these objectives.

Now what we've seen evidenced time and time again, Mr. Speaker, is the Saskatchewan Party has refused to take, has refused to take any kind of position, has actually transferred the duty to consult and duty to accommodate to the private sector and the people that are extracting some of the resources and impacting First Nations and Métis communities. They're the ones doing that type of work.

And that's a total lack of leadership. I don't think that was the intent to begin with. The duty still rests with the Crown to do their best practices and their best efforts to accommodate and certainly to consult First Nations and now Métis people on any of the developments happening in their particular areas. And this government has done a terrible job on that front.

So, Mr. Speaker, we have to make sure that consultations from the industry perspective are thorough, but we also must be engaging with some of the other communities that may be impacted by some transgressions against these particular bills. And we must also ensure that the First Nations and Métis people are a part of those consultations. So it is certainly something that we're paying attention to.

We've had some unfortunate incidents within this industry in the province of Saskatchewan. We're hoping that this legislation tightens up the ability to make sure that we meet the requirement to be balanced in our approach. And, Mr. Speaker, this is the reason why we're consulting; we're having discussions with various groups of people. And this is why we need to send out the message: please give us some advice if you're able to do so, and we're certainly waiting to hear some of your points and some of the matters that are of concern to you as a potential stakeholder when it comes to this particular bill. So we'll go through that process.

We have more learned colleagues from the legal perspective that could certainly give a good description of what the intent behind

the Supreme Court of Canada's ruling as it pertains to duty to accommodate and duty to consult. I think I'll be looking forward to those comments. But clearly, Mr. Speaker, we need to have those discussions as it pertains to any pipeline legislation that may be coming forward. So on that note, I move that we adjourn debate of Bill 148, *The Pipelines Amendment Act, 2018*.

The Speaker: — The member has moved to adjourn debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 145 — *The Residential Services Act, 2018*

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

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At the end of my remarks I will move second reading of Bill No. 145, *The Residential Services Act, 2018*. Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure to stand in this House today to introduce this bill.

The Residential Services Act governs facilities that provide residential services to some of Saskatchewan's most vulnerable people. Many of these people are not able to independently care for themselves due to family circumstances, age, disability, or illness. People requiring residential services might receive care in group homes, approved private service homes, domestic violence shelters, and community-based homes. *The Residential Services Act* was last reviewed in 1985 and has had no substantial amendments since that time.

The needs of our clients served under this Act have changed in the last 30 years and so should go on legislation and regulations. The current Act contains outdated terminology and provisions that require modernization to meet the changing needs of ministries and clients. Although a rewrite of this Act will ensure we continue to provide safe and effective licensing of these type of homes for the people who rely on them for their safety and well-being, Bill No. 145 will repeal and replace *The Residential Services Act*.

The most substantial difference between the current Act and the rewrite includes expansion of types of homes that may be licensed under this Act. The current legislation has strict and limited definitions of these types of facilities that can be licensed. The new Act can provide more flexibility and allow more innovative options to meet the diverse needs of Saskatchewan's most vulnerable people as they arise in the future. Government has a growing need to expand residential options for people with different abilities, children in need of protection, women and children fleeing interpersonal violence and abuse, and others who are in need of residential care. Expanding the definition of a care facility will reduce unnecessary barriers to provide quality care to people in need.

This new Act will also increase the penalties for those who breach this legislation. Currently, contravention of this Act would result in a fine of up to \$200 per incident. Under the new legislation, violation of any provision under the Act or regulations can result in fines of up to \$300 a day.

In addition to the provisions outlined above, we also include increasing maximum length of time in which a licence may be issued. The current Act only allows for licences to be issued up to one year. The new Act will allow options of ensuring licences up to three years. Allowing the option of issuing an extended licence will provide some flexibility for the public servants who license these facilities and the service delivery sector while not compromising resident care. An extended licence will also be considered when appropriate where the agency has proven a history of compliance. This provision will only affect the frequency in which the ministry licences are issued.

Facilities will continue to require annual fire inspections in order to meet their licensing requirements. The rewriting of this Act will include sections regarding the ability to obtain search warrants for the purpose of accessing a vulnerable person if there is reason to believe that their health and/or safety is at risk.

Clearly outlined requirements for information sharing, good record keeping by the care facility operators, the ability for an applicant to request a review of a decision regarding licensing, clearly outlined provisions for the protection of residents, protection for persons who report abuse, and appointment of an administrator to act in the place of the operator, if necessary — these new provisions reflect current legislation drafting standards in other provincial legislation. This legislation provides the flexibility required to meet the current and future needs of Saskatchewan people requiring residential care.

I move that *The Residential Services Act, 2018* be now read a second time. Thank you.

The Speaker: — It has been moved that Bill No. 145 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. We in the opposition pay very, very close attention to the moment we talk about health care or just in terms of treatment of our elders when it comes to the Saskatchewan Party government, Mr. Speaker. When we hear the words "flexible" and "innovative," right away our defences rise because obviously those are the buzzwords for a number of potentially discouraging trends that we've seen from the Saskatchewan Party when it comes to residential services, Mr. Speaker.

[15:15]

There's no question from our perspective, updating legislation is really, really important. I think that we're going to modernize as much of the language as we can, modernize much of the intent. But what I fear what might be happening, Mr. Speaker, is that the Saskatchewan Party is obviously trying to find ways and means in which they could sneak in a private agenda when it comes to the care of our seniors, Mr. Speaker. So while they talk about flexibility and innovation, Mr. Speaker, we fear the privatization of services would result in many more of our seniors having less than quality care and paying more for it.

So it's really important, Mr. Speaker, that we look at this legislation very thoroughly. We simply don't trust the minister, nor do we trust the Saskatchewan Party government when it comes to the protection of our seniors because we've seen how

they have jacked up the rates for many of our seniors in care. The amount of money they're paying for monthly services, Mr. Speaker, in some instances have gone up as much as 700, \$800 a month. And we've heard a lot of those concerns, Mr. Speaker, that is out there.

When we talk about seniors' care, many people in the province still struggle. The seniors still struggle with the affordability of medicine. A lot of times people in the North contact my office where they've made a conscious decision of not being able to buy medication because they can't afford it. And they have to pay their rent of course, and that certainly complicates matters as well.

The seniors as well also talk about the need for vision care and dental care and supports in that particular area. Mr. Speaker, we find out that there's none of that kind of support for many of the seniors.

So now we're watching the Saskatchewan Party start talking about residential services and how they're encouraging companies to be innovative and flexible. Well, Mr. Speaker, to me that means less services, more cost, and less regard for our seniors. We've got to be very, very careful on some of these fronts. And this is the reason why we in the opposition are paying close attention to this particular bill.

There is no question that they're changing wording in general. They're talking about changing the denomination of "residential facilities" with "care facilities." What does that interpretation mean? They establish a list of support services offered in a care facility. Are they talking less services or just more cost for certain services? It's difficult to determine that at this time. There are changes with respect to enforcement of the Act.

They're obviously putting a new clause in on the protection of the residents. Which clauses have they taken out? Which clauses have they weakened over time? This is the part that's really important, Mr. Speaker. When you look at the practice of the Saskatchewan Party as it pertains to our seniors' care in general, their practice has been very, very poor.

There's also a clause on the appointment of an administrator who may act in the place of an operator of a care facility who fails to comply with prescribed requirements. Obviously they know many of the seniors are going to be coming forward with these concerns and they're going to complain and they're going to argue, and rightfully so. So this is another effort on their part to prepare for what, I think, is going to be a continual complaint process as they privatize and lessen services through their legislation when it comes to care homes for our facility.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, they're updating references to "care facility" in other Acts, so obviously if they want to charge the seniors more for residential services then you've got to do it right across the board, and that's certainly part of the process. So we have to be very, very careful.

There's a number of questions that we have. Is there any list of care facilities, licensed by the government in a category of care facilities, available to the public? Are they going to have a different tiered level of residential care for our seniors? None of that information is readily available here. The standards . . . What

facility that might be available, Mr. Speaker? Often the question we raised about safety and the health of patients. What further effects is the government planning on doing to prevent abuse of the seniors under their particular model?

And, Mr. Speaker, again how the consultations been thus far? Have they talked with the number of senior groups that are very, very strong in the province of Saskatchewan? Has there been any consultation to that effect? I doubt very much that the consultation has been as robust as could be, Mr. Speaker, so that's one of the reasons why from the opposition perspective we're going to hold this bill. We're going to do the consultation. We're going to have as many people as we can to talk about this particular bill. And of course the opposition member is getting up one after another to have their perspective on this bill as they hear from a number of seniors that are in care throughout our province.

So again, Mr. Speaker, if this was all about simply updating legislation that's been around since 1985, I think the current opposition would probably say, you know, that's something that needs to be looked at. Any time you update legislation and bills, it's always something that has to be done. But when the Sask Party do it, Mr. Speaker, we're extra defensive. We're extra careful because the practice has been in the past that this is their weight and means of ushering in a lesser model of care for seniors, and that's something that we in the opposition do not want to see happen.

So on that note, I move that we adjourn debate on Bill 145, *The Residential Services Act, 2018*.

The Speaker: — The member has moved to adjourn debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

**Bill No. 142 — *The Proceedings Against the Crown Act, 2018*
*Loi de 2018 sur les poursuites contre la Couronne***

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

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to move second reading of the *The Proceedings Against the Crown Act, 2018*. Mr. Speaker, this Act will replace *The Proceedings Against the Crown Act* with a new modern bilingual Act that reflects the most recent drafting standards. Mr. Speaker, the new Act will remove the option for jury trials and proceedings against the Crown. This option is very rarely exercised with only one such jury trial having been held in over 20 years. The change will also make Saskatchewan's Act consistent with the majority of Crown liability statutes across Canada. New Brunswick is the only other common-law province that currently allows jury trials in these proceedings.

Mr. Speaker, in a trial by jury there are no written reasons. A judge's written reasons provide valuable guidance to policy- and decision-makers who need to respond to and implement a decision. Also proceedings against the Crown can often involve complex issues that are better suited to a trial by judge alone. Mr.

Speaker, removing the option of a jury trial means that juries will no longer have to sit for lengthy trials in future complex cases.

Mr. Speaker, this new Act also includes some minor clarifications and improvements respecting who can attend questioning, how default judgments can be entered, and how orders can be stayed pending an appeal. Mr. Speaker, opening the Act to these amendments also provides the opportunity to redraft the Act to update the language to reflect modern drafting standards.

The Act has also been translated into French. Modernizing and translating the Act increases accessibility for users of the courts and supports our government's ongoing work to revise and translate statutes as resources permit.

Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to move second reading of *The Proceedings Against the Crown Act, 2018*.

The Speaker: — It has been moved that Bill No. 142 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Again, Mr. Speaker, thanks so much. We have the opportunity to give the first response to Bill No. 142, *The Proceedings Against the Crown Act, 2018*. And, Mr. Speaker, certainly the bill itself, the summary of the bill from our perspective is it basically provides a regulatory framework for the conduct of proceedings against the Crown.

The bill replaces the existing legislation as it pertains to this matter and some sections were removed from the previous version of the Act. And we need to know exactly what the intent of those sections are and how this new Act would replace those intentions, and that they not be weakened in some way, shape, or form.

It certainly talks about a section on the conduct of a trial without a jury. And, Mr. Speaker, again being a non-lawyer, so to speak, it's important to note what option, when you have the jury option, that people are making reference to this particular bill. We need to find out what impact it may have on the people's right to go after the Crown on any fronts.

And this is something that obviously will take a greater legal mind than mine to certainly shift through and provide different perspective. But it's always important to note as you take one avenue of justice away from any legislation — even if, as the minister alluded to, it only got used once in the last 20 years — we still need to ascertain whether that action itself really weakens the justice system from the layperson's perspective or from the average citizen's perspective. That must be certainly investigated and must be evaluated as well. So it's important to note what effect that may have overall on Saskatchewan's people.

The new bill also includes a French version, Mr. Speaker, which is something that is certainly a typical practice of many governments throughout Saskatchewan. It also introduces amendments to, which is in another part of the bill . . . It introduces amendments to certain Acts resulting from the enactment of *The Proceedings Against the Crown Act, 2018*.

So, Mr. Speaker, again we have to be very, very careful with the

intent of this particular bill. We think that there is going to be a lot of discussion amongst the legal minds as to what this matter may provide in terms of weakening the people's right to go against the Crown on certain legal matters, or whether it's merely an administrative issue and whether it's meant to simply streamline the operations of government and really starting out, you know, to make sure that there's no weakening of the argument from a legal perspective.

So there's quite a bit of things we have to shift through here again. We intend to do so as the opposition, and again we encourage people that have advice for us or direction or concerns as it pertains to this bill, the avenue of communication is always open. We would seek advice from different groups, as we spoke about earlier, but also keep the door open to receive advice as well. So on that note, Mr. Speaker, we adjourn debate on Bill No. 142, *The Proceedings Against the Crown Act, 2018*.

The Speaker: — The member has moved to adjourn debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 143 — *The Proceedings Against the Crown Consequential Amendments Act, 2018*

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

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to move second reading of *The Proceedings Against the Crown Consequential Amendments Act, 2018*. Mr. Speaker, this Act accompanies *The Proceedings Against the Crown Act, 2018* and makes consequential amendments to a number of English-only Acts.

Mr. Speaker, *The Proceedings Against the Crown Act* is being repealed and replaced with a new bilingual statute and references to the name of the old Act in several English-only statutes will be updated to reference the new Act. A total of 27 Acts will be amended to reflect the title of the new bilingual Act.

Mr. Speaker, there is no change in substance to any of the Acts that are being amended in this bill. In addition to the changes to reflect the title of the new bilingual Act, the amendments also include one housekeeping change to *The Correctional Services Act, 2012*, to clarify one provision.

Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to move second reading of *The Proceedings Against the Crown Consequential Amendments Act, 2018*.

The Speaker: — It has been moved that Bill No. 143 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Again, Mr. Speaker, thanks so very much. I would point out that Bill 143, again being a consequential amendment Act, that it's really important too that we look at the impacts of the first bill and obviously the attached Bill 143 as it pertains to making the translation go into French and the effects and impacts on all the other Acts that are being impacted by the

142 and 143, Mr. Speaker. It's important that we look at the impacts of all the bills across the way.

And certainly as the minister alluded to, this particular bill impacts a number of other Acts throughout the province. There's one small housekeeping item that he made reference to. We certainly have to again review how all these other bills are impacted. And while the consequential Act is basically intended to be or covering all the other Acts and make sure you make the French translation provision, there's still the intent of the original Act that is attached to this particular bill. So both of these bills, while the second one is more consequential in nature, the impact of the first bill is something that has to be thoroughly investigated. And certainly there'll be many people speaking advice on that particular bill.

So on that note, Mr. Speaker, I move that we adjourn debate on Bill No. 143, *The Proceedings Against the Crown Consequential Amendments Act, 2018*.

The Speaker: — The member has moved to adjourn debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

[15:30]

Bill No. 144 — *The Real Estate Amendment Act, 2018*

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

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to move second reading of *The Real Estate Amendment Act, 2018*. Mr. Speaker, the purchase of real estate, particularly the family home, comprises one of the most significant investments that the average Saskatchewan family will make in a lifetime. This legislation amends *The Real Estate Act* to support the efficient regulation of realtors by the Saskatchewan Real Estate Commission.

Mr. Speaker, *The Real Estate Act* was enacted in 1995 and provides for a hybrid model of regulation of realtors with the semi-autonomous Saskatchewan Real Estate Commission and oversight by the superintendent of real estate, who is an official of the Financial and Consumer Affairs Authority of Saskatchewan. Given that the legislation was enacted in 1995, it is due to be re-examined to achieve efficiencies and streamline processes.

Mr. Speaker, these amendments will provide the Saskatchewan Real Estate Commission with improved and expanded enforcement options. A new section authorizing special penalties will allow the commission to efficiently impose penalties for technical violations. The specific contraventions and specific penalty amounts will be set in the regulations. In addition, the penalty amounts that can be imposed by hearing committees are being increased from 5,000 to \$25,000 for each individual finding, and from 15,000 to \$100,000 for the aggregate maximum for all findings.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation will also revise bylaw-making powers to authorize the commission to make administrative bylaws respecting the conduct of its affairs without the need for prior approval of those bylaws by the superintendent. The more substantive bylaw-making powers will continue to require superintendent approval. Mr. Speaker, a new bylaw-making power will also be added respecting the use of electronic signatures and how those signatures can be witnessed, which will support increased efficiency for realtors. Mr. Speaker, these amendments also include a series of other changes to clarify and expand the appeal process to improve reporting and record-keeping requirements, and to support increased representation from the farm real estate industry.

Mr. Speaker, the Financial and Consumer Affairs Authority has worked with the Saskatchewan Real Estate Commission and the Association of Saskatchewan Realtors to develop these amendments and looks forward to continuing collaboration to develop the regulations. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to move second reading of *The Real Estate Amendment Act, 2018*.

The Speaker: — It has been moved that Bill No. 144 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Bill No. 144, *The Real Estate Amendment Act, 2018* is certainly something that people of Saskatchewan, more than likely, as was pointed out, is probably going to be their largest single purchase in their entire life is to purchase a home. And certainly the real estate industry itself has been very helpful in charting the path forward, and there are many, many realtors that have done wonderful things for many families. And, Mr. Speaker, we certainly see the value of their association, or their commission rather, being constantly engaged as it pertains to how to strengthen this particular industry and help many families achieve that lifelong ambition to buy a home.

It should be noted, Mr. Speaker, that the Association of Regina Realtors noted that in 2018 that home sales were the lowest since 2008, Mr. Speaker. And so we're seeing certainly a decline of home sales in general. We think that the dream, at one time, of many of the young families throughout the province of Saskatchewan of owning their own home or owning a condo, Mr. Speaker, they're getting less and less of an opportunity to do that. And this is something that should be concerning all the people of Saskatchewan. And we're finding a lot of times, Mr. Speaker, that the affordability for the people of Saskatchewan on owning their own home is getting farther and further out of reach for the people of Saskatchewan and young families starting off, Mr. Speaker.

So we're seeing that there's a more rigorous approach to buying a home, that as I said, young families aren't able to get into the home ownership option. And that creates really a stability effect for not just the families but communities right across the board, whether it would be a town, a village, or a city.

So it's important to know that, as we look at the Real Estate Commission itself and how the commission is being viewed by the province of Saskatchewan, that we have to make sure that we support the industry because they are the ones that are front line between the banking industry and the families that could be very,

very helpful in resolving issues about value of homes. And certainly they are aware of the affordability challenges as it pertains to young families owning homes. It was not that long ago when the dream of owning your own home in Saskatchewan was very, very real for many young families. Today now some of that issue, some of those opportunities really have not become available to many young families. And that's something that certainly is concerning.

So as we talk about the Real Estate Commission itself, we talk about how the commission could be strengthened. So if you have a strengthened Real Estate Commission, you have better advice, better connection with potential homeowners, Mr. Speaker, and that's all basically connected from our perspective.

So what the Act does, it authorizes the appointment of either one or two members to sit at the commission level. It allows the commission to post its annual report on its website. It allows the commission to maintain an electronic register. It changes the bylaw procedure. And what those changes may be, we need to assess that as well. It raises the fines amounts payable to the commission. It changes the appeal process. We need to figure out what that appeal process looked like before and what it looks now. It expands the amount of the assurance fund from 250,000 to 350. And it changes the notice period for claims on the fund.

Mr. Speaker, those are all issues that we have to certainly research and try and understand better, as it's really important to know . . . that we need to see what impact some of those changes in the legislation may have on the industry itself and ultimately on the people that may be buying a home through their services or families that are struggling to try and find the means to buy a home. So all these issues are certainly important to the people of Saskatchewan. We are taking our time to understand that.

And we would encourage people, in particular the real estate industry itself, to come forward, give us ideas on some of the legislation being proposed, as to what is strong, what is weak, what is not meeting its original intent, and to point out that we certainly value their services. And we hope that in the future that somehow we can find the ways and means in which we could have many, many more young families buy their homes and afford to buy their homes. And that's something that's a long ways away from many people's reach now.

So it has a lot of issues that we have to research and we have to have a discussion on. So on that note, I move that we adjourn debate on Bill 144, *The Real Estate Amendment Act, 2018*.

The Speaker: — The member has moved to adjourn debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 132

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed

motion by the Hon. Mr. Duncan that **Bill No. 132 — *The Management and Reduction of Greenhouse Gases Amendment Act, 2018*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. We'll continue with my remarks on this bill. I'm just about ready to wrap it up, but there are a few more points I do want to continue to put on the record.

When I left off last Wednesday, I was talking about the MNP, Meyers Norris Penny summary. It's called the *MNP Report on What We Heard: Prairie Resilience: A Made-in-Saskatchewan Climate Change Strategy Consultation Summary*, dated April 23rd, 2018. So, very recent, and the document really does highlight a number of the issues that the bill will present to the government and a number of questions about how it will go forward.

Of course without seeing the regulations, it's very difficult to understand how the measurements will be made on various aspects of the bill. So it's kind of like, you know, wandering around in the dark a little bit, Mr. Speaker, because we don't have enough information to really get a sense of how this bill will impact high emitters and how it will impact the output of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, Mr. Speaker.

So I left off on page 21 and into page 22, and I just want to mention a few more points. In terms of early action credits, there are a number of these high emitters who have already done the right thing and have made some changes to their emissions — things that were more easily attainable, Mr. Speaker, or you could call it the low-hanging fruit. And as one of the officials said, they've already changed all their light bulbs, Mr. Speaker. And the question is, will they get credit for the actions they've already taken to reduce their emissions? And that's a very important question. MNP recommends on page 22 that, and I'll quote this:

From a policy design and fairness perspective there is a strong rationale to include early action credits as a component of the Saskatchewan program. Additional consideration needs to be given to the policy design of this area.

So I think that's something that we need to see. We need to know whether that's going to happen or not.

Another part of their report deals with offsets and the offset market. And this is something again that is quite complicated, although stakeholders are very interested in an offset market. So we know that . . . Well in fact we don't know what the potential demand for offsets is, but it will be less than what we had originally seen with this program because SaskPower and upstream oil and gas aren't expected to have access to these offsets. So the market will be much smaller than what we had initially believed in 2009.

The idea that the offsets program will be staggered until two years into the program and in pieces that has practical merits. And some of the key opportunities they've identified, I'll just share a couple of them: one is to "Defer to stakeholders to

determine if Crop Insurance can be used to verify and register credits.” So there’s some talk about using crop insurance for the offset market, Mr. Speaker. Again it’s hard to know how that will work, and we will have questions about that.

And finally another bullet that I want to highlight is, they say:

The ministry may consider the following opportunity in the design of the program:

. . . Establish the policy framework for offsets once the overall program is established. Ensure the offset system is scalable to the potential supply and demand in the province.

So the scalable part, again, there’s just more questions than answers, so we’ll have to keep an eye on that.

Page 25, they talk about the bankability of credits. And this is something that I think is very important to the heavy emitters, but also to the people of Saskatchewan. Because originally the technology fund was intended to raise funds for all people to access, but certainly the heavy emitters are very concerned about how these offsets will be banked and how long they’re going to be banked for. So some of the opportunities they’re looking at here would be consideration for how long they would be bankable and needs to be flexible enough to allow for aggregators. And that itself is a very complicated concept, so again we’ll have more questions about that.

And also one of the things MNP is saying is that we have to be realistic with the offset community. I think that would be largely, in Saskatchewan, the agricultural community. So we need to make sure that the opportunities and limitations of the potential offset market are well understood and well documented and definitely shared with the potential offset market.

One of the things I think that we’ve seen with this bill is that it really only deals with about 10 per cent of the greenhouse gas emissions in Saskatchewan at this point in time. And I think, as we know, the overall reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, if the heavy emitters are able to meet their targets, is about 1.1 per cent of our total emissions. So there’s a huge area in Saskatchewan of carbon emissions that is currently unregulated, and they call it the non-regulated sector.

And I think MNP’s summary here is important to note. Page 27, they said:

Participants indicated that the non-regulated sector was important for actual emission reductions and for symbolic purposes. The emissions in the non-regulated sector are a sizable part of the province’s overall emission profile. Stakeholders generally indicated that there needs to be contributions from this sector. Achieving reductions in this sector would support an equitable sharing of achieving reductions. Transportation and buildings were commonly highlighted as areas for potential reductions.

And I know, Mr. Speaker, there is mention of this, the non-regulated sector, in the Prairie Resilience but we haven’t seen anything come forward from this government to encourage emissions reduction in the transportation and in the building

sector. There’s mention of it, as I said, in Prairie Resilience, but there’s nothing in paper that will require those reductions and emissions.

So I think it’s fair for the heavy emitters sector to call upon the government to regulate these sectors as well. We’ve seen other areas in the world do it. Certainly I think the state of California has been a leader in some of these areas, and these are what people are calling for, Mr. Speaker.

[15:45]

So that’s one of the things that isn’t dealt with in this bill. And I think, you know, 60 per cent of our greenhouse gas emissions aren’t being dealt with. So that’s a concern certainly to the people who are now going to be regulated.

There’s a lot of talk about data measures. How will the data be measured? And there are some concerns there. MNP has suggested that the ministry consider the availability and integrity of data sources” and the complexity of obtaining and validating data. This is going to be a real trick, Mr. Speaker, and I think it’s something that will be the challenge for the ministry and for the regulators to ensure that the data has integrity and that it’s fair and that it’s obtained and validated appropriately.

So on page 33 MNP has recommended a few things about the targets and, for example, the “Targets must be practical and achievable.” And I think that’s a tall order, Mr. Speaker, in terms of how you get there. Timing is critical. This can’t be dragged out. It has to be implemented and we know that the provincial government is under a federal deadline of January 1st, 2019.

And finally, there’s a recommendation for “Funding to ensure access to data and information will be needed.” So that’s a cost, Mr. Speaker, that we know will come upon the taxpayer and we don’t have any idea how much it’s going to cost to ensure that there is appropriate funding for access to data and information.

Page 34, again MNP has . . . This is the final section, “Potential Opportunities To Consider,” and the summary has said, “The Resiliency Framework has potential in the non-regulated sector to provide significant impacts on GHG emissions in the province.” And so they’re calling on the government . . . The key opportunity that’s identified here on page 34 is, “Identification of measures in the non-regulated sector as part of the resiliency framework may have potential to provide significant impacts on GHG emissions.” And, Mr. Speaker, I think that’s something the people of Saskatchewan certainly want to be involved in. They want to part of that and find ways that they can reduce emissions as well through the transportation sector and the residential sector, building sector.

So the last point I want to mention in this report is on page 35, and some of the feedback that MNP heard on the topic is that citizens and businesses in Saskatchewan, in order for them to be engaged, we need the Government of Saskatchewan “. . . to be the leaders in quantifying carbon reductions within their own facilities.” Now we’ve certainly seen the city of Regina make that move recently in terms of their own facilities, so we’ll be looking to the Government of Saskatchewan to be a leader in this area and make sure that people are inspired by the actions of the government in terms of reducing their greenhouse gas emissions.

So just a final comment, Mr. Speaker, on this bill. There was much to be said and much more to be said about emissions intensities and how those are calculated. We will want to have considerable opportunity to ask those questions in the committee before we see this bill go through. But really, I think one of the things that is completely missing at this point in this government's Prairie Resilience is how individual citizens can contribute or be part of this. And we're looking for non-regulated sectors to have . . . If they're not going to be regulated, then are there going to be incentives? Are there things like renewable energy, for example, in homes? Are there opportunities for retrofitting homes? Because people, citizens, want to be able to do it but they don't have the upfront money to get going on those things. It's expensive to put in panels. It's expensive to put in new windows. My friend just bought an older home and he got a quote for windows, \$12,000 just for, you know, more sustainable windows. So that's quite a touch for any homeowner to have to make those kinds of initiatives. So if we're not going to regulate it, how are we going to incentivize it? I think that's the big gap that we see right now.

This bill only deals with 10 per cent of our total emissions, 73 megatonnes in Saskatchewan. We're the highest emitter per capita in Canada and we have international agreements that we need to take into account if we want to be part of the solution and not part of the problem. It requires forward thinking. It requires innovation. It requires leading technologies. And certainly the people of Saskatchewan can do that, Mr. Speaker, but this bill only deals with a very small part of that.

So at this point in time, Mr. Speaker, I would move that we adjourn debate on Bill No. 132, *The Management and Reduction of Greenhouse Gases Amendment Act, 2018*.

The Speaker: — The member has moved to adjourn debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 133

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 133** — *The Legislative Assembly (Election Dates) Amendment Act, 2018/Loi modificative de 2018 sur l'Assemblée législative (dates d'élection)* be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. McCall: — Now for something completely different, Mr. Speaker. Again good to take my place in this Assembly and join debate. And I'd be darned if I can't hear the member for Moose Jaw North chiming in over there. You know, I don't know if he's got something he wants to get on the record that we missed at the, if you'll pardon the expression, the monthly Warren meeting, but I'm sure he'll get it on the record one way or the other, Mr. Speaker. But again always nice to see him participate in the debates and the comings and goings of this place, Mr. Speaker. It's always instructional — instructional. I'll leave it at that.

But Bill No. 135, *The Local Government Election Consequential Amendments Act, 2018* and the French same title, of course arising from Bill No. 134 and then the two of those arising from Bill No. 133, which I get to address in the first of a three-part series here, Mr. Speaker, and Deputy Speaker, as the case may be. Again this is the consequential amendments arising from *The Local Government Election Act* changes and combining various . . . the electoral functions of *The Election Act* into one bill, Mr. Speaker, responding to the request of the Saskatchewan School Boards Association whereby they provide an authority for school boards to require a candidate to submit a criminal record check as part of the nomination process, and furthermore that the same be registered under *The Education Act* of 1995.

And the minister in his second reading speech, which, you know, I'd certainly commend him for his clarity. There's never any mistake as to what the member from Melville-Saltcoats is up to when he's on his feet in this Assembly, Mr. Speaker, never any trouble hearing what that member's got to say. But certainly wherein he states that, "The presence of a record does not disqualify a person from running for office. This remains a decision of the voters." Fair ball. And indeed the more power that we can put in the hands of the voters, Mr. Speaker, I think the better off we are. And certainly I'll be getting to that, I believe, in the third instalment of my remarks at this time, Mr. Speaker.

But with that I would look forward to various of my other colleagues and their observations about this Act, and as such would move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 135.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre has moved to adjourn debate on Bill 133. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 134

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Kaeding that **Bill No. 134** — *The Local Government Election Amendment Act, 2018* be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. McCall: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And I could have sworn I had heard the Deputy Speaker refer to another piece of legislation, and again this being one in an ongoing series — part of three. We'll check the record and make sure of that, but presently I'm referring to the Bill No. 134, *The Local Government Election Amendment Act*. And, Mr. Speaker, this deals with the nitty-gritty, the details of clarifying when the election day will be falling for the municipal sector and for the school boards as relates to the fall 2020 window.

And again, Mr. Speaker, generally it signifies a couple of different things. One, you know, I guess the relationship of the municipal sector and of the education sector in terms of who calls the shots, who has the final say over the legislation. This bill in and of itself makes plain that that power indeed lies with the

provincial government.

The provincial government has its say over the sector, and of course they'd do well to exercise that power in close consultation with the sector, with the ed sector, with the municipal sector. But, Mr. Speaker, in this case it shows that when it came to squaring the circle between the plans of this government and making the future line up with things they've said in the past as regards to the signing of a date to a legislation . . .

Certainly, Mr. Speaker, I've been around long enough to have been around for the battle cry, being four years and the sort of self-congratulations that went with that, Mr. Speaker. And then of course the first piece of legislation that was brought in to make that fact and, you know, certainly I well recall the member from Saskatoon Southeast, then Justice minister, introducing the legislation.

It was interesting. I think he'd been saving this joke up for near a decade, Mr. Speaker, but he of course introduced that piece of legislation as the fixed election Act . . . fixed election date Act . . . fixed . . . No, pardon me. How'd this go again? Fixed election Act, Mr. Speaker. And you know, he was going on for a time about the fixed election Act in the Assembly without a hint of irony that usually accompanies various of the pronouncements of that minister.

But of course it was later pointed out that what you're talking to is maybe not exactly what you're driving at here in terms of setting a fixed date in the calendar, once every four years, where the voters can then expect there'll be a provincial election, but anyways cracking that joke not days ago in this Assembly, Mr. Speaker. So always good to see someone, you know, saving up their powder for just such an opportunity.

But again, Mr. Speaker, it's signal to the way that a government can preach virtue and then practise something else when it comes to implementation, Mr. Speaker. You know, preach one thing in the temple, practise something else in the street. And I'm sure that they have a word for that somewhere in the English language, but I'll leave that to others to figure out, Mr. Deputy Speaker. But certainly there are a few suggestions that come to mind.

But I guess the notion that they were the great democratic reformers and that they were going to offer up this power as something, you know . . . Previously the guideline had been constitutional where an election had to be called within a five-year period and this is, you know, well known in the Canadian constitution. Although the penalties for that . . .

You know, it is interesting. We were visited by a former premier of Saskatchewan earlier this day, Mr. Grant Devine. And before the T-shirt mill gets cranked up out of her, over in Martensville, I'd like to say that, you know, in terms of going five years plus a day for the 1991 election, I would like to submit that as, you know, one of many reasons why the overall record of that particular individual is judged quite harshly when it comes to the history of this province, Mr. Speaker, and was judged indeed quite harshly at the polls in that 1991 election that, of course, wasn't within the five-year period. It was five years plus a day, Mr. Speaker. It sounds like federal time.

[16:00]

But anyway that's some of the context for folks following along at home in terms of the way that this government . . . I think it was the . . . What was it, the wallpaper? They had the 100 ideas for a better Saskatchewan where we're going to, you know, have . . . Finally we're going to have a set election date every four years and you can count on it like the *Farmers' Almanac* or, you know, pick your reliable source, Mr. Speaker.

But of course that was one of the promises that this government very quickly dispensed with. And of course there is always a good reason for these things, Mr. Speaker, but when it comes to time to . . . You know, should they go less than four years to avoid a conflict with the federal election? You know, is there a penalty in the legislation when you don't follow through on that promise? No, there isn't. There is no such penalty. What is there to hold this government to their promise about the four years and to hold up alongside this great party of self-congratulations that they held for themselves, Mr. Deputy Speaker? Well not very much. But again these things add up over time and we'll see how the government, how they wear this in terms of not going for four years, Mr. Speaker, but indeed having expanded this calendar to four and a half years, they're going to . . . They like that so much they're back in the market, Mr. Speaker, and another four and a half years is on order.

So there were some, I think, very reasonable suggestions put forward in terms of what they could do to make the timing of an election event more amenable to the people of Saskatchewan, more in keeping with the history of this province. But that was the path untaken, Mr. Speaker. So instead we've got to arrange the rest of the world around the calendar of this government. And so here we are with local elections for local government taking place, you know, put off by two weeks so that it's a matter of two weeks instead of days, Mr. Speaker. And you know, is that better than what was on offer previously? Well yes, it is. It's sort of like saying, you know, like how was the movie the other night? And you're like, well I didn't like it much but at least it wasn't even longer, Mr. Speaker. But you notice at least they didn't get up to Doug Ford-type tricks in terms of playing games with the electoral maps in individual municipalities that they've got a gripe with, Mr. Speaker. You know, at least it didn't do that. Praise . . . Thank goodness.

But, Mr. Speaker, in terms of the approach of this government to setting out something that people can count on, again I think the history will take a bit of a different view in terms of the kind of self-congratulations we hear from these members opposite.

So again we'll get to the third part of my three-part series on this one, Mr. Speaker, but for the meantime I would move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 134.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 134, *The Local Government Election Amendment Act, 2018*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 135

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Kaeding that **Bill No. 135** — *The Local Government Election Consequential Amendments Act, 2018/Loi de 2018 corrélative de la loi intitulée The Local Government Election Amendment Act, 2018* be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. McCall: — Très bien, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Bon travail à M. Ring. But generally this is where I get to apologize for mixing up my three-part series on this one. And of course you know, this will teach me to ever again question the word of the Deputy Speaker. I stand repentant, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and I've learned my lesson. I'll try not to, you know . . . Anything that invites criticism from the member from Carrot River Valley, let alone Cypress, Mr. Speaker, you know that like I stand chastened. I'll endeavour to do better.

But certainly I think the points stand, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in terms of the way that this government, having been entrusted with great power, you know, can't help themselves but play some games with it, Mr. Speaker. And how again, there's a distinct gap that exists between the virtues proclaimed and the reality that is practised, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

So again this being the consequential amendments that arise from the changes to the local government Act, I think, you know, certainly we've dealt with the matters of consequence in terms of the legislation before us, but I know that I'll be waiting for evermore insightful observations from various of my colleagues on this legislation to come.

My apologies. Not only am I mixing up the correct sequence of the three-part series, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but I must've just celebrated a birthday or something because like I couldn't make out what the member from Weyburn-Big Muddy was saying, although it's always helpful, so I'm sure I'll take it in that vein and just keep moving on along here, Mr. Speaker. Anyway with that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'd move to adjourn debate on this particular bill. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 135. It is the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 136

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Harrison that **Bill No. 136** — *The Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Act, 2018* be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's always a pleasure and a privilege to wade into debate here on bills before us, and today we're speaking about Bill No. 136, *The Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Act, 2018*. This Act, Mr. Speaker, is a new Act and the previous Act, I understand, *The Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Act, 1999*, will be repealed once this one comes into force.

So 1999, I understand there's not been much done with this Act for the last 20 years, and I think that a lot can happen in 20 years, Mr. Speaker. I have a 20-year-old daughter. Many, many things can happen over that time, and it's always important for government to be looking at legislation and thinking about how times have changed, how in this case, trade and apprenticeship may have changed, what the lay of the land looks like. So it's always good for government to be going back and looking at legislation and thinking about how it could be improved.

I know that the minister in his second reading speeches . . . It's always enlightening to take a look at the second reading speeches to see what the minister says the bill is designed to do. And he points out in his second reading remarks that there are three substantive legislative changes, and that stakeholders are . . . There was much stakeholder consultation, actually led by the Saskatchewan Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Commission, which I'll talk about in a moment. But that was led . . . Apparently the consultation was led by that commission, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and the minister says that it's been endorsed by industry, which is great.

But it's always good . . . Our job in the opposition is to go back and chat with folks in the industry. So I know the critic responsible for this bill will make sure that that happens, just in case there are some dissenting voices or in fact that the full consultation perhaps didn't happen. But anyway, that's always an important part of work to take place when bills come before us, is to make sure that there's no unintended consequences and folks who needed to be consulted with were consulted with.

But with respect to the Saskatchewan Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Commission, this is an important body here in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. It is made up of, from what I understand, industry, business — so industry — and labour, and has also education components all involved. Because what this commission does is it's responsible for training of apprentices, certification of apprentices and tradespeople. It regulates apprenticeships and promotes apprenticeships, Mr. Speaker. So it's a pretty important body.

It's interesting to note that there's more than 40 designated trades and subtrades here in Saskatchewan, and there's only four compulsory trades. And those four compulsory trades are construction electrician, plumber, sheet metalworker, and refrigeration and air conditioning mechanic. The three changes that the minister talks about and that this bill talks about, Mr. Speaker, the minister points out or he argues that these changes "will enhance the regulatory function of the commission and position the Act to address current and future industry realities."

So the first proposed change will ask the Saskatchewan Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Commission "to designate and certify occupations and subtrades in addition to trades, and is the direct response [apparently] to a request from

industry to pursue this enhancement.”

The minister points out that:

Occupations require specialized skill sets. The ability to become certified in an occupation will demonstrate to both employers and consumers that someone has the necessary skills and knowledge to perform the job safely and effectively.

He points out that:

Designating occupations and subtrades professionalizes these important jobs. [And he says] It also improves labour mobility since many provinces already recognize and designate a variety of occupations.

It's interesting to me as a person who has a Bachelor of Social Work degree. In social work you think about the professionalization of our skills, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And I know, as a person who has a Bachelor of Social Work, although I'm currently not a registered social worker — I hope to be again down the road, but I haven't kept up my designation here in the last little bit — but that belonging to a body and having certain criteria that you have to meet to become a professional, whether it's in the trades or in other areas, Mr. Speaker, I think has a lot of merit.

I know, in thinking about apprenticeship and that hands-on work . . . So 85 per cent of training happens on the job with respect . . . Approximately 85 per cent of training happens on the job with apprentices. And I know for many of us that on-the-job training, no matter what our calling or work has been, Mr. Deputy Speaker, can be the most illuminating in a place where you take your technical skills and the on-paper learning and put it into practice, and where it is most, where you really learn what a job is about, Mr. Speaker.

The second change to the Act provides the commission “the authority to designate trades, subtrades, and occupations for certification only.” So in other words, the council, or pardon me, the commission will administer certification exams and other certification without having to provide corresponding training programs. And the minister points out, “This will be useful when there's not enough demand to run a full apprenticeship training program.”

He actually pointed to a concrete finisher as an example and said that at the industry's request, it de-designated in the province as a trade in January 2009. And so there's been no path forward since that de-designation to certification for those who have those skills here in the province. But to designate it as a trade for certification only, those skilled people who've already gained those skills and hours working as concrete finishers could challenge the exam and become journeypersons. So that sounds like a positive change, Mr. Speaker.

The third . . . change will provide the commission [with] the authority to issue work cessation orders if, during an on-site work inspection, it's determined there's no journeyperson present at the work site to supervise an apprentice in a compulsory trade.

So those four trades that I'd mentioned earlier: construction electrician, plumber, sheet metal worker, and refrigeration and air conditioning mechanic.

I know, Mr. Speaker, while we're talking apprenticeship and trades right now, and it's hard to not talk about apprenticeship and trades without talking a little bit about what's going on in our construction industry, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and the addition in two budgets ago by this government to add PST to construction labour and what that has meant to many trades people who'd been working in the province, Mr. Speaker.

I know I've talked to home builders. Actually just a couple of weeks ago I spoke with a fellow in Saskatoon who, up until this change, was building 10 to 15 houses in a year and he's down to three. I've also talked to a contractor in my community who's felt the negative effects of the PST being added to construction labour which directly impacts apprenticeship and people working in the trades, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

But with respect to Bill No. 136, *The Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Act, 2018*, I know I have colleagues who will continue to weigh in on this bill. And I know our critic, once it gets to committee, will have some very good questions again probably particularly around consultation. And it's always good to know who requested changes and if these are the changes they did in fact request. So for the moment I would like to move to adjourn debate.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Saskatoon Riversdale has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 136. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

[16:15]

Bill No. 137

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Eyre that **Bill No. 137** — *The SaskEnergy (Miscellaneous) Amendment Act, 2018* be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Sproule: — Why thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It is my honour to be able to rise and join into the debate today on Bill 137. And you know, Mr. Speaker, my first reaction on reading this bill is who needs Bill 40. When you want to privatize you just do it this way, and Bill 137 is pretty straightforward. All they're doing is allowing the Lieutenant Governor in Council to pass a general regulation allowing SaskEnergy to basically privatize pretty much as much as they want. So this is a very concerning bill just for that one simple change that they're introducing.

And that's found in clause 24, Mr. Speaker. So I'm just going to share for the record, a while back the minister thought we should change clause 24 and allow . . . They amended it back in . . . Oh

no, it's section 24(1) is how you consent to distribute gas, and section 24(1) reads, "Subject to the approval of the Lieutenant Governor in Council, the corporation may consent to the distribution of gas in Saskatchewan by other persons."

And section 23(1) actually talks a lot about the exclusive right to distribute gas. That was amended earlier this year, Mr. Speaker, so that the exclusivity of gas distribution that was currently, at the time, was exclusive to the Crown corporation, Mr. Speaker, to TransGas and SaskEnergy. That exclusivity has now been shattered by the changes to that section. And so the minister in this bill, under the proposed clause (1.1), what they're doing here is just furthering the ability to not specifically allow non-exclusivity. It's kind of like a dating game, you know. Non-exclusive or exclusive, Mr. Speaker.

But this now is so general, it's kind of like maybe Tinder for Crowns. I don't know, Mr. Speaker, but right now TransGas can pretty much engage with anyone they want to distribute gas or other products that were exclusive. It was exclusive, Mr. Speaker. That's the whole idea of it being within a Crown, Mr. Speaker, and protecting the integrity of the Crown. But the minister gave us some reasons for it, and I really sort of want to read between the lines.

She said, and it's important, this is in her second reading speech on November 5th: "And it's important that our Crown corporations be in a position to support and encourage industry developments such as these."

And what she fails to say, Mr. Speaker, is why our Crowns can't also be in the same position. Why can't our Crowns move forward with things like LNG and CNG projects, liquefied natural gas and compressed natural gas? It's certainly within the purview of the Crown to do that, but she's defaulting and she's now casting that ability for the Crown to invest in those, is that they would then actually privatize it.

So this is clearly an attempt to privatize things that they couldn't do with Bill 40, which was a complete failure on the part of this government. And of course then not only did they pass it in the spring, but then they realized the mistake, although we had talked about what a mistake it was for months. The premier sort of, kind of repealed part of it and then finally it saw its final death, appropriately, Mr. Speaker, sometime later. Despite the protestations of many, many people, Bill 40 saw a very slow death, but thankfully it's gone. But here we just see them doing through the back door what they cannot do in the front door, Mr. Speaker.

The other part of this bill . . . It's a very short bill. That's the first part and the second part is striking section 42 of the existing Act, which is the limit on borrowing powers. And currently the aggregate sum of borrowing power is \$1.7 billion, and this Act is amending it to allow them to borrow up to \$2.5 billion, Mr. Speaker. This is a pattern we've seen over the last few years with many of our Crowns, including the Lieutenant Governor in Council as well in the borrowing limits that this government has set for itself. The minister explained it in her second reading speech by saying:

The change addresses the ongoing capital needs of the corporation's natural gas pipeline system due to high levels

of customer growth. This growth includes residential and commercial customers, but also the major industrial sectors of enhanced oil recovery and power production.

So she goes on to say that SaskEnergy needs to keep up with system expansion, and therefore they need to be able to borrow more money. So, Mr. Speaker, I think it's just a trend that we see in our Crowns right now with the demands that are being placed upon it as indicated mainly in the residential and commercial customers but also the major industrial sectors.

So it seems to be consistent with what other Crowns are doing, and certainly what the government itself is doing in terms of going into debt. As you know, our debt has tripled in the last 10 years, Mr. Speaker. And it's definitely something that I think will be concerning, is concerning currently but will be impacted greatly when our children and grandchildren come to adulthood, Mr. Speaker, and they'll be responsible for the paying of that debt. So pass it down the line; I think we'll see the consequences of that at some point, Mr. Speaker. It's easy to move it along and pretend it doesn't exist, but it will have significant impacts. And this is affecting our Crowns as well.

So at this point, Mr. Speaker, I don't think I have anything further to add. And so I would move to adjourn the debate on Bill No. 137, *The SaskEnergy (Miscellaneous) Amendment Act, 2018*.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Saskatoon Nutana has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 137, *The SaskEnergy (Miscellaneous) Amendment Act, 2018*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 138

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Kaeding that **Bill No. 138 — *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Government Relations — Enforcement Measures) Amendment Act, 2018*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's my pleasure to enter the discussion on Bill No. 138, *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Government Relations — Enforcement Measures) Amendment Act, 2018*.

The miscellaneous statute Acts are always fairly interesting. They're often housekeeping Acts, but it can be quite interesting to see what is being amended and what's being changed. You just never know what you're going to get with one of the miscellaneous statute Acts, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Today there are eight Acts in this bill that will be amended: *The Electrical Licensing Act, The Gas Licensing Act, The Fire Safety Act, and The Uniform Building and Accessibility Standards Act*. Those fall under the Ministry of Government Relations' responsibility.

The other four Acts that are amended in this bill fall under the Technical Safety Authority of Saskatchewan, known as TSASK, and its role in administering Saskatchewan safety programs for boilers and pressure vessel equipment, elevating devices, and amusement rides in the province. So those four Acts that fall under that are *The Boiler and Pressure Vessel Act, 1999*, *The Passenger and Freight Elevator Act*, *The Amusement Ride Safety Act*, and *The Technical Safety Authority of Saskatchewan Act*.

Just a little wandering down memory lane here, Mr. Deputy Speaker. When I graduated from journalism school — many, many years ago; a couple of careers ago — I actually, right after I graduated, I was a carny, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I spent a summer, the member for Saskatoon Riversdale was a carny one summer. And it was actually quite an interesting experience, but it always amazed me.

And I'm actually not sure, I'll have to take a closer look at the legislation, so I'm not sure if *The Amusement Ride Safety Act* regulates those companies that come in and set up shop and leave, or it's the more fixed amusement rides like the ones at Kinsmen Park in Saskatoon, Mr. Deputy Speaker. But I always used to think . . . That summer on the road, it always amazed me. I worked at a food booth, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but I used to watch the trucks roll in and all the rides get set up and people travelling late at night tearing down and then setting up the next day, and the exhibition or the amusement park, temporary amusement park opening the next day. And I always was a little hesitant, wondering about the poor folks who had no sleep and who were assembling those rides, Mr. Deputy Speaker. To this day I'm not a big amusement ride person myself.

But this particular Act, as the minister says, shares the goal of protecting public safety, all of these Acts. "But the enforcement measures [he points out that] they contain are limited, sometimes impractical, and different from one Act to the next." He points out that "This limits the ability of the ministry and TSASK to deal with the non-compliance and contraventions of the codes and standards in the Acts they are responsible for enforcing."

So a red flag always goes up a little bit when we talk about non-compliance, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And the minister does point out ". . . that the vast majority of the companies, contractors and tradespeople . . . [who fall] under these Acts are responsible and compliant with the codes and standards set out in the Acts." But he points out that "This bill is focused on the small minority that are non-compliant, whether by oversight or lack of training or through deliberate and calculated decisions to cut corners or costs."

So he says. "This bill does two main things to deal with the realities of non-compliance." He argues it makes ". . . existing enforcement measures consistent across all statutes . . . in terms of authority, wording, penalty amounts, and procedures." Which is fine. Consistent language is good. It's probably important. But I would argue that language in itself, Mr. Deputy Speaker, isn't going to create compliance.

He points out that ". . . it will add more effective enforcement measures in place in other Saskatchewan legislation, such as administrative penalties, discipline orders, and public notices." And he argues that "These measures will allow for a more flexible and responsive approach in dealing with non-compliance

and safety issues."

And just when we talk about non-compliance, although this is an area which doesn't fall under my critic portfolio, and I don't know, aside from my time as a carny, I don't know a heck of a lot about lots of the nuances of these bills. But what I do know a little bit more when we talk about non-compliance is some of the legislation that falls under health. And with public health inspectors, for example, they over time, as recently I think as about a year ago, got new responsibilities under some legislation.

And what I hear from folks is that it's great to have penalties, and penalties need to be adequate, but if you don't have the people power to enforce legislation, it becomes a problem. And that's what I hear, whether it's *The Personal Care Homes Act*, when things are reliant on being complaints-based and you don't have inspectors or the number of inspectors you need to make sure that legislation is being enforced and that people are compliant, it's a problem.

I think one of the things that jumped out for me in this Act, and particularly in the minister's second reading speech, he talks about:

Administrative penalties and discipline orders allow the chief officials within the ministry or TSASK to apply fines or require corrective action such as additional training or reporting to address contraventions and non-compliance issues.

So I think it's a good approach, perhaps, to not just penalize, but to try to correct. And sometimes people are doing it because of ignorance or lack of knowledge of legislation, but that isn't an excuse. But trying to find ways, trying to find ways to work with people so they can do better, Mr. Speaker, as the minister points out that this approach with these amendments:

. . . provides a more consensual and collaborative option to resolve non-compliance issues between the regulator . . . [whether it's] TSASK or the ministry, and an individual business at the outset of an issue before it escalates to a licence suspension, shutting down equipment, or legal action.

And he points out that these provisions are modelled after comparative legislation in some of our other Acts here and across Canada, and they provide more timely and more responsible alternatives to dealing with non-compliance.

Again, as always, we do have a critic responsible for respective bills. And I know our critic responsible for this bill, once it makes it to committee, will have some very good questions around who has been consulted. That's always an important one. Why were these changes made and who do they impact? Were those people consulted, and did they have an opportunity to weigh in on the discussions? So I know those are always key questions that critics have once a bill gets to committee, but I'm sure that there will be other good questions as well.

But with that, with respect to Bill No. 138, I would like to move to adjourn debate.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member has moved to adjourn

debate on Bill No. 138. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 139

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 139 — *The Foreign Worker Recruitment and Immigration Services Amendment Act, 2018*** be now read a second time.]

[16:30]

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

Mr. Forbes: — I can see this will be an active debate on this bill, Mr. Speaker, but maybe not. It's a pleasure to rise today to enter into this debate of Bill No. 139, *An Act to amend The Foreign Worker Recruitment and Immigration Services Act*. And it's always important that we look at how we can make sure the people that are working in this province, whether they're foreign workers or Canadian born, that we have strong, fair, and safe regulations. So this is one that we'll be taking a lot of attention to.

And of course I remember the Tim Hortons fiasco that happened a few years ago, where the people were employed by Tim Hortons and actually working in a home owned by the franchisee. And it was all sorts of issues because sometimes when people come here, they're not quite sure of what the local situations are, and they're happy to have a source of income. And of course we know how much money . . . And it's becoming quite a thing, actually, how much money is earned in the country and sent home. And if you've been in a Canada Post office on a Friday afternoon and seen the lineups of people sending money home, it is quite a thing to see.

So this is an important piece of legislation that we have before us and one that I think that when we get into committee, that there'll be lots of questions, but one that we really believe that there . . . We need to understand what kind of . . . And we've had a long experience with foreign workers. Of course I think of the foreign workers who often came here to work in the vegetable gardens. Particularly the honeybee industries have had a long history, multiple decades of foreign workers. But of course now we have seen them more in the service industry and that type of thing.

It would be interesting to know what are the violations of the employment Act that are typical. What are the hot spots in the Act that foreign workers find themselves experiencing? And that would help us inform what our responses should be. And so it is interesting that the minister in his opening remarks . . . And I'll just take a minute to reflect on this. He said, "The key amendment . . ." He was talking on November 5th, and I quote:

The key amendment is to establish a new appeal process based on the principles of administrative fairness. All appeals will be heard by an independent, third-party adjudicator.

Now, Mr. Speaker, as we know, when you talk about an adjudicator, that can have a very specific meaning. It's not just anybody off the street. It's not a random person. And that's not how they think of fairness — not like in a draw or a lottery, the fairness is that it's just random — but people who have some expertise in this area but are independent.

Now the minister did throw out the numbers of how many people, how many agencies are involved in bringing foreign workers over here. And it is quite a significant number, and so we need to make sure that there is a process in terms of fairness in that area.

We'll have to make sure there's not a language barrier too, that sometimes are the roles that we have. In fact we have a fellow who's coming in, into my office, that we need some services in Japanese. And glad to see that the Crown corporation that we're talking about will provide a translator so the person understands what is really going on with the issue that they're facing. So it's very important.

So what are the barriers? What are the hot spots within the legislation? We need to focus perhaps more on that and strengthening it so when people are breaking in, and the agencies, if they're taking advantage of them because there's a loophole, we need to know about that. We need to fix that loophole maybe more than we need to fix the appeal process.

So this will be very interesting. We want to know who participated in this survey that they took, this review. What were the issues that they were talking about? And who actually participated? Was it a representative sample of the number of workers out there and the kind of exploitation and mistreatment that the minister was talking about? What specifically were the examples that he raised?

So this is important. We need to trust our labour legislation, Mr. Speaker. You know, we think about ourselves in terms of our own family members, you know, whether it's cousins, aunts, uncles, our parents, our kids. They need to be safe and they need to be treated fairly. And we expect the same thing when people come to our country and we buy a cup of coffee from them, that they're A-okay and things are good.

And so they've been a really good drive in our economy. They've done a lot to contribute to our economy but we need to make sure we understand this fully and that they're not being taken advantage of, or we're creating further loopholes. We're in fact actually creating a mask for something or putting a band-aid on a solution that needs a little bit more attention.

And so when we see this go forward, I'm sure my colleague the Labour critic will have many more questions on this. But, Mr. Speaker, with that I would move that we adjourn Bill No. 139, *An Act to Amend the Foreign Worker Recruitment and Immigration Services Act*. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Saskatoon Centre has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 139, *The Foreign Worker Recruitment and Immigration Services Amendment Act*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 140

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Marit that **Bill No. 140** — *The Animal Health Act* be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and I'm rising today to speak to Bill No. 140. Based on the minister's second reading speech, this is essentially a replacement of a very old bill called *The Diseases of Animals Act*. He pointed out that was passed in 1966 and had not been changed a whole lot since. So as you would know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and many people involved with animals and diseases, that it's become very complex in the last few years. And my colleague from Regina Lakeview pointed out something like the BSE [bovine spongiform encephalopathy] outbreak in 2003, there has to be an ability for these outbreaks to be acted on immediately or as soon as possible.

And so some changes are being made from the previous bill to allow the province's chief veterinary officer, rather than the Minister of Agriculture, responsible for the animal disease outbreaks. And I think that's something that makes a lot of sense, Mr. Speaker, and I think it's something that we're going to have to be on the alert more and more as we see climate change changing the nature of diseases and infestations.

This is definitely something that's affecting our forests already and certainly things like Lyme disease we know is moving further north as well. So this is going to affect animals as much as it's going to affect humans, and these types of outbreaks can be very serious. We've seen Avian flu as well, and those types of outbreaks that jump from animal species to humans. So we need to be nimble on our feet as a government and as a responsible authority to make sure that we're able to deal with these things.

The new bill is quite more detailed and the minister indicates that there are higher penalties, for example, than the 1966 bill, which really hadn't been amended hardly at all. Maybe the regulation section was changed in 1989, but other than that it looks like it was relatively untouched. So it's a modernization effort, Mr. Speaker. And my colleague from Lakeview also indicated that, wondering what prompted this change after all these years. And there was some auditor's concerns. The auditor had raised some concerns about the regulation of animal diseases, and that may very well have prompted this bill to be put into place.

The minister indicated he consulted extensively with groups like SARM [Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities], APAS [Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan], with the university, the relevant colleges, veterinarians. And so certainly he did allude to one thing in his second reading speech where there were some concerns through that consultation process and I'm just wondering if this is going to be addressed in the regs. And what he said was that there's broad support, but there were a few concerns regarding definitions, inspections, and the delegated authority. He says that's been clarified in the legislation or will be addressed in the regulations. So we're going

to have some questions about that for sure, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

But at this point, I think we need to . . . It's a fairly new bill introduced in the House November 5th . . . well, second reading on November 5th. So we're going to have to make sure that we reach out and speak to the people that are affected by this and see what concerns exist or whether or not the government did address those concerns through the text of the legislation. And obviously where it goes into regulation, that's not something that we see on the floor of this Assembly, so we won't be able to inquire whether those changes are appropriate or meet the needs of the affected individuals and the veterinarians.

So at this point, Mr. Speaker, I won't have a lot more to say about this bill and I would move that we adjourn debate on Bill No. 40, *The Animal Health Act*, 2018.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Saskatoon Nutana has moved to adjourn debate on Bill 140, *The Animal Health Act*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 141

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 141** — *The Interpersonal Violence Disclosure Protocol (Clare's Law) Act* be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise and enter into the debate on Bill No. 141, *An Act respecting the Disclosure of Certain Information in accordance with an Interpersonal Violence Disclosure Protocol*, also known as Clare's Law. And it's an innovative piece of legislation that the government has brought forward and we're very interested in seeing what this means. And it's been garnering a lot of interest.

And again this kind of discussion is, I understand, a part of a set of recommendations that a panel on domestic violence here in Saskatchewan had recommended. This is one that the minister himself had brought forward to the panel which is, you know, I have to say that it's interesting to see the panel at work. But we are concerned about the time it's coming forward, you know, that we put together ideas. And we have put forward ideas, particularly around people escaping domestic violence.

And we were disappointed in parts of their response, particularly around the fact that we called for five paid days of leave. And the weak response from the government was that some don't have that or, in fact, there was speculation out there that in fact women may not be hired because of that. And I think that's just appalling, Mr. Speaker. It's sad that that's the time . . . And we hope that kind of provision wouldn't have had to be taken advantage of, but it's there and we know that people need to leave violent situations. That's the definite situation.

But the one we have before us today is about Clare's Law, an

innovation that has been brought forward from UK [United Kingdom]. And I took a moment to do a search on the internet about what has been the response. And generally positive, but there has been some concerns raised and I think these will be the questions we ask the minister in the House. How is it going to be applied in Saskatchewan? Now how is it going to be applied so it's consistent across Saskatchewan?

What they found, it appeared from my reading of newspaper articles, is that it was kind of spotty where some police forces in UK responded very quickly and worked really hard to be able to provide a woman or interested people within seven days. Other times it was like pulling teeth to get the information, and that was not the intent. That's not the intent. When the request came forward that there would be a quick response so that the woman or the victim of violence would know quickly and could make a decision, should I stay or should I go. It's not one of those ones where you wait six months to find out that it's just not, simply not a priority with that local police force.

And so that was one of the issues and then the other issue — and I think this is one that we really see — is while the government has a tendency to bring forward one idea, they may think that's the key to all the issues, that it's all solved. It's all done. They've done their homework. And not at all, Mr. Speaker. You need to provide the resources. And this is what they found in the UK, that the government needed to provide the resources. They need to provide support to the shelters.

[16:45]

And while this government has in the past done that, they need to continue to increase that support to match inflation and to match where the issues are, and particularly in rural Saskatchewan where we know violence is such a . . . domestic violence is a major concern. It's not one that you can say is localized in cities or in one place or the other place. It happens everywhere, Mr. Speaker, where there is stress, where there is these situations that may arise.

So, Mr. Speaker, it's one that we take very seriously and we have been championing. And hats off to my colleague from Regina Douglas Park who's been really raising this concern for the past number of years, since she was elected and even earlier. And all the women in our caucus have been strong in this discussion around support for victims of domestic or interpersonal violence.

And so, Mr. Speaker, this is one that we will watch and, of course, is not . . . You know, a lot of the things that this government brings forward, they haven't brought forward or haven't shown the plan of implementation, and that's very important. What is the implementation of this important piece of legislation? Are there resources for that, so that when people go to the local police unit and say, this is my fear, can you tell me more about my spouse, that it can be acted on quickly? Or will they say, we are underfunded and we've got a lot of issues that are happening here in our town, our city, our community; we'll get to that. We can't have that. That's not an acceptable answer. People need to know.

So there needs to be resources provided. There needs to be a system in place and this is very, very important. And of course there is the element of fairness too, that it's not just based on

speculation or a vendetta or that type of thing, that the information is truthful and accurate and helpful.

And so at the end of the day too, we do not want to see a situation where the victim can be blamed for not asking. That's important, that if there is signs in the . . . or if it is knowledge in the community, that to support a victim, that should come forward. But we shouldn't get into this blaming the victim, particularly if they hadn't requested the information, or if they had and hadn't acted on it.

There needs to be a continuance of support and belief and that this is so, so important. And we've seen and, you know, I think about the news stories when we've seen . . . And it's not only adults that are victims of it but also children, and the children of families that are dysfunctional because of interpersonal violence. And there has to be more support.

So, Mr. Speaker, in many ways what I'm saying is we're going to be looking at this very carefully. We've got a lot of questions about the implementation, but we're going to be looking for resources — resources particularly to support the police in providing whatever is required of them in the implementation of Clare's Law, that it's done in the correct and proper and efficient, quick fashion.

But also when that identification is made, the victims, the women fleeing from violence, we would like to see them have paid days so they can get their lives organized and they can get to a shelter and they can get support, whatever they need. And we think five paid days from their workplace is a reasonable, reasonable obligation. And so that's an important thing.

And then we are expecting and we think with this attention that we are going to see more of the panel's recommendations put into place, and we're going to see the appropriate resources for those panel's recommendations and that they're going to be . . . well if you want to say indexed or whatever, but that when they do get funding, the funding will keep pace at least with inflation and with assigned new tasks. You can't keep asking people to do more with less. That's just not on. You can't have that.

And so, Mr. Speaker, this is a critically important piece of legislation and it's one, particularly for us in Saskatchewan, because of our sad, sad record. You know we have, I think, the worst . . . I think we have the worst record of interpersonal violence in Canada, and yet the speed at which we are moving on resolving that issue is just not acceptable.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I know that we'll have a lot of questions about this. There will be a lot of talk between session about how do we make sure we implement this. How do we learn from the United Kingdom experience? Is this the best thing to be moving forward on? It's here. It's now. And we appreciate the attention that the government has put forward in the Throne Speech. But we can't sit back and say, good enough; we are done.

And so I don't know if the member is standing up to apologize. Is he standing, Mr. Speaker? Or maybe he's wanting to make an introduction. I'm not sure what he wants to do.

But at any rate, Mr. Speaker, I digress because this is a very important topic that we have before us and one that in this

province . . . And it's really, it's interesting it's come forward with this issue, you know, because when I was Labour critic, I know that young workers from SEIU-West [Service Employees International Union-West] had brought this forward. They see in their workplace, they see in their workplace and any workplace, you will see, you can see the potential for harassment and you can see these essential . . .

RMs [rural municipality], we're hearing that now. We're hearing about RMs where in local governance, where there's not the training or the accountability, the accountability for what's happening. And what the reeve for the RM outside of Saskatoon said, when you have 85 per cent of the workforce who are administrators are women and 85 per cent of the elected officials are men, then something's bound to go on. And so we need to do better in that type of thing, and it's up to us in our role as the provincial government who oversees the local governance and the RMs that we need to do better. And we can, we can provide the leadership for that.

So we have a lot of work to do here and it's important work and it's critical work because as I said, we all have people who we know who may be in this position, and whether it's a daughter or an aunt or a cousin or a spouse who may be being harassed by their boss, their workplaces are so important that they be safe.

So, Mr. Speaker, I know that others will want to get up and speak, but I just want to reiterate what I'm thinking is important, the lessons. We need to take a good hard look at what the experience has been from the UK. We need to talk to the shareholders about this, or no, the stakeholders, the stakeholders. They do have a share in all of this, the stakeholders, to see, you know, what they think the consequences, the intended consequences. What are the unintended consequences? And the unintended consequences, we don't want to see happen where victims are blamed for . . . They should have done this; they should have done this. We gave them a tool; why didn't they act on it. And/or if they did act on it that they actually didn't get the information in a timely fashion.

And that's what we're hearing from the United Kingdom is that some police forces will act within seven days. Others will not act as quickly. And it's very spotty all over Great Britain in terms of what the reaction has been. Some feel it's an issue; some don't. It depends on the local circumstance. We need to make sure there are resources there for people, both for the implementation of Clare's Law but also for the local police force for the full implementation. Also for the other recommendations. Also for the shelters throughout the province. Are they getting what they need? Can they provide the services that they set out to provide and also the ones that have been assigned to them as time moves forward because this is the thing.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I know that this will be one that many will want to make sure they get up and make a few comments on. And then when we get to committee it will be one where we will have lots of questions. So I want to make sure I don't eat up any of that time, that we do have time for committee and we have a full discussion there.

So with that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would move adjournment of Bill No. 141, *An Act respecting the Disclosure of Certain Information in accordance with an Interpersonal Violence Disclosure Protocol* or it might also be known as Clare's Law.

So I would move adjournment for that. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Saskatoon Centre has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 141. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Hon. Mr. Brkich: — Mr. Speaker, I move that this House do now adjourn.

The Deputy Speaker: — The Government House Leader has moved that the Assembly adjourns. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

[The Assembly adjourned at 16:56.]

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