



THIRD SESSION - TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

of the

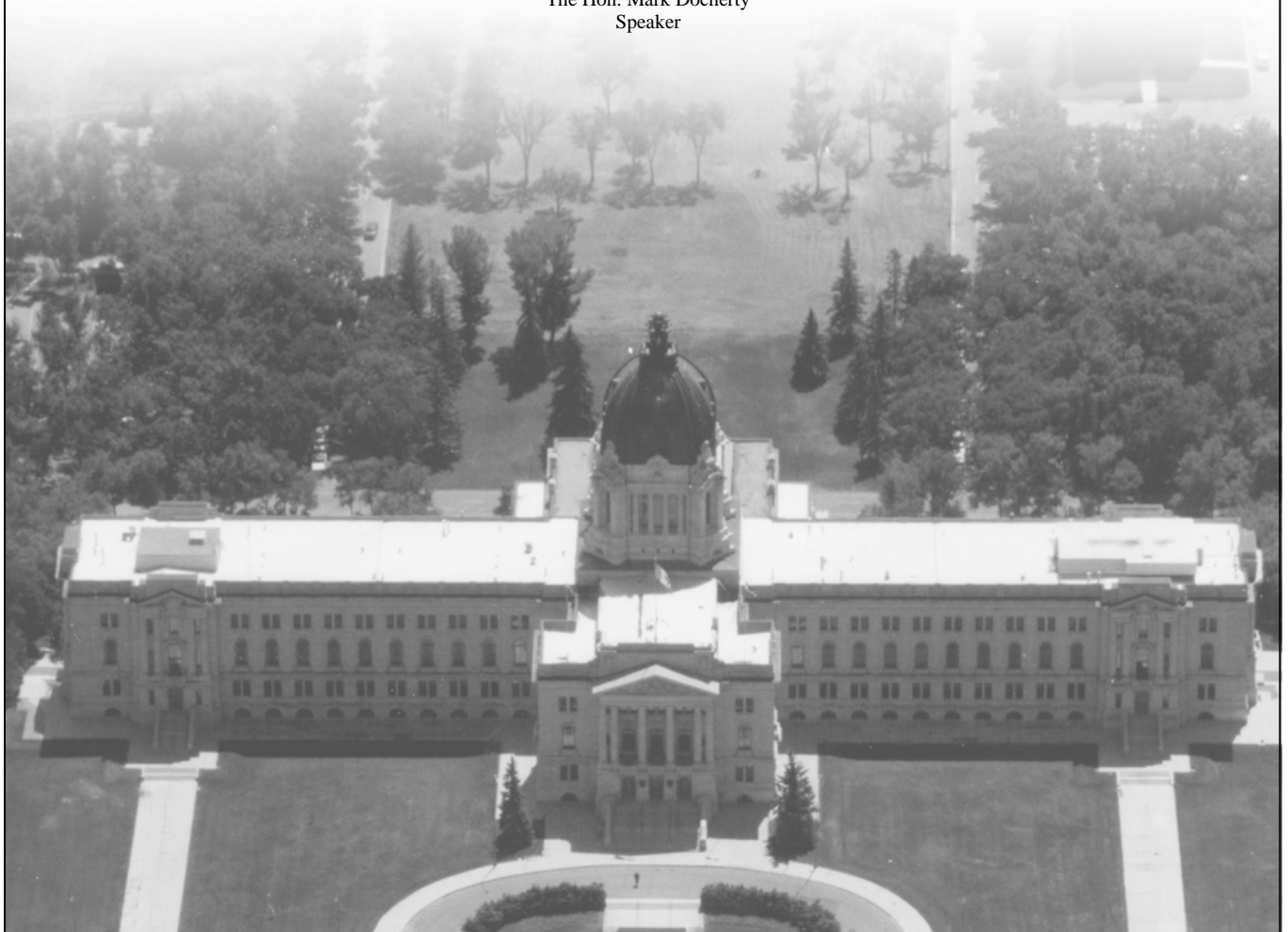
**Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

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**DEBATES  
and  
PROCEEDINGS**

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



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

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

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<b>Docherty</b> , Hon. Mark — Regina Coronation Park (SP)	<b>Pedersen, Yens</b> — Regina Northeast (NDP)
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<b>Goudy</b> , Todd — Melfort (SP)	<b>Steinley</b> , Warren — Regina Walsh Acres (SP)
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<b>Heppner</b> , Nancy — Martensville-Warman (SP)	<b>Weekes</b> , Randy — Biggar-Sask Valley (SP)
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<b>Lawrence</b> , Greg — Moose Jaw Wakamow (SP)	

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**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

**Clerk Assistant** — Kathy Burianyak

**Sergeant-at-Arms** — Terry Quinn

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[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

**Hon. Mr. Makowsky:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I request leave from members for an extended introduction.

**The Speaker:** — The minister's requested leave for an extended introduction. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

**Hon. Mr. Makowsky:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. In your gallery this afternoon we have quite a crew of football players from Miller Comprehensive here in Regina, Saskatchewan. It's a bigger group than I expected. I'm not sure if they wanted to come see us at the legislature or miss fourth period, but to each their own. As Minister Responsible for Sport, it's a great, distinct pleasure to introduce them as the 4A provincial football champions for this year.

This is the first time in seven years that Miller has captured that title. So this is certainly a special group for that reason, but also they are a great bunch of kids. And they worked hard and they were on point all the time — really quick, really quick, Mr. Speaker.

O-line [offensive line] tends to be an anonymity, so I'm just going to mention the guys, my guys that I got to work with closely: Ethan Vibert, Blake Ackerman, Wyley Marcinkiw, Nick Makowsky — who else? — Michael Clow. I think I got them all. I was able to have two boys on the team. Ryan is also up there.

As well, Mr. Speaker, I expect great things from these young men in the football sphere but also in life because of the experience they've had on this team. Couldn't be done of course without the coaches who volunteer so many hours towards this team, Mr. Speaker. On staff at Miller is Mr. Kuz. Dean Kuz is the head coach. He's been at it for decades here in Regina. Chris Sciog, Brant Hubic, Cory Balaberda — I don't think he's here this afternoon — and Perry Pachkowski are on staff.

Parent coaches, Martin Lemieux was a film guru on our team, a very important part. Steve Sombach, Kollin Erichsen, and a couple coaches with no kids on the team, Kevin Peyson is not here, but Matt Pfeifer made it down this afternoon. So we thank them all.

Mr. Speaker, this is a great example of what we have here in our great province and things we value. We value our youth. We value our sports, our competitive sports. Football is particularly important in our province, as we all know. And of course this group embodies that, the grassroots of that importance. But again

it couldn't happen without all the volunteers that I just mentioned.

So I told the kids to always remember those big games, Mr. Speaker. I hope they remember today as well, the time they got to come down to the legislature and visit with us, Mr. Speaker. I ask all members to help me welcome this crew to the legislature today.

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

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Mr. Speaker, to you and through you, I'd like to join with the minister in welcoming and congratulating Miller High School football team. Miller's in the great constituency, my constituency, of Regina Douglas Park, so it's fantastic to see all of you here. I was excited to see your journey through all the way to 4A provincial champions.

Congratulations to the students for their great success, as well as to all of the coaches, including the minister. Honestly don't know how he found the time to do this in addition to all the work that he has here as well, Mr. Speaker. Congratulations once again. So great to see you all here today and looking forward to seeing what you do with your futures. I'd ask all members to join me in welcoming them to their Legislative Assembly.

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my privilege to introduce, in the west gallery today, 21 grade 8 students from École Lakeview School in my constituency in Saskatoon Southeast. Now, Mr. Speaker, I would want to say this to these students, that these will be some of the best and brightest students you could ever want.

And they will no doubt find their way to this side of the Assembly sooner or later because I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, there has been a number of graduates from that school already who have found their way into this building. Drew Dwernychuk, my former chief of staff, is a graduate of that school, as is Max Waldman who works in the Ministry of Education. And one of my ministerial assistants, Molly Waldman, also from that school. So those students have got a great future to look forward to.

They are accompanied today by their teacher, Jennifer Hogg. So I want to welcome all of them to the legislature today. They will be meeting with one of my colleagues . . . [inaudible] . . . Oh, excuse me, another member later today. Won't mention by name, Mr. Speaker. And, Mr. Speaker, they will all have, I'm sure, a great visit. And I want to welcome them to the legislature and, on behalf of all of us, ask all members to join in welcoming them.

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

**Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to introduce another group again today from Parkland College in Yorkton, in the east gallery. It's a group of 29 Canadian social studies class students led by their instructors, Lisa Cadieux de Larios and Dawne Fulford, along with counsellor Taylor Lytwyn. I know Linda Banga was supposed to

be along. I know Linda very well, but she never made it.

So I ask all members to join me in welcoming them to their Legislative Assembly. And I look forward to meeting with them later on for a picture in the staircase and maybe a little bit of a visit later. So thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Cypress Hills.

**Mr. Steele:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to introduce a group of grade 9 to 12 students from the town of Fox Valley in the great southwest, senior girls' volleyball team in the west gallery. I'd like to introduce Laura Wilde; Jaiden Lehmann; Shelby Hudec; Dawson Eckart-Bowyer; Maddie Jacksteit; Tyra Grant; Olivia Hudec; Haley Wagner; and Mikayla Herter; and their coach named Kendra Lehmann; Pat Wilde; Sean Checkley, the mayor of Fox Valley, and his wife Jenna, and their two children, Tenley and Jace; also parent chaperones Lori Wagner; Janell Grant; Keri Hudec; Lori Herter; and Tara Jacksteit. And also along with them today is my CA [constituency assistant], Twila Wedrick. Welcome to your House.

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

**Mr. Bonk:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure today to introduce two constituents of Moosomin constituency here in the west gallery, Stephen Scriver and Kirk Molder. They are both retired teachers. And Stephen Scriver recently wrote a play that was performed in Wolseley at the beautiful Wolseley Opera House to two sold-out performances. It was called *Wolseley Goes to War*, and it was commemorating the sacrifice that our soldiers made in World War I, along with 28 soldiers from Wolseley that were included in the play.

And Mr. Molder, we're so happy and fortunate to have him in Wolseley. He spent his career in Regina teaching, and he's the person in Wolseley that everyone goes to when they need some advice and some wisdom. And I'm very pleased to know you, and welcome to your legislature.

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

**Mr. Pedersen:** — Mr. Speaker, it's with great pleasure today that to you and through you, I'd like to introduce a couple of friends in the east gallery. Heather McIntyre is a tireless volunteer and community leader. She's been active in Regina Folk Festival; Equal Voice; the Regina Education Action Child Hunger, otherwise known as REACH; the Montessori School; and the Heart and Stroke Foundation; as well as sitting on the advisory board for Gemma House and Grace Haven. And of course she is also, as many members or as all members here in this House, has put her name forward both to serve as a candidate in provincial elections and municipal elections.

And sitting beside her is someone who will also be known to the members in the Assembly here, Rosalee Longmoore who is, I'm sure, most well known for her 15 years of competent and able service as the president of the Saskatchewan Union of Nurses. So it's my pleasure, and I ask all members to join with me in welcoming them to their legislature.

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

**Hon. Ms. Beaudry-Mellor:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Very briefly I'd just like to also join my colleague in welcoming the members of the Miller Marauders football team. But I'd also especially want to welcome three players who play on the Selects. I think there might be a few more players that play on the Selects, but I know of three in particular who are up in your gallery, Mr. Speaker: Emmett Steadman, who is one of the top Schwann receivers; Luke Hornung, who is a quarterback and led the Miller team this year; and also Carson Sombach.

These players have played with the Selects every year. They've been dominant players, not just for the province of Saskatchewan and their home high school, but for the country of Canada and the Texas International Bowl every year down south, Mr. Speaker. And so I'd like all members to join me in welcoming these fine athletes to their Legislative Assembly.

### PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

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

I'd like to read the prayer:

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

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by citizens of Red Earth, Carrot River, and Prince Albert. I do so present.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise once again to present petitions on behalf of concerned people and businesses all across Saskatchewan as it relates to the hike of the PST [provincial sales tax] and then the expansion of it onto the construction industry, Mr. Speaker, onto construction labour. Quite simply the epitome of a job-killing tax at a time where we need jobs and investment in our province, Mr. Speaker. And we see the result of this short-sighted move by way of the fact that permits are down and that so many Saskatchewan people have lost their jobs and don't have access to the jobs that they deserve.

The prayer reads as follows:

We, in the prayer 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 citizens of Regina. I so submit.

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

**Ms. Sproule:** — Thank you, 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've signed this petition would like 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 have 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.

Mr. Speaker, the individuals signing the petition today are from the city of Moose Jaw. I do 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 Saskatchewan want to bring to our 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 we know that people of Saskatchewan deserve to live in a fair province where all voices are equal and money can't influence politics, but we know that over the past 10 years the Saskatchewan Party has received \$12.61 million in corporate donations, and of that, \$2.87 million came from companies outside Saskatchewan.

[13:45]

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan politics should belong to Saskatchewan people, and here we have a situation where the federal government and the provinces of Alberta, Manitoba, Quebec, Nova Scotia, and now British Columbia have moved to limit this influence and level the playing field by banning corporate and union donations to political parties.

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

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

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

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

**Ms. Mowat:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present

a petition calling for universal pharmacare for Saskatchewan. These residents wish to bring to our attention that Canada is the only country with a universal health care system that doesn't include prescription drug coverage and that this oversight results in unnecessary illness and suffering and costs us billions; that over 90 per cent of Canadians agree that we need a national pharmacare program, which makes sense as one in five Canadians don't fill necessary prescriptions because the medications cost too much; and when we cover essential medications we improve people's quality of life and save millions in downstream costs.

I'd like to read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Saskatchewan Party government to immediately support the establishment of universal pharmacare for Saskatchewan patients and advocate for a national pharmacare for all Canadians.

This particular petition is signed by individuals from Saskatoon. I do so present.

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

**Mr. Pedersen:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise to present a petition from concerned citizens about the control of Wascana Park. They wish to draw our attention to the fact that Wascana Park is a treasured urban park and conservation area that's been responsibly managed through an equal partnership between the city of Regina, the University of Regina, and the provincial government for more than 50 years. This park had the most planted trees of any place in North America.

They want to draw our attention to the fact that the government unilaterally gave itself majority control of the board of the Provincial Capital Commission through the changes brought on by Bill 50, *The Provincial Capital Commission Act* last year; and that the city of Regina and the University of Regina have both expressed an openness to return to a governance model based on equality between the three partners; and that more and more people in Regina and across Saskatchewan are becoming concerned with the growing commercialization of Wascana Park and they want to see it stopped.

I'd like to read the prayer:

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

#### STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

#### Constituents Creating Strong Communities

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize some of the great events that happened in my

constituency this summer. Three community organizations in my constituency all had community cleanup events. It was wonderful to see community board members, staff, and residents coming together to keep their neighbourhoods safe and beautiful. I would like to thank the executive directors of the Heritage, Eastview, and Al Ritchie community associations: Shayna Stock, Katelyn Kostiuik, and Jen Moffat, and the volunteers for organizing these events.

The Heritage Community Association held their annual Harvest Moon Festival on September 15th. It included musical and spoken word performances from Terrence Littlelent, the Khushi Indian Dancers, and the Regina Word Up 2018 Slam Team. There was also entertainment for the kids, such as dream catcher making and felting workshops. I volunteered at the bouncy castle and I do apologize to all the parents whose children I had to ask to get out of the bouncy castle a little sooner than they would have liked. Needless to say though, there was a wonderful parade to top off the great day.

From coming together to take care of their communities or taking a weekend to celebrate and spend time with their neighbours, I am so happy to recognize the great work that my constituents are doing to create strong communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Melville-Saltcoats.

#### **Langenburg Hosts Saskatchewan Student Leadership Conference**

**Hon. Mr. Kaeding:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This past September, the community of Langenburg and the students and faculty of Langenburg Central School hosted the 2018 Saskatchewan Student Leadership Conference. This conference is an annual meeting meant for student council and student leadership advisers from across the province to come together to share ideas, activities, and to network with each other. There were over 650 outstanding student participants and 150 student leaders from throughout Saskatchewan, and a few from Manitoba. I know we hosted three students from Consul at our house.

The theme for this year's conference was Don't Stop Believing. Local keynote speakers were invited to share their messages as small-town people doing big things in life. A few of the speakers included Olympian and host of *Amazing Race Canada*, Jon Montgomery, from Russell, Manitoba; local author Katie Bergman; and Saskatchewan and Langenburg's very own Jess Moskaluke. Thank you to all the keynote speakers for their participation and for inspiring the young men and women at the conference.

A couple of special individuals to mention for their extraordinary organizational skills were Co-Chairs, Ms. Fallon Prince and Ms. Patti Zerr, teachers from Langenburg Central School. Mr. Speaker, I also want to extend a thank you to the town of Churchbridge for their support with the conference. They hosted the annual banquet Thursday night with over 1,000 participants, which doubled the population of our town and literally broke the internet. And to all of the countless sponsors, donors, billets, families, students, teachers, and incredible volunteers who went above and beyond to make the 2018 Saskatchewan Student

Leadership Conference a success — thank you. It wouldn't have been possible without you.

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

#### **Film Industry in Saskatchewan**

**Mr. Pedersen:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize Saskatchewan Film Week, which runs from November 17th to 23rd. There are events all across the city this week to celebrate the accomplishments and contributions of Saskatchewan's film industry. But we know, Mr. Speaker, that this government's decision to cut the film employment tax credit has crippled the industry and hampered our economy.

Now the members opposite know this. The Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce told them that the program turned a \$1 million investment into a net economic benefit of \$44.5 million to our province each year, but they buried that report and cut the program anyway. Now for a government that points to a resource downturn as an excuse for every cut, tax hike, and program wind-down, they shamefully turned a blind eye to the economic benefits and the diversity that the film industry brought to our province.

Of the thousands of people who kick-started Saskatchewan's film industry in the 1990s, today there are but dozens left. And as one example of that, we have Ms. McIntyre here in the gallery today, whose husband has had to seek work out of province in the city of Toronto to find work in the industry.

While our neighbours to the east and west reap record-breaking filmmaking production volumes, Saskatchewan has been left in the dust. This past year, Manitoba Film and Music pegged the production volume for the 2017-2018 year at \$160 million.

Mr. Speaker, I'll just wrap this up. The film industry is looking at rebranding, looking at a couple new names to get some government support — Loblaw or possibly Nutrien. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Regina Indian Industrial School Cemetery Designated a Provincial Heritage Property**

**Mr. Fiaz:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this past August the Regina Indian Industrial School Cemetery received a provincial heritage property plaque to commemorate and honour the lives lost over 100 years ago. The provincial heritage property designation identifies important aspects of Saskatchewan's history. The designation is meant to ensure important stories are passed on and to link people, places, and events that define the character and the history of our province.

The Regina Indian Industrial School Cemetery is the place that represents a dark chapter of Saskatchewan's history. It is a site of great sadness but it is an important story that can never be lost. This permanent plaque is a memorial to all of those First Nation and Métis children who died while attending the Regina Indian Industrial School between 1891 and 1910. The cemetery contained the graves of at least 35 children from communities across Saskatchewan, Alberta, and Manitoba who were taken

from their homes. This plaque is a step in reconciling our past and moving forwards in a better life.

Thank you to the Regina Indian Industrial School Commemorative Association and their president, Janine Windolph, for nominating the site for provincial heritage property status. The children of Regina Indian Industrial School and the residential school system will never be forgotten. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Cypress Hills.

#### **Fox Valley — Strong in Athletics and Sense of Community**

**Mr. Steele:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Fox Valley K to 12 [kindergarten to grade 12] school has always been known for having both the talented athletes and strong sense of community and leadership. Their senior boys volleyball team has a record that few schools, if any, will ever be able to match. They have continually finished high school in their division each year, winning dozens of provincial championships along the way. Their senior girls had great success, with two provincial golds, one provincial silver, and two provincial bronze medals. Congratulations, ladies.

Mr. Speaker, last fall people from around Saskatchewan came together in Fox Valley to help raise money for the families affected during the wildfires. The Premier and I attended a fundraiser, and it was amazing to see so many people and communities come out to support those families in need.

The three families they raised money for were the families of James Hargrave, who died while trying to fight fire; the family of Eddie Riehl; and the family of Ron and Evan Wedrick, a father and son who were fighting fire near Tompkins when they suffered severe burns.

Mr. Speaker, Fox Valley is a very unique community that continues to keep Saskatchewan and rural southwest Saskatchewan strong. I now ask that all members please join me in congratulating the Fox Valley teams on a successful season, as well as thanking them for their community's, for their fundraising efforts. Thank you very much.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Saskatchewan Rivers.

#### **Donation Supports 4-H Initiative for Mental Health of Rural Youth**

**Hon. Ms. Wilson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This month the \$150,000 initiative to help rural youth facing mental health challenges has been announced at Agribition here in Regina. The funds are being provided from four corporate donors and will be given to 4-H Canada to administer a two-year mental health support program for our young members.

Mr. Speaker, the CEO [chief executive officer] of 4-H Canada, Shannon Brenner, says that young people in rural communities are at great risk for suffering from issues related to mental health, making this initiative very important.

One sponsor, Farm Credit Canada, has been very supportive of mental health in the past and has stepped up to help the 4-H club better support their youth.

I had the pleasure of being both the provincial director of my District 32 and was involved as a leader of the West P.A. [Prince Albert] Beef Club. So I know first-hand how important this support is for our youth and what positive outcomes it will have for community as a whole.

I thank Agribition for giving space for announcements such as this and panels on mental health to take centre stage, as having strong supports for rural areas is very much needed.

I would like to thank UFA [United Farmers of Alberta], Cortiva Agriscience, and Cargill for joining in and sponsoring this crucial initiative, as well as Farm Credit for their generous donation to our youth in the 4-H Club Canada. Thank you.

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

#### **St. Josephat School Celebrates 40th Anniversary**

**Mr. Steinley:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last week I had the honour to attend the 40th anniversary of St. Josephat School in northwest Regina. I was pleased to have my colleague from Regina Rosemont along with my colleague from Regina Rochdale in attendance as well, and thank them for sharing our passion for education.

Chief of Police Evan Bray was the keynote speaker. Chief Bray had guests in attendance laughing at some very funny stories, as well as sharing some wonderful insight into leadership. The chief shared five principles of leadership he has learned over the years. (1) communication is a two-way street. (2) relationships — continue to build relationships. (3) opportunity is everywhere; you just have to look for it. (4) perspective — always maintain your perspective. And (5) whatever you do, always have fun.

Mr. Speaker, the room was filled with both parents, community members, and St. Josephat alumni together to celebrate their great memories of the school as well as the community's accomplishments and its hopes for the future.

[14:00]

It was interesting, Mr. Speaker, to reflect on what the community was like 40 years ago and where it is now today. Our government has built many schools within Regina since having the honour of forming government. I look forward to seeing the communities thrive and build around their new schools, just the way St. Josephat's built around theirs.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank the sponsors of this event for their contributions to the silent auction and dinner, as it was a great opportunity for our community to come together and celebrate this big anniversary. I now ask all members to please join me in congratulating the SCC [school community council] at St. Josephat and the organizing community dinner on a wonderful evening, and wish them the best in their next 40 years.

## QUESTION PERIOD

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

### Review of Vendor-Sponsored Travel

**Mr. Meili:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Saskatchewan people expect consistency and transparency from their government. However, the Premier seems to be learning on the fly when it comes to the issue of vendor-sponsored travel junkets for public employees. Now this is a bit surprising, considering that this practice has been going on for years and that serious allegations were reported to the ministry at least seven months ago, allegations that should have spurred an immediate government-wide review of policies and practices and action to address the problems identified.

One of the individuals at the heart of this junket-for-contract scandal told CBC [Canadian Broadcasting Corporation] news last week that he was offered an all-expenses-paid trip to a conference in Texas, and that employees of the Regina Qu'Appelle, Prairie North, and Saskatoon health regions were also going on that trip.

The Premier told this House that as of Monday, his government had found no other instances of such travel among employees of government ministries and agencies. So, Mr. Speaker, did the Regina Qu'Appelle, Prairie North, and Saskatoon Health Region employees have their travel paid for by vendors? And if so, how can the Premier maintain that there's been no vendor-paid travel outside of eHealth?

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

**Hon. Mr. Moe:** — Mr. Speaker, I thank the member opposite for the question. I would just encourage him as well, as he may have something to add to this conversation, Mr. Speaker, that he adds it. And he can report that, Mr. Speaker, as we know.

But as I said earlier this week as well, Mr. Speaker, I've asked my deputy minister to do a review of vendor-sponsored travel in executive government. He's currently working with the other ministries and agency heads across government to see if there have been instances of vendor-sponsored travel, Mr. Speaker, and if he finds any vendor-sponsored travel in violation of government policy, we will endeavour to release that list, Mr. Speaker.

Until then, I'm not going to prejudge the results of that review. I'm going to allow my deputy minister to do his work, Mr. Speaker. And as I said, if there are any instances of vendor-sponsored travel that are in violation of the government policy, Mr. Speaker, we will endeavour to release that list.

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

**Mr. Meili:** — Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that commitment to share the information once that review has been completed. Mr. Speaker, in committee this spring, the then acting CEO of eHealth, Kevin Wilson, indicated that one option was to turn the eHealth investigation over to the city police or to the commercial crimes unit of the RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police]. He indicated that the police could make a determination of whether

there was sufficient evidence or whether it was in the public interest to proceed with prosecution.

Given that eHealth is about to take on an unprecedented role in health IT [information technology] delivery for the entire province as part of amalgamation, it makes sense to clear the air on exactly what's gone on within that agency and not to take at face value the conclusion from a report the minister refuses to share.

Mr. Speaker, were the investigation findings shared with either the municipal police or the commercial crimes unit of the RCMP? And is the RCMP investigating any other aspect of the operations of eHealth?

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

**Hon. Mr. Reiter:** — Mr. Speaker, my understanding at this time is it wasn't shared with the police because the outside law firm that was contracted to look into the matter gave advice to the board of directors that it wasn't criminal, Mr. Speaker. They told them at the time, however, it was considered a serious breach of code of conduct and it warranted dismissal. So that was the action the board of directors and senior management took.

As far as the point that the member opposite is making, to make sure there is appropriate due diligence in this, Mr. Speaker, everything related to this situation is being turned over and has been turned over to the Provincial Auditor. And if she makes any recommendations, certainly, Mr. Speaker, we'll look at those very seriously. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### Provision of Food Services in the Legislative Building

**Mr. Meili:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Back in May of this year, the Premier announced his government's decision to privatize the food services at the cafeteria here at the Legislative Building. The explanation was that the cafeteria was apparently losing too much money. Ironically, this government found thousands of dollars to renovate the cafeteria after that choice, but apparently paying a decent wage to the folks who work hard to prepare and serve meals in this building is too much for this government.

Mr. Speaker, it's the small things, the way that we treat the people around us, that should say the most about our character. I wrote to the Premier and the Minister for Central Services this spring, urging them to cancel or delay this privatization. I received no reply. Mr. Speaker, will the Premier stop this privatization and, if he won't do that, will he at the very least take the necessary steps to make sure that none of the staff in the cafeteria will lose their job or face a pay cut as a result of this privatization?

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

**Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And to the member, I appreciate the opportunity to review the facts around the cafeteria. The Dome cafeteria is the last government-run cafeteria. It has been subsidized. It lost \$33,000 in 2016 and \$39,000 in 2017. In keeping with our want to make sure that every taxpayer's dollar is accounted for, we looked at



alternate operating areas that we could go forward with. And certainly we went out to the private sector and did an RFP [request for proposal], and we have some very good news that we'll be reporting in the future.

But, Mr. Speaker, make no mistake. The well-being of cafeteria staff has been, always has been, and will be in the future, of utmost concern to this government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Meili:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to reiterate, the concern expressed is very nice, but the question was clear. Will these workers lose their jobs or face a pay cut or will the Premier commit to protecting these workers and their roles?

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

**Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Thank you very much. And, Mr. Speaker, again to reiterate, the well-being of the staff — we are very well served by the staff in the cafeteria here — has always been the utmost concern. We looked at cafeterias around government, and one by one they have been moved to a different operating procedure. That's what we're doing at the legislature here.

What we have done is spent \$13,000, which I think is a very modest amount, to upgrade the cafeteria. And as I indicated earlier, we'll have some very good news in the very near future about the future of the operations of the cafeteria. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### Increase in Minimum Wage

**Mr. McCall:** — Again, Mr. Speaker, a lot of fine words, but no commitment to the workers in terms of a pay cut. Because we know that when it came to the cleaners, Mr. Speaker, the operation was to fire them, have them apply for their jobs back, Mr. Speaker, at two-thirds the pay. We want to guarantee that that's not going to happen with these workers, Mr. Speaker.

On another worker front, Mr. Speaker, last week in the Assembly Sask Party members had some pretty interesting things to say about the idea of raising the minimum wage to \$15 an hour. The member from Kindersley shared his concern that "... we need the minimum wage kept relatively low so to provide an upside for more skilled and demanding positions. If you move the minimum wage up, everything else goes with it."

Does the Minister of Labour share his colleague's concern that a minimum wage might lead to higher incomes for everyone? And why won't this government get behind the idea of a \$15 an hour minimum wage for Saskatchewan people?

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we know what happens if a minimum wage rises too quickly. It has the effect of moving workers off the payroll. Mr. Speaker, if the members opposite don't want to believe me, they can listen

to the Bank of Canada. The Bank of Canada said this: 60,000 jobs would be lost by 2019 if there was a \$15 minimum wage.

Mr. Speaker, in our province we've got lower taxes. We took 112,000 people off the tax rolls by having a higher threshold before they started paying it. We also have, Mr. Speaker, lower brackets on what the income tax actually is so that workers pay less tax. So we're equivalent to what a lot of other provinces . . . Mr. Speaker, we are always committed to the workers in our province, unlike the members opposite that just want to create problems.

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

**Mr. McCall:** — Mr. Speaker, that government's commitment to the workers of this province has seen our minimum wage go from the second highest in the country to the second lowest. And it'll be the lowest again very soon, Mr. Speaker. Not much of a commitment.

The member from Kindersley wasn't the only one rolling out the right wing spin on the idea of better wages for working people. The member from Moose Jaw North also weighed in, saying let the market decide. Well that's just about what this government has been doing, and it's been leaving working people behind, Mr. Speaker. If we stick with this government's approach, we won't see a \$15 an hour minimum wage until the year 2052, Mr. Speaker.

Is the Minister of Labour comfortable with that timeline, and if so, why does he think it's A-okay to make Saskatchewan workers wait so long to make what Alberta workers are making this very day?

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, the very problem that the member opposite is raising about a long-term solution is exactly why we've indexed the wage, minimum wage in our province so that it goes up by the amount of inflation in our province, Mr. Speaker. That's what we've chosen to do so that it doesn't take a long time, so that it moves with it, so we don't unnecessarily shock businesses, so we have something that's predictable.

Mr. Speaker, the members opposite don't want to hear that. But here's the reality, Mr. Speaker. A single person with \$40,000 income in our province will still pay over 70 to \$100 less than in 2007, a 21 per cent reduction. Mr. Speaker, they don't want to hear numbers like 21 per cent because they want to make stuff up. Mr. Speaker, a family of four with . . .

**The Speaker:** — The minister, he knows very well that that's unparliamentary. I would ask that you withdraw and apologize.

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, I withdraw the statement and apologize. But, Mr. Speaker, I would say this. A family of four with \$50,000 income will still pay over \$2,000 less than in 2000 — a 76 per cent reduction. That should be something they should know.

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

### Review of Library System

**Ms. Beck:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our kids' classrooms weren't the only part of our education system that was targeted for drastic Sask Party cuts. The devastating \$7.5 million cuts to our library system woke a sleeping giant in our province, with protests and read-ins in communities large and small, and finally forcing a reversal. But in the process, Saskatchewan people learned that this government can't be trusted with our library system.

When the Sask Party announced that they were doing a review of the library system, we sent an FOI [freedom of information] for all the submissions it had received. And strangely, the response we received said that those records don't exist. The Minister of Justice was quick to roll out the results of his survey in order to bolster his own arguments, so it's only fair that the same level of transparency applies to the submissions to the library review panel. Will the Minister of Education make those submissions public today?

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

**Hon. Mr. Wyant:** — Mr. Speaker, after that particular budget, Mr. Speaker, the government listened to issues that came out from the library sector, and those funds were returned to those budget lines, Mr. Speaker. And as part of that, Mr. Speaker, the then minister of Education had promised that there would be a review of the library system, Mr. Speaker. And I was pleased to be able to announce earlier in my tenancy as the Minister of Education that we would be proceeding with that review.

Mr. Speaker, the member from Canora-Pelly has been leading some conversations with leaders in the library sector across this province as our Legislative Secretary, Mr. Speaker. And I have made it very clear to the members of the opposition, when that report is done, Mr. Speaker, we're happy to table it with the House, Mr. Speaker. I've made that clear.

And, Mr. Speaker, he's going to continue with his conversations. I understand they've been very good conversations, Mr. Speaker, about what the current status of the library system is, Mr. Speaker, and what the future of libraries are in the province, recognizing their importance to the people of Saskatchewan.

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

**Ms. Beck:** — Mr. Speaker, we know that the library review panel is currently holding meetings away from the public and away from the media. And we know that at least one of the questions on that survey has alarm bells ringing in libraries all around this province: "If headquarters were to cease to exist, what impact would that have on your library and the services you are providing to patrons? Could your local library branch survive?"

It's clear from what I've heard from folks in our libraries that they couldn't survive without this support, and I imagine that that's what the minister's review panel is hearing too in all of these conversations that they're having. Will the minister table the answers to those questions in the House today? And will he ensure that the cuts to library headquarters are absolutely, absolutely off the table?

[14:15]

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

**Hon. Mr. Wyant:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, there's been no predetermination, Mr. Speaker, as to what the results of this work that the Legislative Secretary for Canora-Pelly is doing, Mr. Speaker. This will be a clear report that will be tabled with the House based on those recommendations.

Now, Mr. Speaker . . . Well, Mr. Speaker, they might not want to hear this. But the fact of the matter is, asking wide-ranging questions with respect to what the future of, Mr. Speaker, what the future of the library system here is in this province, we want to hear the voices not just from people in the library sector, but the public will have their voice as well, Mr. Speaker.

This government recognizes the importance of libraries to the people of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, what their current role is and what their potential future role is, Mr. Speaker, in supporting the people in this province. We'll make that report. We'll table that report when it's complete, Mr. Speaker. And I have full confidence in the Legislative Secretary with respect to the work that they are doing and the information that they are getting together.

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

### Support for Children in Care

**Ms. Rancourt:** — Mr. Speaker, yesterday the minister tried to explain away delays in introducing meaningful child welfare reform by pointing to existing programs and the need to consult. Well this consultation process started in 2010, and the legislative reform was announced six years ago. As we learned yesterday, in those six years more than 600 kids were apprehended by this government before they were even a month old.

This is a government that whipped together turn-off-the-taps legislation in days and wrapped up rural crime and trespassing consultations and legislative reform in months. If there's a will, there's a way, Mr. Speaker. We were last told to expect changes in spring 2018, and we're almost rolling into the new year. When will the lives of these children be taken off the back burner? When exactly will we see the new legislation?

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

**Hon. Mr. Merriman:** — Mr. Speaker, to say that the lives of the children in Saskatchewan is on the back burner is just a falsehood, Mr. Speaker. It is absolutely pivotal. Our most valuable resource that we have in this province is our children, Mr. Speaker. For them to allude that social service workers are running around trying to take babies under 30 days is absolutely ridiculous. As a former social worker, I would hope she would understand that they are doing a very difficult job out in the field, and they are only apprehending when they absolutely have to, Mr. Speaker.

We have some . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Well the members opposite seem to chirp about this quite a bit, Mr. Speaker. Maybe they'd like to stand up and ask a question. This is an extremely

serious issue about our children, Mr. Speaker, and for them to be chirping from their seats, this is just disrespectful. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Rancourt:** — The government knows what changes are needed. The minister could even ask his colleagues who used to be part of the now-dismantled cabinet committee on child and youth for some insights.

[Interjections]

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

**Ms. Rancourt:** — Mr. Speaker, the minister knows the root causes persist — poverty, mental health and addictions, the legacy of residential schools, and parents who themselves grew up in this broken system. Perhaps not so much rural crime, as the minister alluded to yesterday, but most of all what persists is the broken system this government has refused to fix. When will this government prioritize these changes and start paving a better path forward for these children?

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

**Hon. Mr. Merriman:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I'm pleased to update the House on this. We now have 17 First Nation child and family agencies working on behalf of Social Services, delivering our services on- and off-reserve throughout Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. We have also increased our funding to First Nation CBOs [community-based organization] on reserve by a whopping 453 per cent in the last 10 years, Mr. Speaker.

We continue to work with our First Nations and Métis partners to be able to deliver the service that puts the child at the centre of this, Mr. Speaker. We always want to make sure that the child's interests are first and foremost. We will work with the parents to be able to develop a healthy environment for the children but, Mr. Speaker, we will always put the child's safety first and foremost. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### Fees for Ambulance Service

**Ms. Mowat:** — Mr. Speaker, doctors are joining patients and families in sounding the alarm about ambulance fees and the impact on patient health. Earlier this month at the Saskatchewan Medical Association's fall representative assembly, a physician practising out of Gull Lake described a situation where she personally paid the ambulance bill for a young woman who had attempted to take her own life. Despite needing care, the patient was refusing to be transferred to a mental health facility because she simply couldn't pay.

This doctor said she sees patients every week who don't go to the hospital because they can't afford it. This simply should not happen in a province as prosperous as ours. Again, will the minister commit to scrapping inter-hospital transfers and finally

get us on par with every other jurisdiction in this country?

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

**Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When we looked at a cross-jurisdictional comparison with Saskatchewan, we see that we're about middle of the pack. Some provinces cover more, some cover less, Mr. Speaker. We've made some choices in this province to cover other things within our budget under Health to prioritize.

We understand some of the struggles that some of these ambulance fees do incur. That's why we do cover well over 70 per cent of road ambulance fees. We cover around 90 per cent-plus of air ambulance fees, Mr. Speaker. We know that outside of that, if it's a road accident, SGI [Saskatchewan Government Insurance] will cover it. We know that if it's a workplace accident, WCB [Workers' Compensation Board] will cover it. And a lot of people do carry insurance that will cover some of their extra costs. So out of all those ambulance bills, about 15 per cent may be picked up by people in the general public, Mr. Speaker.

But when it comes to high ambulance fees, we would always encourage people to call 911 to take the ambulance. The Saskatchewan Health Authority will work with clients when it comes to the cost of their ambulance. They will absorb some costs from time to time. We do have support service programs for seniors and for low-income, Mr. Speaker. I look forward to more questions so I can give some more detail.

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

**Ms. Mowat:** — Mr. Speaker, the government has been using these lines for years. If they are in fact covering between 70 to 90 per cent of costs, and Saskatchewan people are still getting bills for thousands of dollars for necessary care, they should have listened to the concerns, gone back to the drawing board, and fixed their broken system years ago.

Of course they knew this. In 2008 the member from Indian Head-Milestone struck an EMS [emergency medical services] committee and commissioned a review to inform a long-term plan to improve services. The review said people were bypassing care because of costs, that our system was disproportionately hurting people living in rural and remote communities, and that inter-hospital transfers are a barrier to accessing care.

Instead of taking their own advice, this government shelved the report and is instead undertaking another review to tell us what we already know. Again, at the very minimum, will this government agree to scrapping fees for transfers between health facilities?

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

**Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit:** — Mr. Speaker, this government has been fully engaged with EMS providers and the citizens of this province for over 10 years since we did form government, Mr. Speaker. As long as I've been in this position of about four years

or so, I've been constantly in contact with members of SEMSA [Saskatchewan Emergency Medical Services Association], EMS, to find better ways that we can help them provide those services. That's why, Mr. Speaker, when we did the panel report on health system restructuring, a big part of that was recommendations coming through that panel report and recommendations from SEMSA.

A lot of those recommendations are in the works right now. We're redoing all the contracts with our providers over the next number of months and the next time, a little bit of time, Mr. Speaker, and getting the input from those providers when it comes to what they can do to better respond to some of these calls, what they can do for better tracking, what they can do for quicker response times. Maybe using the nearest car for a call will help with some of these issues, Mr. Speaker.

We're fully engaged with this file. We have a lot of good work that's come about through these reviews, and we're working with SEMSA and the Health Authority to make sure that we have a very responsive system for the people of this province.

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

#### Condition of Regina Bypass

**Ms. Sproule:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to offer the Minister of Highways the opportunity to correct the record regarding the major deficiencies that have been found in the Regina bypass P3 [public-private partnership] project. We learned there were major deficiencies because they are listed in an email from an official in Highways, but the details of that list were redacted.

Now we know that list of major deficiencies did not include the roundabout that proved impassable to some trucks because it was only some trucks. So that was considered a minor deficiency. But we know because the former minister shared an example in this Assembly last week that one of these major deficiencies was the breach of an aquifer in Wascana Creek. Yet the Minister of Highways said twice yesterday, "There are no major deficiencies on this bypass." Would the minister care to clarify the record and table today the full list of major deficiencies?

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

**Hon. Ms. Carr:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member opposite for the question. And I think this is an opportunity for both ourselves and the opposition to appreciate the fact of the level of scrutiny that takes place on this project. At the end of the day, we can all sleep well knowing everything has been looked at and taken care of within the contract that we have.

Mr. Speaker, this project has 12 overpasses, 40 kilometres of new four-lane highway, 55 kilometres of new service roads. Mr. Speaker, this project is already providing safety for the east side of the city. When it's completed, on time and on budget, it will bring additional safety. Thank you.

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

**Bill No. 153 — *The Saskatchewan Employment (Leaves) Amendment Act, 2018***

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 153, *The Saskatchewan Employment (Leaves) Amendment Act, 2018* be now introduced and read a first time.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 153 be now introduced and read a first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

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

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

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

**The Speaker:** — Next sitting.

**Bill No. 154 — *The Intestate Succession Act, 2018*  
*Loi de 2018 sur les successions non testamentaires***

**The Speaker:** — Sorry. I recognize the minister.

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, I was waiting to see whether you were going to require me to repeal something or apologize. So in any event, Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 154, *The Intestate Succession Act, 2018* be now introduced and read a first time.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 154 be now introduced and read a first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

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

**The Speaker:** — When shall this bill be read a second time? I recognize the minister.

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

**The Speaker:** — Next sitting.

#### PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Chair of the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

**Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies**

**Mr. Cox:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm instructed by the

Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies to present its sixth report. The sixth report summarizes our committee's work from January 6th, 2016 to September 10th, 2018.

We considered the Boundary dam carbon capture project. We considered recommendations for the audit committee of Saskatchewan, reviewed over 100 reports and financial statements released by Crown corporations and related entities, and received chapters of nine Provincial Auditor reports.

I want to thank our current and past committee members for their diligent work. I now move:

That the sixth report of the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies be now concurred in.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Chair:

That the sixth report of the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies be now concurred in.

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. I recognize the Chair of the Standing Committee on Private Bills.

[14:30]

#### **Standing Committee on Private Bills**

**Mr. Steinley:** — Mr. Speaker, the Standing Committee on Private Bills met earlier today to consider compliance of the rules for the petition for private Bill No. 901, private Bill No. 902, and private Bill No. 903. Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Private Bills to present its first report. I move:

That the first report of the Standing Committee on Private Bills be now concurred in.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Chair:

That the first report of the Standing Committee on Private Bills be now concurred in.

Is the Assembly ready for the question? Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — The motion is carried. Pursuant to rule 104, private Bill No. 901, *The Luther College Regina Act, 2018*; private Bill No. 902, *The St. Andrew's College Amendment Act, 2018*; and private Bill No. 903, *The Canadian Revival Training Centre Act, 2018* is deemed to be read the first time and is ordered for second reading on the next private members' day.

**The Speaker:** — Why is the Leader of the Opposition on his feet?

**Mr. Meili:** — I ask leave to make a personal statement.

**The Speaker:** — The Leader of the Opposition has asked to make a personal statement. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

#### **STATEMENT BY A MEMBER**

##### **Name of Acting Chief Executive Officer**

**Mr. Meili:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wanted to correct the record. During question period, I referred to the acting CEO of eHealth as Mr. Kevin Wilson. He had previously been the acting CEO. At the time of the quote that I was referencing, the acting CEO was Max Hendricks. I apologize for the error.

**The Speaker:** — Thank you for your correction.

#### **ORDERS OF THE DAY**

#### **GOVERNMENT ORDERS**

#### **SECOND READINGS**

##### **Bill No. 152 — *The Builders' Lien (Prompt Payment) Amendment Act, 2018***

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to move second reading of *The Builders' Lien (Prompt Payment) Amendment Act, 2018*.

*The Builders' Lien Act* seeks to create a careful balance between the rights and obligations of landowners and the building trades and professionals that assist in construction projects. The Act establishes a mechanism by which persons involved in the construction industry can claim and register a lien to secure payment for materials and services provided, but does not include provisions respecting payment delays.

Mr. Speaker, this bill will amend *The Builders' Lien Act* to add two new parts to create a prompt payment scheme and an interim adjudication process. Introduction at this time will allow for the broadest possible consultation to occur respecting the proposed revisions and their scope of application. Interested parties and organizations are encouraged to review the proposed bill and provide their comments.

A new part I.1 will establish a prompt payment scheme. If an owner receives the proper invoice as defined in the bill, the owner will have 28 days to pay the contractor, failing which, interest will accrue. If the owner disputes the proper invoice within 14 days of receipt, the dispute may be resolved through adjudication. Both new parts will provide for exceptions from their application to provide persons or classes of persons set out in the regulations.

A new Part II.1 will establish an adjudication process for disputes, including but not limited to payment disputes. The new provisions create the adjudication authority, which will be designated by the minister as the body entitled to train and qualify adjudicators. The new provision will establish how adjudications will be conducted by adjudicators, as well as timelines that must be followed.

The adjudication process will require that a decision be provided in a short time frame, as compared to a court process which, depending on the subject matter, may take years to resolve. The proposed adjudication process will provide interim relief for disputes. Parties to a dispute will still have the option of eventually pursuing resolution of the dispute in court or through an arbitrator, but unless or until that is done, the determination of the adjudicator will be binding and allow the project to carry on and payments to flow.

The Government of Saskatchewan is committed to encouraging alternate dispute resolution methods in all areas where pursuing resolution in the courts process may be timely and costly. The Government of Saskatchewan is also committed to supporting the construction industry and the timely payment of proper invoices. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to move second reading of *The Builders' Lien (Prompt Payment) Amendment Act, 2018*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 152 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Athabasca.

**Mr. Belanger:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to again offer a perspective on this bill as it's being introduced. And, Mr. Speaker, one of the principles behind the bill is to ensure that there's prompt payment for many of the services that the construction industry offers to the people of Saskatchewan, and in some instances to government agencies such as Sask Housing and so on and so forth.

So, Mr. Speaker, I understand that this legislation is encompassing all construction projects that are being undertaken by organizations throughout the province and associations that represent a lot of the building trades and the construction people in general. I will point out, Mr. Speaker, in principle the opposition certainly views the value of prompt payment, as we've been subjected to numerous stories by the construction industry of how there's been just onerous delays in making sure that they are paid for their services, Mr. Speaker.

This is something that has got to be addressed over the long haul, because there is a number of factors that are hurting our construction industry in general. And the most damaging, destructive process right now, Mr. Speaker, is the increased PST on construction projects, Mr. Speaker. This is obviously hurting the industry a tremendous amount. So we want to point that out to the people of Saskatchewan. The prompt legislation, and this is the purpose I guess, and the reason why we would rather consult and listen to the homebuilding industry themselves, the construction people themselves, because I think the Saskatchewan Party government has really betrayed their trust. I think the Saskatchewan Party has really betrayed their past support for this government. And I think the Saskatchewan Party betrayed the economy of Saskatchewan by putting on a very

unnecessary PST hike on many of the construction projects that are being taxed now, that were tax free before.

Now, Mr. Speaker, again from the opposition perspective, one of the pillars of our economy has always been construction. Saskatchewan people know how to construct very well. We've got a robust array of professionals that can do everything from bricklaying to electrical, to plumbing and heating, to construction design, and the actual construction itself, Mr. Speaker. We have people in the industry that are professionals. They are dedicated. They work very hard, and they're very proud of their industry. And over time, Mr. Speaker, this industry has helped create thousands of jobs and has made millions in taxes and really has prompted Saskatchewan to be one of the stronger economies over the many, many decades that we have had them operate in our province.

So I think, Mr. Speaker, we in the opposition recognize the incredible value of the construction industry. And when we see the government of the day put a PST tax on their industry, Mr. Speaker, that is certainly a great disservice to this industry. And we're seeing evidence today, now as we see more and more people are being laid off. More and more people are having to find work elsewhere, Mr. Speaker. And these are people — men and women and families — that have good, mortgage-paying jobs. They are now unable to work because the Saskatchewan Party did not manage the finances of a boom time, had to go back and tax the Saskatchewan people over a billion dollars. And this industry did not escape the wrath of the Saskatchewan Party when it came to their tax-and-spend measures, Mr. Speaker. It is absolutely hurting their industry, and they have been very, very vocal about this particular matter.

So I think I would, first of all, lend our support to the concern that the construction industry has been expressing for the many, many months. I think the PST idea on construction is foolhardy. It is very, very destructive to the whole economy of Saskatchewan, and in particular the construction industry.

So again, Mr. Speaker, a billion dollars in tax hikes in one year. And we can't understand how the Saskatchewan Party can take a booming economy, record revenues, and a low debt that they inherited from the NDP [New Democratic Party], and turn around and you see record debt, you see record tax increases, and now we're also seeing, Mr. Speaker, a number of industries being hurt by this government.

Now again as I made reference to my perspective of being a northern hockey player and observing what the Saskatchewan Party is doing and what the Conservatives are doing in general, Mr. Speaker, that hurts the industry in the province of Saskatchewan. And then I become confused between what's happening in Ontario and what's happening here in Saskatchewan.

We see that the Ontario Conservatives are providing leadership to this particular provincial conservative party in many, many ways, shapes, and forms, But then I turn around and I ask, so why is it that the Ontario Conservatives are reducing taxes? They're reducing taxes over there, and that's going to come at a price, but then the Saskatchewan conservatives are increasing taxes. And then I see the Conservatives in Ontario. They're saying, well perhaps we don't need that many seats in the Toronto City

Council. And then I turn to the Saskatchewan conservatives and they increase the amount of MLAs by three.

So you're either a Conservative or you're a conservative. And people kind of get confused and say, what kind of conservative are you. So we're sitting here. Doug Ford wants less government and less taxes, and the Saskatchewan Party want more taxes and more MLAs. Well you guys need to make up your mind what kind of conservatives you are. So we go back to the point, the tax-and-spend conservatives that you are . . .

**The Speaker:** — Members, don't forget what we talked about before, about . . . [inaudible] . . . the Sask Party government, the NDP opposition. We've agreed to that so get rid of the word "conservative" for now.

**Mr. Belanger:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I won't make reference to them as being conservative any more. I will make reference to them as the Sask Party government, Mr. Speaker. And I would point out that it is highly unusual and highly suspect as to why we have a right-leaning party that would be taxing incredible, bustling industries like the construction industry because they simply had a legacy and a decade of mismanagement, waste, and scandal, Mr. Speaker.

And who is paying the price for that today, Mr. Speaker? It is the construction industry, through this PST hike. And all they come across today asking support for prompt payment, notwithstanding the fact that they had been inundated with this PST hike and that really affects their business. It affects the economy. And they are very, very angry. I cannot understate the anger that the construction industry has with this particular government, Mr. Speaker.

And that's why when it comes to bills of this sort, they have very little trust, Mr. Speaker. They have very little trust of this government. And all they asked this government to do, Mr. Speaker, all they asked this government to do is don't give us any surprises. And what happened, Mr. Speaker? After they wine and dined the Saskatchewan Party government, they betrayed that trust and started putting in this PST hike. Why? Because they couldn't manage their way out of a wet paper bag. And today despite the fact, despite the fact that they had record revenues — record revenues — they had to have record tax increases, and we end up with record debt. That's Tory math, Mr. Speaker. So I'm sorry if I made the linkage and I apologize. I won't be doing that again in this response to this bill.

And I would point out as well, Mr. Speaker, again I go back to Mr. Ford in Ontario. He wants less government, less councillors in the city of Toronto. These guys added three more MLAs, you know, when it wasn't warranted. Doug Ford's Tories want less taxes. Well these guys had a billion dollars in taxes in one year alone. And they want to address the debt. These guys, well the debt's going to be 23 billion by 2021, and that's no big deal for them, Mr. Speaker. P3 schools are adding to that debt for many, many years after they're built.

[14:45]

So my point being is people have to be concerned about the mismanagement, scandal, and waste and how this Sask Party is governing our province. They have got to go, Mr. Speaker. They

have to go. There's no question about it because they have lost their way. They're tired and they're old. And this is the reason why, Mr. Speaker, this is the reason why they're forced to go back and increase taxes to a very important industry called the construction industry.

Mr. Speaker, they have asked time and time again, the industry itself has asked, don't give us any surprises. They've asked for a prompt payment, Mr. Speaker, as I've indicated in the bill. But you also have to look and equate the prompt payment legislation to the damage done on other fronts to this industry. It is very important, Mr. Speaker. It is very important.

So I would point out again, this government has got to go because they have taxed people to death. They have hurt our industry. They have hurt our economy. And we're still trying to figure out what principle of a party they represent because we're confused over here. Either you're right wing or you're right wing or you're right wing. You can go by any other name, but why do you want more MLAs? Why do you tax the heck out of the Saskatchewan people, a billion dollars in one year, and call yourselves conservatives, Mr. Speaker? Oh sorry, Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan Party.

So I think it's really important . . . I get confused, Mr. Speaker. And I would again . . .

**The Speaker:** — Not as confused as I get, but we're on *The Builders' Lien (Prompt Payment) Amendment Act*. Just a reminder. I recognize the member.

**Mr. Belanger:** — So, Mr. Speaker, one of the things that this party could actually do, Mr. Speaker, actually do, is a prompt payment. Now some of the building trades and some of the builders in our province have some concerns because first of all the trust factor is not there. That trust has been betrayed a hundredfold as a result of the PST increase. That's my point and my connection to the bill, Speaker.

So I think it's important to note, is that as you look at the impact on this industry, Mr. Speaker, they've asked for no surprises. Can we do simple things like the prompt payment? Now the minister's talking about the prompt payment. And we can't blame the construction industry, because they had been led down the garden path by this government too many times.

So when it comes to prompt legislation, they want to see what's in the detail. As we've indicated in the Assembly from the opposition perspective, the devil is in the details. So we want to see those details. The construction industry want to see the detail. Prompt payment doesn't mean you create a whole series of processes again. That'll delay the prompt payment impact. So we need to see what the process is. We need to see what the details are. And the history of how this government has treated a very successful construction industry, Mr. Speaker, is one that does not earn trust from their perspective and certainly does not earn trust from us.

And that's why we say, Mr. Speaker, they have got to go. They're tired. They're old. They're broke. And over the series of the last 10 years, through scandal, mismanagement, and waste, they have destroyed Saskatchewan's future. And I say, shame on them. But we're going to have more to say, Mr. Speaker, about this

particular bill and how they have confused everybody in their right wing world with their action, because they're actually confused themselves.

So I would point out, Mr. Speaker, I just — for the life of me, I've been here for a bit — I can't understand what they represent. I need to know what they represent and people out there are getting more and more confused. So if people are confused, the provincial government is confused. They're broke. They've lost their way. They don't know what to do. Well, Mr. Speaker, that's a recipe for the obvious. Time to get rid of them. They have got to go, Mr. Speaker.

So on that point I would say, Mr. Speaker, we have a lot more to say about this bill. My colleagues have a lot more they want to add to this particular bill. So on that note I will move that we adjourn debate on Bill 152, *The Builders' Lien (Prompt Payment) 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. 142

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 142** — *The Proceedings Against the Crown Act, 2018/Loi de 2018 sur les poursuites contre la Couronne* be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. Pedersen:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to enter into this debate here today on Bill 142. This bill is essentially about replacing the former legislation with new legislation which is almost the same as the former one. But there are a few changes.

One of the significant changes of course is making it a bilingual piece of legislation. And of course, Mr. Speaker, that's something that we always laud. Both English and French are our official languages, and it's a part of access to justice to make sure that our legislation is as accessible as possible to speakers of both official languages. So that aspect is something I think that we can fully stand behind.

There's another provision of this legislation that I'm a little more concerned about, and what that provision is, Mr. Speaker, is removing the ability to have a proceeding in which relief is sought against the Crown tried by a jury. Mr. Speaker, juries are a centuries-old right under the laws that we inherited from England, and I would submit that this is something that we should not trifle with lightly.

I know the minister gave as a rationale for putting in this new section, he gave the rationale that juries hadn't been used in these

type of proceedings for decades. But, Mr. Speaker, just because something isn't used often doesn't mean that we should get rid of it. And I'm sure the members opposite will agree with me with this example: recently we had the example of this government invoking the notwithstanding clause. That's also something that's not used very darn often, but they felt that it was necessary not so long ago.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I think that highlights the point that just because something isn't used often doesn't mean it should be done away with. And so I think it's of concern that we would be removing a centuries-old remedy, the right to be tried by a jury, in this piece of legislation.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I think those are all my comments on this bill. So I'll move that debate on this bill be adjourned.

**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 Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 143** — *The Proceedings Against the Crown Consequential Amendments Act, 2018* be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. Pedersen:** — Mr. Speaker, of course this bill is the second part of that package to which I just spoke. And although my first set of comments were quite brief, there's probably not need to repeat them, seeing as how my colleague who will be speaking next is here and raring to go. But I would just reiterate that it's important, Mr. Speaker, that just because something is a centuries-old right, is rarely used, that doesn't mean that it should be done away with.

And again, I'd cite the example of the notwithstanding clause in the *Constitution Act*. Just because it's not used often — and I would submit it's appropriate that it not be used often — that doesn't mean that it should be gotten rid of. There may very well be circumstances when a jury trial would be fitting in a proceeding against the Crown, and I think it would be best if we left that remedy there in this new legislation.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I move that debate on this bill be adjourned.

**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. 144

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed



motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 144 — *The Real Estate Amendment Act, 2018*** be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I enter into debate here this afternoon as it relates to Bill No. 144, *The Real Estate Amendment Act, 2018*. I certainly have read what the minister has suggested these changes are all about. And how it sets out duties and objects of the Saskatchewan Real Estate Commission, how it changes some of the appointments of board members, I believe also allowing for the commission to post its annual report on its website and to make it available to everyone without a need to specifically request it, certainly I think that seems fair and transparent, Mr. Speaker.

It allows the commission to maintain an electronic registrar, changes the bylaw procedure, raises the fines, amounts payable to the commission. And I'm sure that's a fair measure, to make sure that fines are updated to make sure that they have the intended impact of those fines. Changes to the appeal process as well here, Mr. Speaker. So there's various changes that I suspect are modernizations, that are housekeeping. Certainly we'll be consulting very closely with those involved in the industry to make sure that that's just the case. Far too often we see with the Sask Party government that they bull ahead with their own changes, Mr. Speaker, without consulting, without understanding the consequences of their choices.

Certainly we had the Saskatchewan realtors association in to the legislature for a dialogue just recently. It'll be worthwhile to hear their perspective on this legislation and other areas to strengthen this legislation as well. I know a couple things that they've been urging for some time is a move towards more frequent assessment in the province, Mr. Speaker, as well as a registry of properties that have served as grow ops, Mr. Speaker, recognizing that that's important for prospective owners to have an understanding of the potential damage caused through that sort of operation.

It's important that we have a real estate industry in the province that the public can place great trust in. I believe that to be the case, but we should be looking for every opportunity to improve that with the public as well. I know as well, as we talk about matters of real estate and the industry itself, a good economy and good jobs matter to making sure that we have a strong and healthy industry, to make sure that homes are affordable, Mr. Speaker. And far too often we see, across this province, families that have been really devastated by choices of this government.

And I think of the nonsensical and very short-sighted imposition of the PST, hiking the PST and then imposing it on construction, Mr. Speaker, construction labour, and how that's devastated companies throughout this province, local businesses throughout this province, workers throughout the province, and how that's really weakened our economy at a time where we need to be doing all we can to support investment, Mr. Speaker, and to support the creation of jobs.

And certainly of late I've sat down with so many businesses that have been really, really hurt by that PST hike and expansion; circumstances where companies are, by way of the number of employees that they have, are a fraction of themselves of just two

years ago; building permits that are down across Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. I was in Moose Jaw recently, sitting down with local businesses that were in the construction industry that were relaying to me that in 2012 they built 120 new homes, and this year, Mr. Speaker, it's down to 10. That's an incredibly dramatic shift. It's meant that those companies are under huge strain. It's meant that so many hard-working skilled trades have lost their livelihoods, Mr. Speaker, have been forced outside of the province.

[15:00]

And of course we see that as well when it comes to this same sort of failed approach when it comes to the economy, with the relentless outsourcing that we see with public projects, Crown corporations, or schools, Mr. Speaker, where we need to ensure that we get the best value for taxpayers and ensure we have a fair and level playing field for Saskatchewan companies. And that just hasn't been the case.

Far too often Saskatchewan companies have been shut out from even bidding and tendering and ensuring a competitive environment and best value for taxpayers and then shut out of that important work, Mr. Speaker, which has a direct impact on the workers within our province and our local economy.

We see when it comes to our economy a government that, you know, continues to ensure a rail system that will actually perform for the people and producers and shippers across our province. And we see a government that's been there for over a decade, Mr. Speaker, and that just hasn't got the job done to ensure the export pipeline capacity that this province so desperately needs, Mr. Speaker.

So all of these choices and failures of this government weaken our economy. They weaken the job market, Mr. Speaker, and they hurt the real estate industry as well, Mr. Speaker.

So at this point in time, of course, we're going to be digging in and listening to those involved in this important industry. We'll be working to make sure that we have . . . that any changes that are brought forward are in the interests of the public and ensuring the integrity of this important industry and that, as I say, that we'll be looking for opportunities to strengthen legislation that's before us here today. At this point in time I adjourn debate as it relates to Bill No. 144, *The Real Estate Amendment Act, 2018*.

**The Speaker:** — The member's 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 Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Merriman that **Bill No. 145 — *The Residential Services Act, 2018*** be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. Vermette:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, to join in on Bill

145, *The Residential Services Act*. This Act being proposed, amendment replaces and repeals an Act that was previously, from some of the comments the minister made, been years since it's been updated or changed.

And this Act will give certain provisions in there. And it talks a little bit about some of the provisions and some of the limitations the previous Acts did. And one area I was looking at, part of it, it talks about giving up a licence. There were, from my understanding, you could license a facility that meets the requirements, up to one year. And it looks like from what I'm, you know, reading from the minister, you can go up to three years. Give the option of the agency and the ministry that approves a licence of a home, a facility.

And I guess there's different ways that we look at it over the years and some people, whether it's a . . . And I'm not sure if its foster homes are involved in that, but I know it's homes for adults with intellectual disabilities. Could be different types of disabilities. It could be, I think we have homes now where provide for seniors. You have a home where people bring seniors in their home. So I'm assuming that that will give those homes that are licensed will follow these regulations. So I'm not sure and over time and I know we'll do some work to find out what homes and residents will be covered under the new legislation.

And it says it's giving more powers to different . . . with the timing change. And they talk a little bit about, I think, the terminology that they're using. So we'll see how that works out, and I guess it'll come out in the regulations. But having said that, it's taking different homes, different residents to give a longer time, whether it's from a year to up to three years, from my understanding.

Now it also talks about, I guess there used to be penalties for every infraction that a home . . . And I'm assuming it's somebody from the ministry that observes, or gets complaints and concerns. And it talks a little bit about that.

Then you have penalties. And I think for each infraction you've got up to \$200 penalty. Now what they're saying is it's moved up; it'll be \$300 a day. So obviously if there are issues . . . And I know we'll ask that and we'll get a clarification on that. So is that if somebody changes . . . If they have found an issue, an inspector or somebody is going in and they get a complaint, or they hear a concern from a resident or whoever about a certain violation in a residential building, or a place where these regulations will govern. And you know, under that, if there is a violation, then it's \$300 a day. So I'm not sure if they correct the infraction, then maybe it's one day, two days, once they find out. So that needs to be worked out. And maybe in the regulations it'll come, or I know in committee we can ask about that.

Having said that, the minister also talks about in there, you know, just the idea. It's about safety. It's making sure that residents have a place and the residence that they're living in, that it is safe. And they follow certain codes, regulations to make sure that the residents have a safe home and a safe residence, and to provide them with that.

And I think that's important because sometimes, obviously, they're people maybe who are older. You know, they're people who maybe have disabilities and they have to have that extra

protection in making sure that that home is protected for them, and that we protect them. And we talk about the most vulnerable, and again we say this. So I know from our side of the House, and my colleagues, we'll have more questions about this.

And I think sometimes it's important that government, and even as opposition, as our critics and members, we check with individuals. You know, do they have, you know, recommendations that would improve the legislation when we're making amendments and changes, that there's opportunities for the public and those people who want to have input into changes. So you know, on the government side, like everything else, recommendations come forward, whether it's from employees that work for the ministry, whether it's residents, whether it's people who are operating residential homes who will provide that service. They may have suggestions and recommendations that they would like to see come in. We hope the government is open to those when it's to make sure the protection of the most vulnerable of the residents that are in those homes are protected.

So you know, when I think about it that way, we will have more questions and of course in committee. And like I say, we'll try to find out if there's any suggestions that individuals . . . [inaudible] . . . And we know that individuals get a hold of us as critics, as government side, to say, here's some suggestions. And sometimes when legislation comes, it's because it's something that's been asked for by residents and by the people that legislation will impact. But sometimes it is the government bringing it forward.

So at this point I don't know what it is, but we'll in committee get to find out why it's coming forward, and we'll do our due diligence that we're supposed to do and required to do on behalf, and that's why we're here.

So at that point, Mr. Speaker, I don't have any more comments on this. I know we will have more to say in committee, so I'm prepared to adjourn on Bill 145, *The Residential Services Act*. Thank you.

**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. 147

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Eyre that **Bill No. 147** — *The Oil and Gas Conservation Amendment Act, 2018* be now read a second time.]

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

**Ms. Rancourt:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm proud today to be able to provide some remarks with regards to debate with Bill No. 147, *The Oil and Gas Conservation Amendment Act, 2018*.

This Act, this piece of legislation is going forward with some amendments, and it's my understanding because of some other

legislation that's being put forward and so needing to update the regulations and the legislation within this Act. A lot of it is housekeeping in nature, Mr. Speaker, which gives us an opportunity whenever we have time to review legislation to make sure that it's up to date and standard to our current times.

So that's what, in fact, they've done with this piece of legislation. There's been updates to gender reference in here, and a lot of changes reflective to the changes in the industry which has required that they change the Act to reflect that. And then there's also some new definitions within this legislation.

So we know that there's been some changes to this legislation with regards to the greenhouse gas emissions, wanting to make some legislation that will reduce the gas emissions within our province. And so this helps to support and implement the greenhouse gas emissions regulations, that they're also being put forward or have been put forward. The regulations reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the flaring and venting of methane by 45 per cent by 2025.

So, Mr. Speaker, the minister indicated that this was based on results-based program so that there will be some penalties to operators who fail to meet the emission reduction targets. So the penalties that are required for individuals who are not meeting those targets, some of those penalties will go towards the climate change technology fund, which is to be designed to support investments to help Saskatchewan achieve the climate change plans that we have put forward. But there was nothing in here that indicated that for sure those funds would be put towards that fund, so I guess there'll be some time in committee to ask some questions with regards to that and what's the plans with the minister on use of those penalties.

So there was some provisions that align with *The Pipelines Act* and some changes to section 7.9, which will provide some immunity to the board of any liability if there's any issues. So again a lot of the changes within this Act are to align with other pieces of legislation that are being brought forward.

Also we know that the Provincial Auditor has implemented some recommendations outlined in her last report. So there's a lot of questions with regards to the fact, if they're implementing the recommendations of the auditor within here, within this piece of legislation. This is the perfect opportunity to do that, Mr. Speaker. And so I'm sure the critic responsible for this bill will look into that.

Also the last auditor's report . . . we could see that there was a significant decline in industry operators reporting incidences. Now we're not quite sure if it's because there's less incidences that are occurring or if people are not reporting them. And if that's the case, that's very troubling. And so what is the government doing to enforce that reports of an incidence are being brought forward? So that is something that I'm sure will be of discussion within committee.

It's no surprise, Mr. Speaker, that we believe that we need stronger regulations that uphold and protect our environment and reflect a strict commitment to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. And we would eventually ask in committee that those strict regulations be enforced and how this legislation is going to be enforced to ensure that we are in fact doing our fair share in

reduction of greenhouse gas emissions within our province.

So this is going to be probably a piece of legislation that'll be discussed very thoroughly, and I know my other colleagues will probably have a lot more that they'll want to put on the record with regards to discussion with this bill. And I know that the critic responsible for this will consult with stakeholders and do the due diligence that is needed for committee. So with that, Mr. Speaker, I will end my remarks with regards to this bill and adjourn debate on Bill 147, *The Oil and Gas Conservation Amendment Act*.

**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 Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Eyre that **Bill No. 148 — *The Pipelines Amendment Act, 2018*** be now read a second time.]

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

[15:15]

**Ms. Beck:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a delight this afternoon to rise and to enter into debate on Bill No. 148, *The Pipelines Amendment Act, 2018*. The minister stood in this Assembly on November the 13th and introduced second reading of this bill. I did see her on my television, Mr. Speaker, last night on *Power & Politics*, so I just wanted to note that. I think she was talking on a slightly different subject than I'm speaking to today, but when she did stand up on November the 13th, the minister in introducing this bill noted that there were several changes that were being made with regard to pipeline regulation and enhancement in this province.

One of the first substantial changes in this bill is the establishment of IRIS [integrated resource information system]. I believe that is an integrated legal online system for registry of pipeline and flowline licences in the province. And it will also be the source for issuing and administering licences in the province. So that is a fairly significant change and I think one that does seem to make a lot of sense. I know in previous comments, my colleague from Nutana noted that after the oil spill, the Husky oil spill in the North Saskatchewan River, she had cause to go online and look up where some of the pipelines and flowlines were in the province and had a great deal of difficulty doing that, too. So to the extent that this aids in transparency and location of those lines as well as improving the system for licensing and accessing licences in the province, I think that that would well serve the people of this province.

This is also an issue that the auditor has brought up I think as recently as 2017, Mr. Speaker, around the . . . I'm just going to pull this up. The auditor in 2017 was calling for better pipeline regulations and monitoring in Saskatchewan, and I think that that certainly is something that is very important. I know the people whose drinking water was impacted that year with that spill

certainly would agree to that, but there are other reasons, Mr. Speaker.

There is no doubt that the oil and gas industry plays a major role in Saskatchewan and in our economy. The oil and gas industry provides an estimated 36,000 person-years of employment in this province and contributes approximately \$600 million of revenue to the provincial economy. So, Mr. Speaker, this is an industry that is very important to the people of Saskatchewan and to our economy, certainly for those who live and work in communities supported by the oil and gas industry, those who work in those jobs, but also the revenue that comes into provincial coffers to pay for things like hospitals and classrooms and highways.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think that there is broad support on both sides of the House for that contribution and also broad support for the need to ensure that all people in this province have access to things like safe drinking water and that there is proper oversight for these pipelines in the province — again for safety reasons, but also the high level of confidence in the safety of these pipelines both for people who live near them, but also consumer confidence does in the long run lend support to the industry.

We have seen some concerns. My colleague, the member for Athabasca, noted one of the overarching concerns when we're talking about pipelines and flowlines is the duty to consult and the history of consultation with First Nations communities, something we certainly saw in the case of the Kinder Morgan pipeline. The absence of that consultation has seen that pipeline halted, Mr. Speaker.

It is important that we get the safety aspect and the regulation aspect and the public consult aspect of pipelines right upfront so that we're not dealing with cleanup after the fact, something that, you know, rhetoric won't be able to fix. It is very important that we take a long-term and a broad approach to this, a very level-headed approach to it, and not make decisions based on rhetoric or polar political interests.

So, Mr. Speaker, to the extent to which this piece of legislation does, again as I said, improve transparency, improves access both for industry and for the public to this process, to the pipeline and flowline information in the province, I think that that will well serve the people of Saskatchewan.

I suspect that the critic on this side will have a number of more technical questions than I can provide here this afternoon. But again I recognize that the attention to the safety, the regulation, and the clarity and transparency when it comes to pipelines is a priority worth pursuing. I would look further to comments from other members of the opposition on this piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker.

But with that I think that I am coming to the end of my own observations and questions and will move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 148, *The Pipelines Amendment Act*.

**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. 149

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Tell that **Bill No. 149 — *The Police (Regional Policing) 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. I'm rising today to enter into the debate regarding an Act being cited as *The Police (Regional Policing) Amendment Act, 2018*. Ordinarily one of the first places we go to for an insight into what the intention of this bill is, is to the minister's comments in the second reading speech. And unfortunately the minister's speech on this is very, very sparse and actually doesn't really describe at all what the intent . . . Well it describes what I think the intent might be, but it doesn't describe the changes that are being proposed. And, Mr. Speaker, other than some minor, minor changes to some wording in various sections, I think the real focus of the bill is the repeal of the existing sections 28 to 30 and substitution with a new section 28, 28.1, 29, and 30.

But as I look through this, Mr. Speaker, there really isn't any big changes. The existing Act allows for a regional police agreement under section 28. Two or more municipalities can enter into an agreement for policing, and if it's going to be policed pursuant to the agreement there is an . . . It goes on to describe if it's not within the geographical limits of the municipalities, they can enter into another agreement and they confirm it by a bylaw. And they can't withdraw without approval of the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

If we look at the new section 28, it talks about creating a regional policing service. It can be entered into, and it's much more specific here now. In the first Act it says "municipalities," but now there's a list of municipalities, including people with less than 500 population. I'm not sure that was precluded by the first bill, or the existing bill, *The Police Act* of 1990. So we'll have to ask some questions about that in terms of why it's being spelled out so specifically in the new section when it seems to have been covered quite comprehensively in the existing bill.

So there's probably more detail in the new section about what can be in a regional police service agreement, but ordinarily that's the kind of stuff that we find in the regulations, Mr. Speaker. So I don't know if this is just sort of a way to make noise about this, but I really don't understand what's being changed here.

The second new section is withdrawal from the agreement, which is covered in the existing bill. The funding is the new section 29. Well that wasn't included in the original bill that I can see, although I'm not sure that it's not there either. So that's something we'd have to look at as well. And then a board for the regional police service. Well that's in the existing bill.

So, Mr. Speaker, it seems like there isn't really much being changed here and unfortunately the minister's comments don't give us a lot of insight. She did say it was supposed to address issues surrounding rural crime but, Mr. Speaker, I think main issues that rural areas are facing is actually lack of funding to address the issues in relation to rural crime. And that's not

addressed at all in this bill because I don't think this government is going to commit to any new money for redrawing the boundaries of what a regional police service might look like.

So I'm just wondering if this bill is a bit of a shell game in terms of just moving things around a little bit but not really changing anything in particular. And you know, it's interesting that this is being promoted as a way to address issues surrounding rural crime. You know, we had the Minister of Social Services yesterday in the media talking about child apprehension and its connection to rural crime, which he didn't explain. And so I think there's a lot of unanswered threads out there, Mr. Speaker, about what exactly this government's talking about when they're talking about rural crime.

And I look forward to committee on this bill. Actually I think it will be very interesting to get a sense of what's actually being changed here. Because again, is this just moving the shells around so that it looks like something's being done, when in fact it's already being done or the option is definitely there for municipalities to enter into regional policing service now? So that's I think the main questions that we will have.

Like the minister said, adding rural municipalities, regional policing provisions will provide them with an additional policing option. Well that already exists so there's nothing changing here. So I'm just wondering if it's some political rhetoric that will make the government look like it's doing something when it really isn't doing anything at all. So we'll definitely have those questions, Mr. Speaker, in committee, and maybe the officials will be able to give us a little more clarity since we don't have that in the minister's speech.

So at this point I don't have a lot more to add. It's a fairly short bill, but as I say, it's basically removing the existing sections 28 to 30, putting in new 28 to 30 sections that seem to be accomplishing pretty much the same thing that is already there.

So we'll get hopefully a sense of what's really intended here when we go to committee. At this point I will adjourn debate on Bill No. 149, *The Police (Regional Policing) Amendment Act, 2018*.

**The Speaker:** — The member has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 149. The pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

### Bill No. 150

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Tell that **Bill No. 150 — *The Seizure of Criminal Property Amendment Act, 2018*** be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's good to enter into the debate on this very important bill — Bill No. 150, *An Act to amend The Seizure of Criminal Property Act, 2009*. And I remember when that first bill was introduced and now that seems

to be an extension of that. And there are a couple of things I do have some questions on when we get into debate, but it seems to increase the power of or range of the ability to seize criminal property related to unlawful activity.

And of course at that time, you know, it seemed to be that the police and the justice system, their hands were tied about what to do with this amazing acquisition of goods through unlawful activity, but there was very little that the state could do about that. And it seemed reasonable in fact that we do take some time to correct that. And of course we have some questions here about this Bill No. 150 and what will be the consequences of that.

[15:30]

And so I'll take a few minutes here to go through some of our questions and my questions from a very simple reading through this. But it really is an interesting piece of legislation. And you know, as I said, it's really about the defendant or respondent, how they waive their rights to an interest in a property if there is reason to believe that that property was gained through unlawful activity, and all of that process.

And so I'll just take a minute to review the minister's remarks that were made on November 19, 2018. And she talks about how the funds from the acquisition of these resources will go, and she says:

Saskatchewan's civil forfeiture program takes property and profits out of the hands of criminals and uses it to fund victims programming, policing initiatives, and other programs that promote community safety.

And you know, it just reminded me right away of what we heard about SGI and the cameras and the fines that were accruing from there, and how that had been originally set out as a pilot with the different municipalities and how those funds were going to be used for community safety and initiatives to promote that kind of thing.

But now we understand that actually the funds are going to be going largely to the GRF [General Revenue Fund]. And that made a lot of people unhappy. The mayors, I know the mayor in my city of Saskatoon, the mayor of Regina, were unhappy that this was a significant amount of money that they were losing, the SGI money, that they were being used to promote safety, particularly around schools. And they were going to be left holding the bag, that people expected those programs to continue, but then SGI was going to be funnelling those funds into the GRF.

And of course many people at the time felt that, you know, really at one hand it's great to be using technology, but on the other hand it was amazing how technology could work so quickly to identify who the speeder was and what the infraction was, whether it was turning right on a stop sign, but how slow justice moved to let people know. Because part of the process of justice is that, through penalty, you would hope people's behaviour changes, and changes for the good. But in fact SGI was moving relatively slow with the issuing — or the justice system — of the tickets, and therefore people were left open to doing the same thing many times.

In fact there was a news story in the *StarPhoenix* about how a company that worked on 33rd in Saskatoon actually went through the red . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Yes, went through . . . had got several tickets for turning right on a red light, and didn't realize that that was a problem until they received several fines. Now they probably would have changed after the first time if it had happened that they had got the ticket in a timely manner, i.e. the old-fashioned way, with a police officer catching them on the corner and having a fine instantaneously given, and people know right away. But in fact there was a time lag.

So forgive me, Mr. Speaker, if I'm a little cynical when I hear the minister say that this will go to fund victims programming, policing initiatives, and programs that promote community safety. These folks are very good at what sounds like a pretty good, pretty good idea for how to deal with the money. And it's not a small pool of money. I understand that two years ago it was 1.2 million and then last year it was 800-and-some thousand. That's a significant amount of money and it could be used in a productive way. But we would have a lot of questions to see, so how is that money actually flowing to police initiatives?

My colleague was just talking about a bill that required more policing and then the question is, who's going to be paying for that? Will there actually be resources for that kind of thing? I think that's what people want to see. They want to see attention given to the root causes, the root causes. In fact we had questions in the House in Social Services, talking about why are so many babies being apprehended, and the minister in the scrum, really and truthfully, and I appreciate this, admitted that it was due to mental health issues, addiction issues, that type of thing.

We need to get to the root causes. We can't be just putting a band-aid on things. That doesn't work, and it's not helpful to anybody because in the long run it doesn't solve the problem and in fact adds to the problem. And so when I heard that, I thought, that's very interesting.

And so, Mr. Speaker, the minister also talked about *The Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Act*, and that was something that we were very proud to bring in. I sometimes have to, you know, smile when the folks opposite say they'll take no lessons from us; they'll take no lessons at all. None at all. Well here's one that they keep bringing up — safer communities and neighbourhoods Act, Mr. Speaker. And we were proud to bring that in and, you know, it wasn't even an original idea of ours. We brought that from Manitoba. At the time, Manitoba was an NDP government. A good idea is just a plain good idea, and *The Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Act* is something that I still promote. And I know there's been a few changes, but generally it's the same program that was introduced under Frank Quennell when he was minister of Justice. A very, very good program.

So, Mr. Speaker, we will have lots of questions. I want to just really focus on one part though, and that was, we understand that one of the sections will put the onus on the defendant or the respondent to make a response. Now, and this is section 6. Section 6 talks about . . . And let me go to it. It's section 10.3 as amended, and it's section 6 of the bill, but the Act, section 10.3 as amended:

The following subsections are added after 10.3(5):

If a person failed to provide an address to the law enforcement agency that seized the subject property, or if the director is unable to verify the address given, the notice to be given by the director pursuant to this section may be given [may be given] by publishing a notice on the ministry's website, to the attention of the person for whom the property was seized.

Now, Mr. Speaker, you know, I'm not going to be a defence lawyer here or anything like that. But I have to say, you know, I know this is getting pretty slippery here when you have to be watching the ministry's, the Minister of Justice's website to make sure your name doesn't appear, so your car isn't seized or your house isn't seized . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Yes, pretty soon this is going to be the old Twitter feed. So I do have to wonder about that. And it talks about how it's going to be set out, and:

A notice pursuant to the section that is published on the ministry's website in accordance with subsection (6) is deemed to have . . . served on the tenth business day after the date on which the notice is first published.

Now, Mr. Speaker, this again I have to say that, you know, and of course some of these crimes are very, very serious and need much, much attention. But I do have to say that I've had concerns raised. And again it's interesting, and we need to have questions with SGI, particularly around driver's licences that have been revoked or lost. Well revoked is . . . I'll just leave it at that. Where people thought they still had a driver's licence and they didn't. They had lost their driver's licence, but did not receive notice by mail. But it was deemed to have been served notice through regular mail, and for some reason, mail wasn't delivered.

In the old days, the good old days, you would get it by registered mail and somebody would have to sign for it, and you would have to . . . There would be a trail, a paper trail. So somebody could say, well I just didn't know I lost my licence. That seems, that seems . . . That just doesn't seem possible. How would you not know that you hadn't lost your licence? Well when the mail . . . When it's being sent out, the notice is being sent out by regular mail, that could happen. That could happen. And there's no paper trail.

So here we have a situation where the person has 10 days to respond. Now for some reason, if the director feels they don't have a good address now, then it's up to that person to make the decision. There is no sort of appealing that. The director has the full power. They may put it on the ministry's website and then on the 10th day it's game over. You've lost . . . you have forfeited whatever has been seized.

Now, Mr. Speaker, as I said, I'm not a defence lawyer, but I do think there has to be some sort of due process here. And everybody does deserve something. And I'm not sure if that meets the test of a paper trail. Can you argue that that's all fair? I'm not sure. I'm not sure. If that happened to me or somebody I cared about and said, gee, I lost my car the 10th day because I didn't realize my name was on the minister's website, I don't know if that's a fair process. So we'll have some questions about that.

So, Mr. Speaker, as I said, I have some questions about where

will the money go and what's happening with that. You know, I understand that there's a significant amount of money involved in some crimes. You know, we've seen that. I know in my hometown, when we talked about particularly the drug trade, and it's a horrific thing and we need to do all we can. We certainly shouldn't let criminals acquire a fortune at the expense of, through the gains of crime. That is not what I'm arguing. What I'm saying, is there unintended consequences that some lawyers could have a heyday? Has this been well thought out? Will this meet the test in court for being reasonable? I'm not sure. I don't know. But I do have a lot of questions.

And so with that, Mr. Speaker, I know that we've got a lot of work to get through today, and we'll have lots of questions. I'll be interested to hear what the Minister of Justice has to say about this and all the names up on his website and how that all works. I'm not sure. So at any rate, Mr. Speaker, I would move adjournment on Bill No. 150. Thank you very much.

**The Speaker:** — The member has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 150. Pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

#### Bill No. 151

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 151 — *The Personal Property Security Amendment Act, 2018*** be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. McCall:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As always, glad to join debate, take my place in this Assembly and speak out on the issues of the day, in this case being Bill No. 151, *The Personal Property Security Amendment Act, 2018*. This one's certainly interesting. Mr. Speaker, I wouldn't want to say otherwise. And in terms of the purchase-money security interests in inventory issues that have been addressed in this particular piece of legislation, it's an interesting piece of legislation. Always interesting to see this government's various and sundry forays into regulating commerce, electronic and/or otherwise.

But, Mr. Speaker, in terms of updating the 1993 personal property security Act, wherein lenders and sellers secured payment of a debt and established priority over other creditors by registering their security interest in the personal property of a debtor in the personal property registry . . . Mr. Speaker, in the second reading speech of the minister, which was sort of notable for its brevity, brevity of course being the soul of wit, but I don't know if that really worked out in terms of what the minister had to say . . . But he did reference the good work of Professor Ron Cuming — again, this is by the minister's recognition — long a leader in the development and operation of the personal property law and registries in Canada.

[15:45]

All I have to do to get my legal colleagues sort of up in arms is

to say, you know, personal property security amendment Act, and they're, you know . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Look at them go. Look at them go. They're perked right up, perked right up. Okay, maybe not up in arms. Maybe just very keenly interested.

And there's also certainly a . . . You know, they're vouching for the minister's opinion of the work of Professor Cuming and the authority contained therein. But certainly, Mr. Speaker, in terms of this bill setting out to establish the procedures to be observed in the control of the electronic record of a transaction, updating the definitions and language used in the previous Act, as I've said, outlining the purpose of a purchase-money security interest in inventory, setting out the general rules determining the validity of interest by the law of the jurisdiction in which the collateral is situated. Always critical in these matters, Mr. Speaker. Wherein it provides for a process to continue out-of-province perfection of goods that are relocated to Saskatchewan by timely re-registration and perfection in Saskatchewan, and clarifying perfection rules where goods are removed from one jurisdiction to another.

Setting out the rules to determine where a debtor is located for the purpose of conflict rules, determining the rules governing a prior security interest, and the location of a debtor. Setting out perfection rules by possession with respect to purchase money and security interests, and possession rules for shipped goods. Creating an equitable interest in goods where substantially paid for. Changing the rules governing the protection of transferees of negotiable collateral. Setting out the rights of the assignees, and setting out the rights of the secured party on default where the collateral is a licence.

Again, Mr. Speaker, these are all necessary aspects of commerce in this day and age, and we welcome the government's efforts in keeping us up with the times. And again, Mr. Speaker, in terms of the starring role to be played in an ongoing occurrence, Mr. Speaker, by Professor Cuming and indeed by the entire Canadian Conference on Personal Property Security Law, Mr. Speaker, what's not to like about that?

So we look forward to that work and we'll see how this gets translated into the regulations. But, Mr. Speaker, I think that will about do it for my intervention this aft and I know that other of my colleagues will have more to say and that we've got some more due diligence to engage in to make sure that things are as they've been presented by the minister and by this government. But with that, Mr. Speaker, I would move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 151, *The Personal Property Security Amendment Act, 2018*.

**The Speaker:** — The member has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 151. 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 from Athabasca.

**Mr. Belanger:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to enter into the debate, 133, *The Legislative Assembly (Election Dates) Amendment Act, 2018*. And what the Act does, Mr. Speaker, it talks about setting the next election day for Monday, October 26th, 2020, and establishes that future elections must be held at least every four years on the last Monday of October, Mr. Speaker.

So what do we do about the election day that has been set here, Mr. Speaker? As we've indicated time and time again, we in the opposition feel that the date that has been moved has been there to serve the Saskatchewan Party's political purposes, Mr. Speaker. The NDP believe that because there's a fall election in 2020 — the municipalities will be holding an election at the same time frame — there was discussion on when should the province hold the next election that's supposed to be slated for the year 2020. And we suggested, as the official opposition, that perhaps we should have the election in June of 2020 and then allow for a separation of time from June to November to have the municipal election. Because people on many occasions do get, quite frankly get frustrated and tired with elections back to back.

The problem was further complicated with the fact that they're going to have a federal election in the fall of 2019 and then a year later a provincial election in 2020 and then two weeks after the suggested date by the Sask Party, we're going to have a municipal election.

So we couldn't understand, Mr. Speaker, why would the Sask Party not hold an election in June of 2020. And our argument was further supported by the notion that it does give the governing party a full four-year mandate from April of 2016 to June of 2020. But no, this government decided they wanted six more months, an unearned six more months, and extended the election day from June of 2020 down to November of 2020.

So, Mr. Speaker, we can't figure out why they would move the election process six months further down the timetable. We obviously know that there is some nefarious concept behind the reason why they're moving these dates to that particular time frame. And we're going to find out exactly the date, Mr. Speaker.

Now before we get to that process, I would like to suggest that the . . . I would ask the member from Regina Walsh Acres and the member from Saskatoon Eastview that they should maybe move the federal election to the same time as we're having our provincial election. Because the advantage there, Mr. Speaker, is both of them are nominated candidates for the Conservative Party of Saskatchewan, so it makes them Conservatives. That's what they are.

And they right now, being nominated candidates, are sitting in the comforts of this particular Assembly by day, and by evening and by weekend they're raging campaigners, Mr. Speaker. And when I see them in the Assembly, the first thing that goes into my mind is, another day, another dollar on the campaign trail. And the reason why I'm making this a point, Mr. Speaker, is because if we move the election date as being proposed here and we asked the federal government . . . [inaudible interjection] . . .

no, we asked the federal government to move their date to 2020 as well, that'll give both these nominated candidates an extra year's income and an extra year timetable to campaign for votes.

So we would hope that they would see the logic in that, Mr. Speaker. Because as we speak, as we speak, both of these Conservative-nominated candidates are making \$100,000 a year to campaign, to campaign as federal-nominated Conservative candidates.

So we would ask them to do the right thing. If you're a federally nominated candidate and you have aspirations to leave this place, then do it and assume your role as a federally nominated candidate. But no, Mr. Speaker, they never spoke up. They sat on their hands and they continued supporting notions of this bill by saying, the longer we get to sit here, the more salary we make and the more campaigning we can get done.

The bottom line is that on the fixed election date, that's exactly what happens when you run into this process. Again, somehow they have taken the fixed election date concept that was being proposed by them and they have turned this into a mockery by saying, oh, we're going to have six months added onto our term. And oh, by the way, people that have federal aspirations, we will protect you. We will keep you in our fold like sheep in the flock. You don't have to resign. You can stay here and campaign all day long and be paid for it. That is something that is of great concern, Mr. Speaker.

So I want to recap, to the people that are listening, the reason why this bill really takes away from the whole notion of democracy. First of all we have people voting for this bill that are federally nominated Conservative candidates that are going to run federally in 2019, less than a year away, Mr. Speaker. They have refused to step down as MLAs. They continue sitting in the Assembly, drawing an MLA salary, and they continue campaigning, like I said, raging campaigners at night and on the weekend, Mr. Speaker. And they are not going to do the right and honourable thing and have the courage to say, if I want to be a federal candidate, I'm no longer going to occupy an MLA seat. So I'm going to step down as an MLA and I'm going to run federally, and I'll have the courage to run federally a year from now. But no, Mr. Speaker, their confidence level on winning the election is low, as we all know, but they sit in the Assembly and vote on bills of this sort.

That is what I'm making reference to this particular bill, Mr. Speaker, where they get to choose the election date. And I think that's a huge conflict of interest. I think there has to be the path corrected here. And I would say again to both the members that are federally nominated candidates that, have the courage to make the right decision. If you want to be a federal MP [Member of Parliament] go at it. Have at it.

And, Mr. Speaker, I'll challenge them today that if they decide to do the right thing and say, okay, we're done being an MLA; we're not going to draw an MLA salary while we're campaigning; and we'll step away. And maybe, Mr. Speaker, maybe, just maybe I'll follow them out the door.

We've got the courage and conviction to do the right thing. I would challenge them to do the same thing today. And, Mr. Speaker, you will see they will not rise to the occasion. They'll



continue sitting in their provincial chairs while campaigning for a federal seat. And yet we hear them all the time saying, oh, we're not conservatives. Well I beg to differ, Mr. Speaker.

So you look at some of the manipulation around the election date, what's happening across the way. I say, Mr. Speaker, the people of Saskatchewan have to be apprised of why certain people on that side of the Assembly continue voting to try and fix and gerrymander not only constituency boundaries but also the election dates, Mr. Speaker.

So I'll point out we think that the election should be held in 2020, Mr. Speaker, June of 2020. It's the right time frame. There's a good separation between a federal, municipal election timetable and from where they agreed to four years or three and a half years ago that they would have the election every four years. That was what they agreed to, and they said it with great fanfare. Now today they're asking for six more months, just two weeks shy of all the municipal elections that are happening throughout the province.

Does that to me promote democracy? Does that to me respect the people, the voters of the people of Saskatchewan in making sure that we have the right separation, the right time frame, the right time frame to make sure we have as many voters come out? Mr. Speaker, it does not suggest that in the least bit. It does not.

So the question we would ask is, why don't they stick with their original plan of having an election in June of 2020? Why does this bill say November of 2020, giving them six more months, Mr. Speaker? We always believe that there's a plan afoot, and sooner than later we will find out what that plan is. But in the meantime, we have people that quite frankly have an agenda other than the provincial Assembly here in Saskatchewan that are voting on this bill, and I say shame.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think it's time that we suggest various organizations better watch how democracy works. Ask them for advice. Ask the learned people, what do you think of the process where you're just simply moving a two-week time frame just to say that you're going to try and accommodate the municipal elections? Well that is not fair, Mr. Speaker. The bottom line — the last election was in April of 2016; the next election should be June of 2020. But these guys want six extra months. And why do they want six extra months? To coincide with the municipal elections to be held that fall. So I think, Mr. Speaker, it is clearly . . . Something is wrong; something is wrong.

And I hear the member from Regina Walsh Acres saying, well it's for the harvest. Well again, I'm a hockey player from the North. I don't know any farmer harvesting in the end of November. I might be wrong, Mr. Speaker, but again being from northern Saskatchewan, I don't think they harvest in the dead of winter. Do they? I might be wrong, you know, because again I'm just a northern hockey player visiting here in this fine Assembly.

[16:00]

But so all they can argue, Mr. Speaker, there's no argument on their side other than that there's a political agenda afoot. And that does a great disservice to this great hall of democracy and more so to the democracy that was built on many of our people that served in World War I and World War II and continue to serve

throughout the world today. They fought for freedom. They fought for democracy. And when I see activity of this sort that affects . . . And there is a negative effect on what the principle of democracy is all about. It really is discouraging, Mr. Speaker.

I look at the voter suppression tactics that have been undertaken by the Saskatchewan Party. That is also a great disservice. And that's why I pay very close attention to what the member from Moose Jaw North or Moose Jaw Wakamow, when he talks about the veterans in the Assembly, I believe in order to respect the veterans of this Assembly, we must honour their service each and every day. I strongly believe in the fact that many of these veterans that have served in the past, and those that have served recently, and those that continue to serve, that that's what they expect of their sacrifice, that they don't expect to see anything else but a true democracy being run by responsible, good citizens that they have entrusted that democracy on, Mr. Speaker.

Now I watch very carefully the member from Moose Jaw North, Mr. Speaker. I think it's Moose Jaw North or Wakamow. I watch very carefully, Mr. Speaker, on how he's going to vote on this bill. To me that does a great disservice to the word democracy, Mr. Speaker. I'm going to watch how he votes. I'm going to watch how he votes. When clearly the solution was afforded to them, four years later — four years later — and they want six extra months, six extra months' free ride. And that, Mr. Speaker, is a great disservice to the democracy of this country, a democracy built on the backs of people that gave us that freedom, Mr. Speaker, and that is the people that served and continue to serve in our armed forces.

So I'm going to watch, I'm going to watch what that member does. I'm going to watch how he votes, Mr. Speaker. And he better vote on the notion that democracy should never be circumvented — never be circumvented. And there's no question in my mind, Mr. Speaker, had they had this election in June of 2020, good separation from municipal elections, good separation from the federal election. But no, they can't have that because their process, their process is simply meant to circumvent democracy. That's all this is about. And that's why we will never stand in this Assembly and allow that kind of action to continue. And, Mr. Speaker, I'll point out we have a lot more to say about this particular bill, but at this time I move that we adjourn debate on Bill 133 on the election date Act.

**The Speaker:** — The member has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 133. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

**Ms. Sproule:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. This bill is

closely tied to the previous bill that my colleague from the North so eloquently spoke to, because it's intimately tied together unfortunately — rather too much together as far as I'm concerned, Mr. Speaker — because what this bill is doing is establishing the date for the local government elections, which of course is municipal elections. And ordinarily, as you know, they're usually a year apart at least, and now here we have them being set about two weeks apart, Mr. Speaker. And I think much will be said about this choice because it's not a good choice. It's a bad choice by this government, and I think it's going to severely impact the ability of local governments and provincial nominations and provincial election campaigns as well, and it'll really jam a lot of people.

So you have to really question why. And what is the impetus for this? There's really no sort of credible reason being given by the government that we can identify to date. It's somewhat disturbing and I think really unfortunate that this is something, the best they can come up with basically, Mr. Speaker, because extending their mandate.

You know, I was looking back at some of the old *Hansards*, Mr. Speaker. Extending their mandate, the big talk about a four-year election period, and they're only 1 for 3, Mr. Speaker, in their current period as government — 1 for 3. Can't get it right the second time or the third time, and here we have extended mandate which we know was the bane of the Saskatchewan government back in the '80s, Mr. Speaker. It was Premier Devine who seemed to enjoy these long periods without going to the people for a mandate. And it's really sad to see this government picking up on that practice once again and also jamming local municipal elections in the same breath, Mr. Speaker, at least within the same suite of legislation.

So it's disturbing. I think, you know, as we get closer to 2020 when all these elections are going to be scrambling to put together their campaigns, I think you're going to hear a lot more about it then, Mr. Speaker, because when the reality, when the rubber hits the road for all of the people that are involved in these local elections and in the provincial elections, even just returning officers . . . And all the mechanics, the administrative work that's involved in all of these elections is going to be compromised. There simply isn't any logical, good reason for this government to do what they're doing right now, other than extending their mandate and that's the only logical conclusion you can come to.

So in terms of this bill, Mr. Speaker, Bill 134, as I go through it I see, especially in the explanatory notes, a lot of the legislative changes in here are simply corrections. There was a number of errors in the previous local election Act, government election Act, 2015.

The other piece that is a major part of this bill is they're proposing to repeal *The Controverted Municipal Elections Act* completely, and then they're now putting it in as a part in this Act, part XI.1 of the new Act. So I haven't been able to really refer to *The Controverted Municipal Elections Act*, but this section is all about, I think, complaints and appeals when it comes to the results of the municipal election. So I'm just going to make sure I can refer to that XI. It's a long section and it involves a lot of new sections.

Sorry, I'm in the wrong bill here, Mr. Speaker. "Part XI

Controverted Elections," so it deals with bribery, undue influence, allowable election expenses, and then penalties for bribery or undue influence reports, witnesses, and all, I guess, the court-related processes that would have to come into play if there is allegations of bribery or corruption, Mr. Speaker. So that's something that's a big change to this bill because it's originally in a different bill. But that's where it's at, and we'll have to look at it closely in committee.

One interesting change I find is a change to amendment to section 42, where at this point in time, this is relating to the qualifications of the candidate. So I'll just look at the original section, Mr. Speaker, before I talk to the amendment. The section 42 currently says candidates have to be 18 years old; they can't be disqualified pursuant to the Act; they have to be a Canadian citizen; resided in Saskatchewan for six months before. And that's basically it.

There's this new clause being added, which I think is kind of interesting. It's sub (2) and it will read, "The Lieutenant Governor in Council may make regulations respecting any other matter necessary for determining a person's eligibility as a candidate." I talk about this often, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but it's particularly concerning in this case when we don't see the rules in the Act. If you want to run as a local candidate in a local election, it should be very clear what the requirements are.

And for the Lieutenant Governor in Council to be able to pass a regulation saying you can't have blond hair or you can't be over 40, I mean there's all sorts of things that could happen that would be really possibly contravening their rights under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. You can't have a certain sexual orientation, for example, Mr. Speaker. This really opens the door to allow Lieutenant Governor in Council to make all kinds of requirements for who can be a candidate in a local election without ever coming on the floor of this Assembly.

And, Mr. Speaker, it makes me very uncomfortable when I see these kinds of provisions being put into a legislation such as our democratic elections here in this province. It's very concerning. And I think we'll definitely want to understand why the government would feel fit to allow cabinet essentially to decide who is eligible to run for a local municipal election because, Mr. Speaker, I feel that it's wrong. And I really can't understand why the government would see fit to allow that kind of delegation to the executive government, which I think people should be very concerned about, Mr. Speaker.

So there are some other changes in this bill: clean up, as I said, from a number of errors that happened in 2015 that are now being fixed, and of course the replacement of *The Controverted Elections Act* with a new subsection in this bill, part IX or XI. I have to figure out my Roman numerals. I think it's part XI. XI is 11, Mr. Speaker.

And one other thing I do want to give a plug for today is, our library is having an open house. And I happened to pop in there earlier, and they actually are giving out bookmarks with crayons. If you want to de-stress, Mr. Speaker, it's a great opportunity. They have other things that you can take part in. They also have a game called democracy now, and it's about Saskatchewan history. So you can test your Saskatchewan history knowledge as well.

But at this point in time, Mr. Speaker, a lot of concerns I think you will hear across the board, a lot of concerns about this bill and about the previous bill, about jamming our democratic elections into a two-week period for absolutely no given reason, Mr. Speaker. Also you know, allowing this government to extend two times out of three the election period from four years to four and a half years, Mr. Speaker, that's not acceptable. It's not needed. It's not required. It's not acceptable.

This was a huge concern to Saskatchewan people in the '90s. Changes were made in '91 and in 2004, and your own government, Mr. Speaker, brought in a fixed election date. But as I say, it's two strikes already. And they've only had, you know, three at bat, so they've struck out twice.

So it's concerning and you really have to . . . I wish we could really understand the motivation behind wanting to extend their mandate beyond 48 months when there were so many members across the way that expressed support. They supported a 48-month period, and then they can't follow it. So what's going on, Mr. Speaker? Real problem over there.

Anyways, I think at this point lots of my colleagues will want to comment on this bill as well. But I will at this point move to adjourn — which bill are we on? — Bill No. 134, *The Local Government Election Act*, or *An Act to amend The Local Government Election Act, 2015, to repeal The Controverted Municipal Elections Act and to make consequential amendments to The Time Act*.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member from Nutana has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 134. 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:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Nutana.

**Ms. Sproule:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. This is a bill that is actually just dealing with corrections under the previous Act in bills that are written in both official languages. Here in Saskatchewan we still have two official languages in Canada, and it's appropriate therefore to make the changes in the French side as well as English for those bills that are actually prepared in both languages.

So, Mr. Speaker, it's just those kinds of changes that are being made to *The Education Act* and the . . . I think it's just *The Education Act* it looks like that's being changed. So that's really all that's happening. This bill is a very short bill.

It's just again striking to me to see such confidence and arrogance coming from the other side and yet not having the courage to call an election in 48 months. It's just really incomprehensible, Mr. Speaker. And comments from across the way show me that that hubris is alive and well, and I think it's really not serving the people of Saskatchewan well. It's not serving our democracy well.

But at this point, I think that's the extent of my comments on Bill No. 135, *An Act to make consequential amendments to The Education Act, 1995 resulting from the enactment of The Local Government Election Amendment Act, 2018*.

[16:15]

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member from Saskatoon Nutana has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 135. Is it 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 Regina Rosemont.

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I enter into debate here this afternoon with respect to Bill No. 136, *The Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Act, 2018*. This bill aims to regulate the apprenticeship system. It adds two new categories, I understand, for mandatory training than in the previous bill. It introduces mandatory trade certification as well as some additional measures to enforce the previous regulations for employers who do not comply.

Certainly we have questions as it relates to this bill. This is a very important part of Saskatchewan that's being regulated. The apprenticeship system is very important to many workers, to our economy, to ensuring safety within our construction industry, Mr. Speaker. So certainly we'll be consulting with all stakeholders in this sector to make sure that this legislation is indeed improving the circumstances for workers and for the industry and for safety for all.

Certainly there's questions that we have relating to this piece of legislation with respect to what impact this bill would have on Saskatchewan tradespeople, as well around the demand for apprentices and in journeypersons, Mr. Speaker. Certainly we see on many, many fronts the Sask Party government pursuing what would really be sort of a privatized, low-wage, outsourced economy, Mr. Speaker, which is really failing Saskatchewan people, putting the livelihoods of many at risk, Mr. Speaker.

So we don't have a lot of faith or trust in the Sask Party government when it comes to this very important industry and when it comes to apprenticeship and the very important role it

plays. So consultation will be important on that front. When I think of those tradespeople across our province as well that have literally built Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, and will be a key part of building our future, we owe it to them to make sure that any changes that are brought forward are in the long-term interests of our province, Mr. Speaker.

And I think of a couple areas I hear from these tradespeople all the time, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is that the choices that the Sask Party government have made have really made our economy much weaker than it should be, Mr. Speaker. They've taken the jobs away from many tradespeople across this province, Mr. Speaker. And I'm hearing great disappointment and often devastation as a result of the choices to relentlessly outsource public projects, Mr. Speaker, whether it's, you know, schools or whether it's Crown projects like the Chinook power station.

We see a government that far too often has shut out Saskatchewan companies, Saskatchewan workers from tendering in those processes, which prevents best value for taxpayers, Mr. Speaker, failing to provide as competitive of a tendering environment as possible, but also then shutting Saskatchewan companies and Saskatchewan workers out from that very important work of building our province, Mr. Speaker. And as you see our unemployment rate at an alarmingly high level right now, when you see jobs that have been shed in the construction sector, Mr. Speaker, and when you see the kind of deficits that this government has run and the kind of mess that they've made of our finances — \$7.8 billion in debt to \$23 billion in debt — we owe it to Saskatchewan people to get best value for procurement, Mr. Speaker, to not preside over massive overruns that put taxpayers on the hook. And we certainly owe it to Saskatchewan workers and companies to make sure that there's a fair and level playing field for those companies. Shutting out Saskatchewan workers and putting them into unemployment while having companies from, you know, around the world being given preferential treatment, Mr. Speaker, is wrong, simply wrong, Mr. Speaker.

And I know as well . . . I've heard from many of these tradespeople, a lot through the construction industry, a lot through the residential sector that have really been devastated by the Sask Party's hike to the PST and then the expansion of that onto construction labour. And that's really holding back important investments, important expansions, important builds across our province, and it's costing people their jobs, Mr. Speaker. It's impacting businesses, putting too many into really tight margins, putting many out of business, Mr. Speaker, with a very dramatic effect.

So quite simply, the Sask Party's government's PST hike and expansion is the epitome of a job-killing tax as it relates to the construction industry. And I'm hearing far too many cases of businesses that are having to shut down, far too many circumstances from stressed local owners, Mr. Speaker, who have had to let go workers that they had worked hard to train up, to skill up, Mr. Speaker. Investments that had been made to ensure we had the skilled labour force our province needs, all being gutted right now, Mr. Speaker, because of the economic trough that the Sask Party's put this province in, Mr. Speaker. A government that saw a slowing economy, and instead of doing all they can to aid job creation and ensure conditions for investment, actually have made things much worse, Mr. Speaker.

And the loss is the loss of all of that skilled labour, all that capacity that had been built, all of the dollars that had been put into that by employers across Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, as well through the apprenticeship system, as well as public dollars, Mr. Speaker. Well now we have tradespeople in this province that are forced to leave the province, Mr. Speaker, to pack up and leave the province that they love, Mr. Speaker, often splitting apart families as well, because of the mismanagement and the very short-sighted and damaging choices of the current government, Mr. Speaker.

So we don't have a whole lot of faith entering into changes around legislation, around something as important as apprenticeship and our skilled trades in our province with the current government — a government that's so often pursuing that privatized, outsourced, low-wage economy that's certainly failing Saskatchewan people, Mr. Speaker.

We will certainly work with all stakeholders within this sector to make sure that we examine this legislation, to make sure that we shore up any deficiencies, Mr. Speaker, and that we look for every opportunity to improve the legislation that's before us.

But very importantly, we would take a different approach than members opposite who have put the economy into the ditch, Mr. Speaker. We'd fire up jobs across this province. We'd fire up investment across this province, Mr. Speaker, and we'd work with Saskatchewan people, Saskatchewan workers, Saskatchewan businesses to build an economy that works for all.

At this point in time, Mr. Speaker, I adjourn debate on Bill No. 136, *The Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Act, 2018*.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member from Regina Rosemont has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 136, the apprentice and trade certification Act, 2018. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

### 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 Regina Lakeview.

**Ms. Beck:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It is my pleasure to rise again this afternoon and enter into debate on Bill No. 137, *The SaskEnergy (Miscellaneous) Amendment Act* of 2018. Mr. Speaker, this is a very, very small bill — one page in total — but with some very, very significant consequences were we to see this bill passed by this Assembly.

I was reviewing some of the comments that my colleagues had with regard to this bill, and I look at some of the comments from November 14th, 2018 from my colleague from Nutana, specifically with regard to the proposed amendments to section

24. This is the proposed change, that:

**The following subsection is added after subsection 24(1):**

“(1.1) An approval by the Lieutenant Governor in Council pursuant to subsection (1) may be made with respect to a particular case or may be general in nature”.

Mr. Speaker, what this is referring to is the exclusivity rights of SaskEnergy, which supplies natural gas in our province, of course, a much-valued Crown corporation in the province, one that brings a lot of value to the people of Saskatchewan and regulates rates in a way that are affordable for people all around Saskatchewan.

This government knows very well that they cannot come straight at our Crown corporations. They have tried in various — I will give them creative — ways to privatize our Crown corporations. The most recent reiteration or attempt at that was Bill No. 40 which we saw proposed and eventually partially repealed and then fully repealed, if I remember the chain of events correctly. And for those who maybe have forgotten that bit of folly, that was a proposal to change the definition of privatization in Crown corporations in the province to include up to 49 per cent, selling 49 per cent of a Crown corporation but still wouldn't constitute privatization. This government was intent that we needed this change to the legislation or to the definition of privatization because . . . Well honestly I can't remember why exactly that was and I don't think they did in the end when they repealed it, Mr. Speaker. But of course the people of Saskatchewan saw it for what it was and that was a stealthy attempt at privatization of Crown corporations.

Now time and again when this government tries to touch Crown corporations, the people of Saskatchewan rise up. We have seen various promises by this government prior to elections to not touch the Crowns. I'm forgetting all of the tag lines from various campaigns but we know that they are many.

So here we have again in this bill another shot at SaskEnergy that would allow changes to happen without public scrutiny as we have right now. So that is the first concern with this very small but weighty bill, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

The second is again another story made new again in this Assembly, one that in my short two and a half years in this Assembly I have seen almost innumerable times at this point, and that is a clause to increase the borrowing limit for a Crown corporation. This is a story we've seen with SaskPower on several occasions, something we've seen . . . Well SaskTel I'm sure.

In this case what is proposed is an increase of that borrowing limit from 1.7 billion up to 2.5 billion. That is a 50 per cent increase for those who are doing the math at home, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and one that we ought to be concerned about. I know it's one that has sort of flown under the radar a little bit in this province, but I think people of Saskatchewan are starting to wake up to the . . . and do the accounting of the last decade in the province.

I did just a quick Google search, Mr. Deputy Speaker, on public debt in Saskatchewan. The first two articles that came up were

interesting. The first one was, Saskatchewan approves \$6 million in borrowing, from the *Leader-Post*, August 14th, 2018.

[16:30]

And the opening line of this article notes that by the end of this year, which is the current year we're in, Mr. Deputy Speaker, overall public debt is expected to reach a record level of \$20 billion. So that was only the first article.

The second was from March 25th, 2017, a little bit further back, but nevertheless still relevant. And that was proclaiming on the former premier's record that his “legacy may now be growing debt,” Mr. Deputy Speaker. And certainly when you look at the numbers in the last decade in this province, there are some very concerning questions.

Maybe only one of the strange things that I do, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but one of them is, I keep a little picture on my phone of the budget, and specifically the public debt numbers in the province. So this is from . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Not our numbers, Mr. Speaker, it is . . . The members opposite would like me to table it. Well it is very readily available on [finance.gov.sk.ca](http://finance.gov.sk.ca) and I believe it's page 38 of the most recent budget, Mr. Speaker.

And what we see here is a chart that follows the public debt in Saskatchewan from 2008 up to the projections for 2021. What some people find very surprising, you know, people that I know that support this side of the House and also people, maybe particularly people that support that side of the House, is just how rapidly these numbers have grown over the last decade. If you look at . . . There was a slight dip — I will give credit where it's due — from 2008 to 2009. I believe that's when the 1.6 billion from the rainy day fund went into the GRF, but there was a reduction there.

And they're going to say that the inclusion of summary accounting has played a role in this, which I'm sure that it has. But nevertheless if we look simply at the debt of government business enterprises, such as the Crown corporations alone, Mr. Deputy Speaker, what we have seen is a rapid, rapid growth from 2014 up until 2021 for projection. I'm not sure if these numbers are included in this projection, Mr. Speaker, because they seem to tick up at a fairly rapid rate, but the overall number for debt of government business enterprises by 2021 is forecast to be 6.1 billion with a “b,” Mr. Speaker.

So you know, sometimes, Mr. Speaker . . . Public spending, it is certainly important but you can't look at it without the context, Mr. Speaker. I think the numbers are all the more disturbing when we look at the context that this government has had to work with over the last decade.

This is a government that inherited a booming economy, inherited a resource royalty structure that had investment coming into the province, that inherited a provincial nominee program that had a record number of folks choosing to come to Saskatchewan to make their fortune or plan their lives here, Mr. Speaker. So they were handed a pretty good, a pretty good situation for sure. And if you look at the last decade, tens of billions of dollars of additional revenue into the GRF.

So, Mr. Speaker, all of that plus an almost unprecedented — or in recent memory — amount of political capital. Not all of us understand it, Mr. Speaker, but it was there. I have to admit that. These guys could have done anything. They had the money. They had the political will. And you'd think we'd be in a position like we've never seen in this province before, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

But where are we at? We've got the highest levels of tuition in western Canada, Mr. Speaker. We have a record amount of student debt. We have university students being the fastest-growing population who are using the food bank, or new users of food banks in the province, Mr. Speaker. Unfortunately, also rising numbers amongst children and seniors, Mr. Speaker, which is frankly nothing less than appalling.

We have double the rates of domestic violence anywhere in the country. We have the lowest minimum wage. We have epidemic rates of HIV [human immunodeficiency virus]. We have increasing crime rates. We have halting restaurant receipts. We have plummeting construction starts and loss of jobs. Mr. Speaker, this is the legacy. All that plus \$23 billion in debt after a decade of record revenue.

So, Mr. Speaker, again as I said, context is important. I think we need to be asking why, why this government is again coming to mortgage our Crowns. This is debt of course that's going to be kicked down to our children to pay along with all the environmental issues that we are kicking down to them. And, Mr. Speaker, to say that it's disappointing doesn't touch it after a decade.

So there are so many questions here. I hope that this bill gets the attention that it deserves because this is a very concerning bill for some reasons that we have continued . . . concerns that we continue to have repeatedly with this government, namely along the themes of stealthy privatization and increasing debt with little return for the average person in this province.

So again, I know that my colleagues will want to pay proper scrutiny to this bill, to raise the concerns both in this Assembly and in committee and hopefully publicly as well. But I have come to the end of my remarks on this bill this afternoon. And with that, I will move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 137.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member from Regina Lakeview 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 Centre.

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise and enter into this debate, *An Act to amend certain Acts respecting Enforcement Measures*. And of course it's the amendment to *The Amusement Ride Safety Act*. And some days when I'm sitting in here I think we're a bit of an amusement ride and there should be some safety issues here as well, you know.

And when I was just thinking about, you know, chirping in their sleep and how the folks over there, it's just a low murmur of chirp, chirp, chirp. And do they chirp in their sleep, Mr. Deputy Speaker? That's the question. And are there any regulations about chirping, you know? But you know, it just seems like in here you have that. You can listen. You can just hear that, that chirp, you know.

And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'm a bit of a bird watcher and love getting out . . . [inaudible] . . . The first sign there's a bird in the bush is a little chirp, chirp. And I'm hearing them over there and I kind of think that this is something they should . . . Maybe it's an occupational hazard, chirping in your sleep. You go home and sort of have to unwind and get that chirping out of you. You know, let it go, let it go, let it go, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And so I'm not sure if one of the Acts that they are going to be looking at is around that.

But regardless, Mr. Speaker, I know people are anxious to go. We've got lots of work to cover, but this is a very important piece of legislation. And I have to still think that after all these years they are still searching out the word "department" and replacing it with "ministry." And you know, if it's taken them this long to find the last vestiges of the word "department" and that that's going to be gone — gone, gone, gone. And the last amusement ride will be closed down for the summer and they'll be still looking for the word "department" and crossing that out and putting their little green and yellow swirl.

You know, it's sort of . . . I don't know what to think of that, Mr. Speaker, but of course always . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Well see, there you go. Now I think there's a turkey in the bush over there, a turkey in the bush over in that far corner. I don't need the . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . snoozing and he woke up. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I don't know if they want to join in. Mr. Deputy Speaker, we're getting close to the hour, and I do want to make sure I make some points here, but I get distracted. I want to look over there, but it does no good. It does no good.

Because we're really talking about amusement rides here, and the safety factor, and the elevators that we ride on, and that type of thing, and all the things that we take for granted in the buildings. And we make sure that the good public servants have the tools at hand, and the fines, and all the things that they need to have in place to make sure the work is done well.

So I know that there will be issues that we have, and it gives the chief inspector the power to issue compliance orders. Of course, this is not anything like the greenhouse gas bill where we have flexible compliance requirements, and how that might be flexible. It all depends on what's really happening. But I think this is an important thing to do.

And so, Mr. Speaker, with that, I know we'll have questions, and probably better technical questions that the minister . . . It's

interesting. I was reading the minister's remarks, and they were one of the longer ones. And it seems to be something that can be maybe more well explained, and so they're willing to give a better speech. But at any rate, with that I'm ready to move on.

And so I'm going to say that we're going to adjourn the debate on Bill No. 138, *An Act to amend certain Acts respecting Enforcement Measures*. I do so move. Thank you very much.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member for Saskatoon Centre . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . I realize that the member has some fans on this side of the House, but perhaps we'll just attend to business. The member from Saskatoon Centre 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.]

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to enter into debate this afternoon as it relates to Bill No. 139, *The Foreign Worker Recruitment and Immigration Services Amendment Act, 2018*. I've read some of the comments from the minister, Mr. Speaker, with respect to the intentions of this bill, and the intentions seem certainly reasonable, Mr. Speaker. Like anything though, with respect to the Sask Party government, the devil's in the detail. It's critical that we ensure consultation with stakeholders, Mr. Speaker, because far too often we see an agenda being rammed forward that's not in the interests of the province, Mr. Speaker.

But on this front here, it's incredibly important that we ensure integrity to the immigration services and the system and those services that are provided to those that are moving, building their lives, coming to Saskatchewan, to Canada to build their lives, Mr. Speaker. It's important to make sure that vulnerable workers are protected, like all workers, Mr. Speaker. And so certainly we've got questions as we engage in the scrutiny of this piece of legislation.

It's fair to say that our province has been, you know, built on that proud foundation of indigenous peoples, Mr. Speaker, speaking here today on Treaty 4 lands and the homeland of the Métis. It's been built by waves upon waves of people from all around the world, Mr. Speaker, that have contributed and helped to build and better our province and that continues to this day, and it provides a lot of promise and hope for the future of our province.

With respect to that, it's important that we make sure that the economic conditions are in place that allow all to access good quality employment and post-secondary education that they deserve, Mr. Speaker, and make sure as well that people are

treated fairly. And I would take, you know, go back to changes that were made a number of years ago while the Sask Party government was in power that really gutted the family class of immigration within this province, Mr. Speaker. And it changed rules that had a real impact on so many people that had sacrificed so much to move to Saskatchewan, to Canada, to build their lives here, in so doing building and bettering our province.

[16:45]

But the deal was broken with the government as it related to the family class, Mr. Speaker. And of course it's very important for those that are choosing to build their lives here within the province, Mr. Speaker, that they're also able to have family also immigrate and to build their lives here as well, Mr. Speaker. And in fact it gives long-term security to not just that family and to that resident, to that eventual citizen, Mr. Speaker, but to the ability to retain those individuals that are choosing to build their lives here. Because as you have your family built out around, it provides some security and some important social infrastructure, Mr. Speaker, that simply can't be provided by any other agency or program, Mr. Speaker.

So I would certainly continue to push the government on this front and to work to rebuild a family class of immigration, Mr. Speaker. It's important to our economic future, but it's certainly important to the well-being of so many people that have chosen to build their lives here, that have become citizens, Mr. Speaker, and that are a big part of our future.

As it relates to other factors that are very important to those that are coming from around the world, we need to of course make sure that they're being treated fairly by any agency that might be representing them. And it's critical that this bill improves scrutiny on that front and ensures that the best interests of those that are coming to the province are being served and that there's protection for people on that front, people and families.

And it's incredibly important as well that workers are protected and that programs like the foreign temporary worker program aren't exploited, Mr. Speaker, for the detriment of the province as a whole, or ever to put those workers as well in an exploitive situation, Mr. Speaker.

Also important to so many that are moving from around the world to build their lives here in this province, as shared with me, and why they move is so often those educational opportunities and economic opportunities. And it's critical that we stop the damage being pushed upon our classrooms, Mr. Speaker, that we build and support world-class classrooms. We have the educators that are in an incredible position to do that, the best educators in the world, Mr. Speaker. But we need to make sure that they have the supports that they need and deserve. And from the Sask Party government, what they've done to education in this province is a real shame, Mr. Speaker. And for those that are moving to Saskatchewan, that education system is very, very important.

Often, you see many that have made the choice to move to Saskatchewan. There's a lot of risk in it. There's a real sacrifice. I see so many constituents and so many people across the province that are often working precarious work and working incredibly hard, working multiple jobs for that opportunity that they provide for their children, Mr. Speaker, the kind of future

that they can be provided through the kind of democratic nation that we are, Mr. Speaker, and the kind of opportunity that can be extended through education, the kind of opportunity that be provided by way of economic opportunity, Mr. Speaker.

And when it comes to economic opportunity, Mr. Speaker, it's just so sad to see a government failing Saskatchewan people so badly on this front, a government that saw a slowing economy, Mr. Speaker, and threw on the brakes and have made things worse. And we see that time and time again with the choices of this government. Of course the big massive overruns, the costly mismanagement resulting in debt going from I think \$7.8 billion, you know, debt could go to \$23 billion in 2021, Mr. Speaker.

And then of course a government that's intent on making Saskatchewan people and our economy pay for their mismanagement. And we see that through the hike and the imposition of the PST onto certain Saskatchewan families, but onto the construction industry, Mr. Speaker, onto children's clothing, onto insurance, Mr. Speaker. In fact we have a government that has doubled the take of PST through the measure that, of course, they never ran on, Mr. Speaker.

And of course this is a government that never ran on any of this, Mr. Speaker. They in fact, through an election, pretended and promised that they weren't going to hike any taxes. But you know, come around through that election, the surprise was on Saskatchewan people who sadly had trusted, and I think rightfully, trusted the words of the then premier, Mr. Speaker, who had trusted the words of the Sask Party government. But instead what they've been dealt is a massive blow to their pocketbooks with the epitome of a job-killing tax, Mr. Speaker, by way of the PST that's been hiked and then expanded and placed onto industries like our construction industry in this province.

And this hurts our economy, Mr. Speaker. It harms the economies and the household financials of people across this province, and it's displaced and put people out of work throughout our province. And sadly, Mr. Speaker, it's driving Saskatchewan people out of our province, Mr. Speaker, losing that capacity that had been built up by way of skilled labour, skilled labour force, Mr. Speaker, within our province and leaving people without the opportunity that they so deserve, and certainly squeezing and hurting small businesses across the province, Mr. Speaker.

So when it comes to the economic conditions that Saskatchewan people should be able to expect, we see a Sask Party government that has failed miserably. Couldn't save a dime during the best days; drained the rainy day fund; piled on debt, Mr. Speaker, have almost tripled the debt, Mr. Speaker, during their tenure; have doubled the debt-to-GDP [gross domestic product] ratio within this province.

And not because they were making investments in people, Mr. Speaker, but because they were mismanaging project after project and signing taxpayers onto costly overruns like the one that we've seen with the Regina bypass, Mr. Speaker, where if you can imagine, Mr. Speaker, they've actually taken a project that was originally, they said, studied to death at \$400 million. Now we're talking \$2 billion and counting, Mr. Speaker. And those big bucks, that massive overrun, the biggest overrun in

Saskatchewan's history, Mr. Speaker, you may ask, well where are those dollars going.

Well if you can imagine, they actually shut out local Saskatchewan companies from competing and ensuring value on that project, Mr. Speaker, and they inked a deal with a consortia from Paris and beyond, Mr. Speaker, shutting out Saskatchewan workers and businesses from even being part of the tendering process, Mr. Speaker. That doesn't provide value to taxpayers, it doesn't maximize public dollars, and it sure doesn't help our economy the way that it should, Mr. Speaker.

You know we see a lot of failures, Mr. Speaker, when it comes to the economy that those that are building their life, those that are immigrating to Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, as it relates to this bill, Mr. Speaker . . . We see a government failing to ensure the conditions that will support those people to take on the hard work that I know they always will and ensure that they have hope and opportunity ahead of them.

And I hear a lot of noise from the conservative campaigner from, you know, from Walsh Acres, Mr. Speaker. But it must be frustrating for a member, Mr. Speaker, to look at that record, to look at that record and say that, well what was the record as he sat on the back bench, Mr. Speaker. Well, almost tripled the debt; tried to sell off the Crown corporations of Saskatchewan people. Well we think of even our energy sector and the differential that is hurting our economy and hurting producers, Mr. Speaker. Well how much pipeline did that member and his government build to get to tidewater during that time? Not an inch, Mr. Speaker. Not an inch, Mr. Speaker.

And so what we see with this Sask Party government here is an agenda that's not in the interests of Saskatchewan people, not in the long-term interests of our province, and certainly not in the interests of those that are taking on risk, sacrificing to build their lives in Saskatchewan. With that dream, that rightful dream of building and bettering this province, and ensuring hope and opportunity for their children, all to be undermined for everyone in Saskatchewan, including those newcomers, Mr. Speaker, by a mismanaging government that's more interested in their partisan interests, their self-interest, Mr. Speaker, than the public interest, than the long-term interests of the province.

You know, and I hear the member from Walsh Acres hollering from his seat. It's more I've heard him say, you know, I think in his entire career in this Assembly, Mr. Speaker, so something must have him worked up. I suspect it might be the budget book. I suspect he maybe opened it up and turned to the budget summary and saw that he had almost tripled the debt, Mr. Speaker. Or maybe it's the fact that the measures like this job-killing PST that he's imposed, he knows are taking the jobs away from hard-working people in his very riding, Mr. Speaker. But something's got him upset. Short of getting him a Snickers, we hope that he'll settle down, Mr. Speaker.

But as it relates to the kind of work that we should all take on, Mr. Speaker . . .

[Interjections]

**The Deputy Speaker:** — There seems to be a lot of chatter. I realize we're getting near the end of the day, but the member



from Regina Rosemont has the floor. I recognize the member.

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — I'd just say, Mr. Speaker, that this area of regulation and legislation is important. And back to the start of my remarks, is that this province has been built on that foundation of indigenous peoples. There's a whole lot of important work around ensuring justice, after all of the years of injustice on that front, but our province has been built by wave upon wave of people from around the world who have rolled up their sleeves, taken on risk, and worked to build the province that we all love.

And we owe it to them to make sure that there's integrity in the way that they are treated, Mr. Speaker, through those processes. And we owe it to them, Mr. Speaker, to make sure that we have the education system in place that will allow their children and all children to succeed, to thrive, Mr. Speaker. I know we have the ingredients to make that happen by way of the incredible teachers that are far too often impeded by the disrespect and the cuts that they're handed by this Sask Party government. And I know that we owe it to those newcomers, and to all Saskatchewan people, to make sure that we're building an economy that works for everyone, making sure that it has promise, to make sure that it's creating the kind of environment that's creating investment and creating good jobs and that has dignity for workers, Mr. Speaker.

So when it comes to the kind of agenda we see from the Sask Party government, an agenda that's far too often pursuing this privatized, low-wage, outsourced sort of economy, Mr. Speaker, the people recognize that that's not in their interest. Certainly we're on their side on this front, and we'll all work together to build that Saskatchewan that everyone deserves.

Mr. Speaker, at this point in time, there'll be more scrutiny to this bill, important scrutiny to the incredible mismanagement of the Sask Party government, Mr. Speaker, the devastation of jobs and local businesses across our province. And we'll be committed to building the kind of future that works for all. But at this point in time, I'll adjourn debate as it relates to Bill No. 139, *The Foreign Worker Recruitment and Immigration Services Amendment Act, 2018*.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member from Regina Rosemont has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 139, *The Foreign Worker Recruitment and Immigration Services Amendment Act, 2018*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried. It now being very near the regular time of adjournment, this House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 10:30 a.m. . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . 10. I just thought I'd see if you were awake.

[The Assembly adjourned at 17:00.]

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