



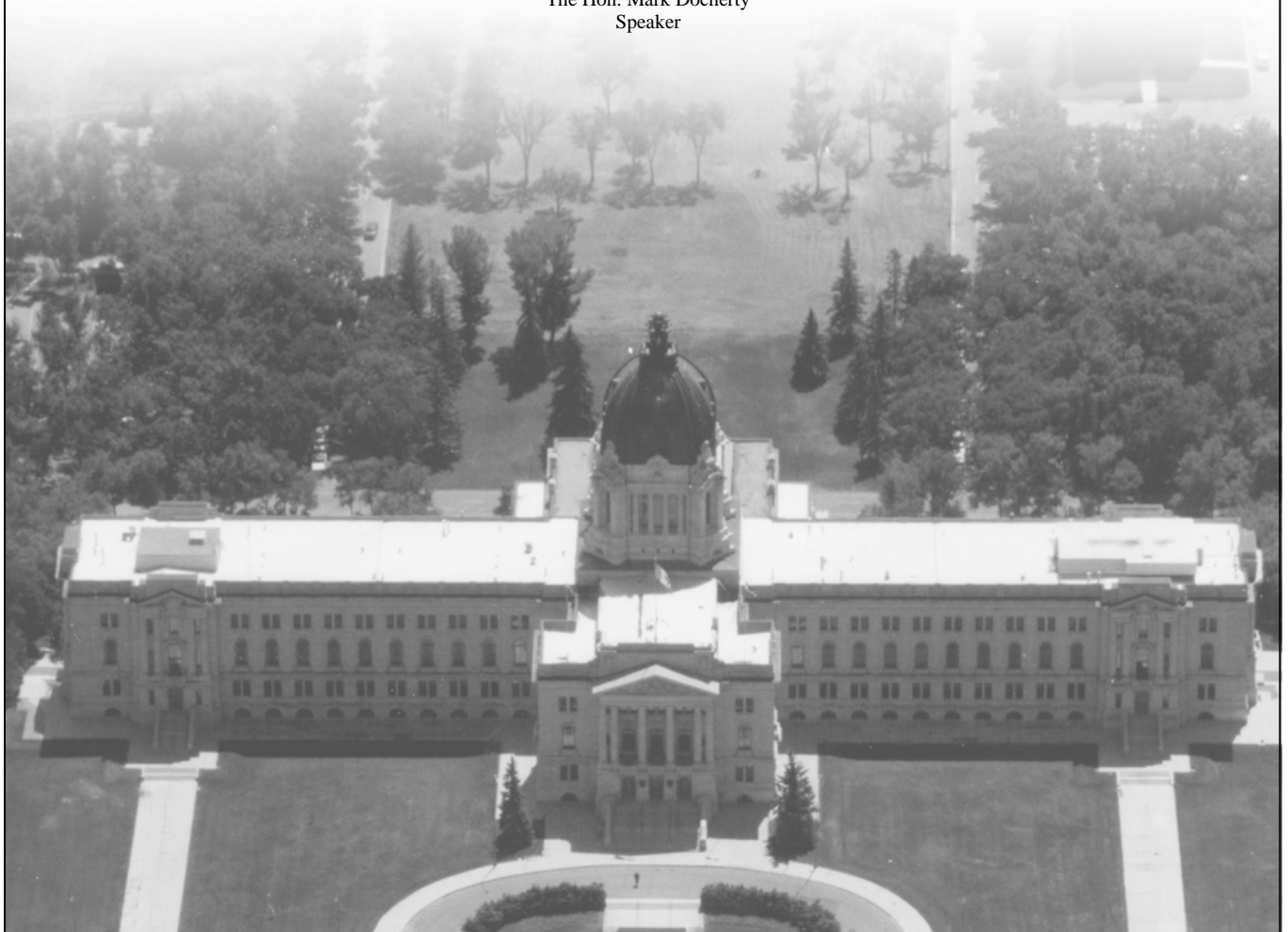
THIRD SESSION - TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

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



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

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Wyant, Hon. Gordon — Saskatoon Northwest (SP)
Young, Colleen — Lloydminster (SP)

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

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[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all members of the Assembly, some special guests in your gallery are seated here today to witness proceedings. And they're going to host an MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] reception that I'm sure most of us will take advantage of later, so we're looking forward to the conversations we'll have then.

It's the Alzheimer Society of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. The board president is with us, Van Isman; and CEO [chief executive officer] Joanne Bracken; director, Dan Kohl; director of programs and operations, Joanne Michael; and family caregiver, Kristin Frombach.

Of course today is Dementia Awareness Day, so we're here to recognize that. And many of the members have the marking, the pin on their lapels, Mr. Speaker. So we're just really encouraged to have them here today and look forward to our conversations later this evening. So I ask all members to welcome them to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to join with the minister opposite in welcoming the guests from the Alzheimer Society of Saskatchewan here today. I want to thank them for all you do to help us as legislators understand the issues that impact people here in Saskatchewan so profoundly, for supporting families, for providing research and information, and connecting people to the services that they so desperately need.

You make a huge difference in people's lives and again help us as legislators to be informed and hopefully make better decisions. And I look forward to continued conversations on the need for a dementia strategy here in Saskatchewan. And thanks for all that you do for people here in our province. So with that, I'd ask everyone to join me in welcoming these guests to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Hon. Mr. Kaeding: — Mr. Speaker, to you and through you and all members of the Legislative Assembly, in the west gallery today I would like to welcome 17 students from the Melville Comp history 10 class to the legislature today. They are joined by their teacher and Melville city councillor, Andy Rondeau, who has actually introduced numerous students from Melville to the inner workings of provincial government over the last few years. They're also joined today by their bus driver, IA [industrial

arts] teacher and Cobra football coach, John Svenson.

And I'd also like to take the opportunity to congratulate Melville Comp in hosting a very successful 4A provincial boys' volleyball championship on the weekend. The Cobra boys won a bronze medal, and I also understand I may need to provide emergency infrastructure funding as they may have blown the roof off of their brand new, renovated gym. Anyway I'd like all members to welcome Melville Comprehensive to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Mr. Nerlien: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, it's my pleasure to welcome some of the board members and the board Chair Dick DeRyk from Access Communications to their legislature today. Access Communications is celebrating their 40th anniversary this year of incredible service to the province of Saskatchewan, not only through their connectivity and cable services and others, but also to the communities that they serve. And we're very proud of the work that they've done in this province. Please join me in welcoming them to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Mr. Pedersen: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my privilege to, and pleasure to join with the member opposite in welcoming the people from Access Communications here today. As the member mentioned, it's the 40th anniversary this year of providing a very important service as a co-operative to the people of Saskatchewan, over 200 communities that Access Communications provides a service to. And so it's my pleasure to welcome the board members, some of the staff members, and the communications people that they have with them to their legislature here today. And I ask that the members join with me in welcoming them.

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

Mr. Fiaz: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all the members of the Assembly, I would like to welcome one of my constituents, Doug Alexander. He is a board member of Access Communications, and thank you very much for giving us the tour of Access Communications building. And I ask all the members to join me and welcome Doug and his friends in their Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — I request leave for extended introductions.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, seated in your gallery, it's an honour to welcome

some community leaders to their Assembly. Shawn Weimer, the executive director, the race director of the GMS [Group Medical Services] Queen City Marathon is with us here today, as well as Doug Leask, the president of the board of the Queen City Marathon.

Of course this is an incredible event within our province that has a life throughout the year, that has a massive economic benefit or impact on our province and on our city, as measured by Ec Dev Regina and, you know, a race that brings together thousands and thousands of people to Regina — many from around the world, many from other provinces, many from the United States to hit the streets here in Regina. I ask all members here today to join with me in welcoming these very fine leaders of this very special event within our province, Shawn Weimer and Doug Leask.

While on my feet, seated in your gallery, it's a pleasure to introduce a friend, Brett Estey. He's also an insurance broker within the community. He's done extensive work with the Cancer Society and with education on that front with young people throughout our province.

He's an avid sports fan, but he also puts that into practice as a volunteer and a coach within our community. He volunteers for youth baseball through Ehrlo Sport Venture to make sport accessible. He does the same through Monday Night Football. He's an avid Riders fan. He's a Montreal Canadiens fan. Mr. Speaker, I won't comment any further there. He also served as the candidate in Regina Rochdale. Certainly he's a leader within our community and our province and a good friend. So I ask all members to welcome Brett Estey to his Assembly.

And, Mr. Speaker, while still on my feet, I just want to join in the welcome from the minister for Municipal Affairs, as the critic for municipal affairs, to welcome a friend as well and a city councillor, Andy Rondeau from Melville, who's seated in the west gallery here today with students. Thank you to him for his service to the people of Melville, and thank you for his work as an educator. It's a pleasure to welcome him here today.

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

Hon. Mr. Hargrave: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to join with the Minister of Remote Health and the member opposite in welcoming the members from the Alzheimer Society, Mr. Speaker, and one member in particular from the Alzheimer Society, and that's Van Isman. He's the board president.

I work very closely with Van. He is the CEO of SOCO [Saskatchewan Opportunities Corporation] for us, and he does an excellent job on that. As well, Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the good work that he does on the Alzheimer Society. My mother suffered from Alzheimer's the last few years of her life, Mr. Speaker, and all the work that the members of the Alzheimer Society does is very special to me. As well, just as a side note on Van, I know he's a little farther behind me, but he recently joined the grandfathers' club. He only has one; I have six. But congratulations, Van. And I'd like all members to help me welcome Van to his Legislative Assembly.

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

Hon. Mr. Makowsky: — Thanks so much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to briefly join with the member opposite to recognize and welcome the folks from the Queen City Marathon. It's a very important event in our province of course, but in our Queen City here, Mr. Speaker. I'm personally not familiar with the goings-on. If there is ever a Queen City short stroll or something of that nature, I might become involved. But obviously very important to the tourism sector and the athletic sector in our province. So we thank them for their work and thanks for being here today.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

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

I'd like to read the prayer:

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

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

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise once again today to present petitions on behalf of concerned citizens and people and local businesses all across the province as it relates to the Sask Party's hike of the PST [provincial sales tax], the expansion of the PST, and then imposing that on to the construction sector, Mr. Speaker.

People note the damage that this is causing to our economy, the jobs that it's costing Saskatchewan people. The numbers speak for themselves, Mr. Speaker, residential starts down 30 per cent in Saskatoon. And the member for Silverspring is heckling from his seat. But again the permits are down in Saskatoon by 30 per cent; in Regina they're down 40 per cent. Mr. Speaker, thousands of people have lost their jobs, and this is the epitome of a job-killing tax at a time where we need nothing more than jobs and investment in our province, Mr. Speaker.

And 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 residents of Yorkton. I so submit.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm rising to present a petition calling for a public inquiry into the GTH [Global Transportation Hub] land deal. The individuals who have signed this petition today 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 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.

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

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 concerned residents of the province of Saskatchewan want to bring to our attention the following: that Saskatchewan's outdated election Act allows corporations, unions, and individuals, even those living outside Saskatchewan, to make unlimited donations to our province's political parties.

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

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

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

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

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Regina Douglas

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition calling to restore public control over Wascana Park. The individuals who've signed this petition wish to bring to our attention the following: Wascana Park is a treasured urban park and conservation area that has been responsibly managed through an equal partnership between the city of Regina, the provincial government, and the University of Regina for over 50 years. The government unilaterally gave itself majority control of the board of the Provincial Capital Commission through the changes brought on by Bill 50 in 2017. The city of Regina and the University of Regina both expressed an interest in returning to the governance model based on equality.

Mr. Speaker, every time we've tabled this petition since the start of session, that minister that's responsible for this issue has heckled — every single time, Mr. Speaker. It's a complete lack of respect towards the hundreds of people who've signed this petition, the thousands of people who are concerned about this issue. Shame on that minister.

I'd like to read the prayer:

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

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

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Launch of Early Learning Program for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise in the House today to speak about our Children Communicating, Connecting, and in Community pilot program, which just had its grand opening last Friday at St. Thérèse of Lisieux Catholic School in Saskatoon. This program is a new early learning option for preschool-age children who are deaf and hard of hearing or connected to the deaf and hard of hearing community.

This program will assist us in identifying each child's strengths and needed supports. The program also provides professional development which will allow for educators to employ new and innovative strategies in teaching. This will create an environment that supports our future generation. The program has capacity for 16 students in Saskatoon, and the Regina pilot will be open in early December 2018 with the ability to accommodate 16 children as well.

Three consultation meetings were held with the Early Learning Working Group, with the Human Rights Commission and the D/deaf and Hard of Hearing Systemic Advocacy Committee. In addition, a survey was also made available to parents.

Mr. Speaker, it was a wonderful event on Friday. I had the opportunity to see many smiling faces of children playing in their new learning environment with the resources that they need to succeed. Mr. Speaker, by ensuring that all of our future generation are provided with the learning supports they require, we can ensure a better future for our province. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

2018 Queen City Marathon

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to celebrate the GMS Queen City Marathon, which was held the weekend of September 9th this year. With hundreds of volunteers, the Queen City Marathon is a massive community undertaking. With more than 6,250 participants hitting the streets and paths, this event is really a sight to behold with runners from all across Saskatchewan, Canada, and from countries around the world. And with all of this activity and so many visitors, it is a boon to our local economy. The QCM [Queen City Marathon] is a qualifying race for the Boston Marathon, but many run one of their other races as the QCM features half-marathons, 5- and 10-K races, relays, walks, and youth mini-marathons.

I ran the half-marathon once again this year, as did the members for Regina Elphinstone-Centre and Regina Douglas Park. We had the sore legs to prove it, and my son, William, ran the mini-marathon. It was an exceptional race weekend, and of course it raised thousands of dollars for valued charities. I want to give a special shout out to my friend Kaytlyn Criddle of Regina on setting a new record in the women's 21-K race.

Mr. Speaker, I'd ask all members to join me in thanking all those that made the 2018 QCM such an incredible success including race director Shawn Weimer; the board and its Chair, Doug Leask; all organizers and sponsors; the legions of volunteers and fans; and of course to congratulate all participants. Thanks, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Kindersley.

Successful Season for Kindersley Bull Rider

Mr. Francis: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I'd like to share with my colleagues a Kindersley native that continues to make an international name for himself in pro rodeo. Dakota Buttar just finished competing at the 2018 Professional Bull Riders World Finals in Vegas, and the PBR [professional bull riders] Canadian finals in Saskatoon.

This was a season of great accomplishment for the 26-year-old cowboy, finishing 17th in the world and second in the nation. In fact, Mr. Speaker, he was just a few hundredths of a second off on two more qualifying rides that probably would have put him in the top 10. Still he had a great season overall, with three career first 90-point rides. Dakota was also awarded the Glen Keeley Memorial Award for a second consecutive season. The award is given out each season to the top Canadian bull rider at the PBR World Finals.

Dakota has a large support group, including his girlfriend Caitlin and good friends Dave and Sarah Becker who travel with him

during the season. He also knows the entire community of Kindersley is behind him. The grit, determination, and humility he shows competing in arguably the toughest sport on earth is truly inspiring and makes him a deserving fan favourite wherever he competes. I ask all members to join me in congratulating Dakota on his successful 2018 season and wish him the best in 2019. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Divas of Caswell Concert Benefits Prairie Hospice Society

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, on November 16th I was pleased to attend the Divas of Caswell fundraising concert at The Refinery theatre in Saskatoon. A brainchild of singer Wilma Groenen, she invited well-known Saskatoon singers Jen Lane, Gillian Snider, Theresa Sokyryka, and Ellen Froese to join her on stage. Proceeds from the concert went to the Prairie Hospice Society, a non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for dying individuals and support and respite for their caregivers and family members.

Studies show that 90 per cent of people would rather die at home than within the confines of a hospital room. Sadly, far too many people spend their final days in a hospital or clinic. The organization's Hospice without Walls program trains volunteers to offer in-home support to the ill and dying. While a volunteer may assist with such practical matters as light cleaning or meal preparation, they also provide spiritual and emotional care. A day spent with a patient includes anything from sharing memories to accompanying them to appointments. But each volunteer offers the same vital contribution: an emotional connection and a reminder to the patient that they are not alone.

Events such as the Divas of Caswell concert are invaluable to the organization. I'd like to ask all members to congratulate these five fabulous singers for their leadership, and thank the Prairie Hospice Society for its tireless dedication to our community.

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

Market Mall Community Health Centre Opens

Ms. Lambert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday, I attended the opening of the new Community Health Centre at Market Mall in Saskatoon. The focus of this centre is to provide specialty care to older adults with non-life-threatening complex care needs. This specialty care is designed to be a form of support that will bridge the transition from the hospital to the home, supporting patients dealing with one or a combination of issues or complications.

Mr. Speaker, the Community Health Centre services will include a mix of planned appointments and community outreach such as home care services, all provided by over 80 interdisciplinary staff members. Services will include in-depth medical assessments, support from community mental health nurses, and social worker home visits. Various clinics will offer special services as well, including dental screening and referral, mobile home care, and stroke care follow-up. The Community Health Centre is open seven days a week.

Mr. Speaker, our government is committed to providing connected care for the people of Saskatchewan. The Connected Care strategy will support older adults to manage their health in the community, reducing unnecessary emergency department visits and hospital admissions, and providing smooth transitions between care settings.

Mr. Speaker, our government invested 5.2 million in the 2018-19 budget for this innovative health centre, solidifying our commitment to providing the best health care to our communities. Congratulations to the Market Mall Community Health Centre on a successful launch event. Thank you.

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

Moose Jaw Health Foundation Festival of Trees

Mr. Michelson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On Saturday, November the 17th, I, along with the member from Moose Jaw Wakamow and about 200 guests, attended the premiere gala event of the holiday season, the Moose Jaw Health Foundation's Festival of Trees. The evening's highlights were the gala's auction of uniquely decorated trees and other fascinating festive items as well as a gourmet dinner and a dance. Mr. Speaker, at the end of the evening, the festival raised an impressive \$120,000.

The festival also hosted a Sunday brunch which was so popular that extra tables had to be added to accommodate the crowd. Proceeds from the festival will go toward Moose Jaw Health Foundation's purchase of a new C-arm imaging unit that will be used extensively for orthopedic surgery.

Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 27th annual Festival of Trees, and in those years it raised over \$4.1 million for the former Moose Jaw Union Hospital and now the Dr. F.H. Wigmore Regional Hospital. Thank you to the Festival of Trees volunteer committee who worked tirelessly to ensure this incredible event was a success. Thank you also to the community of Moose Jaw for continuing to support the Festival of Trees and the Moose Jaw Health Foundation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Martensville-Warman.

Inaugural Your Voice Event Held in Warman

Ms. Heppner: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was happy to attend the first ever Your Voice event held in Warman earlier this month. Warman and area is in the very unique position that almost every leadership role in the area is held by a woman. Tracey Fesiuk is the president of the area's chamber of commerce. Tricia Sutherland is the Chief of One Arrow First Nation. Sheryl Spence is the mayor of Warman. Judy Harwood is the reeve of the RM [rural municipality] of Corman Park. Their MLA is a woman, and Kelly Block is their Member of Parliament.

Sheryl, Kelly, and I wanted to put on an event to encourage women to get involved in leadership roles in their communities, regardless of what level that might be. The women in attendance were of all ages and from a variety of backgrounds, and I was

very pleased to see so many young women in attendance. We discussed the barriers and, more importantly, perceived barriers that women might face.

I'm happy to say that personally I've faced no such barriers in my time in politics. Women are perfectly capable of fundraising, gathering support, building campaign teams without any special dispensation from political parties or others. Women don't need a handout. You want women to get involved? Just ask us; we'll show up. I believe that with more honest conversation such as Your Voice, more women will see that they can compete and succeed on their own.

A very special thanks to Mayor Spence and her team for organizing this event and I hope it's the first of many.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Number of Staff in Head Office

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday we heard that this government doesn't feel it should share information about vendor-sponsored travel with the public. We've also been told they don't want to get to the bottom of what happened at the GTH. And now we're being told that the tax credits for the potash industry head office jobs for Nutrien are none of our business either.

Mr. Speaker, other types of credits are accounted for in budget documents — farm fuel exemption, small-business rate, first-time homebuyers tax credit, all listed in the budget. But the tax credit for potash office head jobs isn't, and it should be. It's not transparent in the budget, so can we instead hear about it and have some transparency here in this Assembly? What's the cost in public dollars for this head office tax credit? How can the Sask Party justify keeping that information from the public?

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

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Mr. Speaker, we can't of course by law reveal tax information on the floor of the House, Mr. Speaker, but there's no doubt that the incentives in place have created growth in corporate jobs in this province. And any tax savings by the potash industry as a result of any incentives have been eclipsed by the \$450 million in total revenue paid in mining taxes to the Government of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, we will be discussing the executive makeup with Nutrien, which of course has been an issue of late, in the next few weeks and weighing all our options. But it must be a bit hard to play Captain Economy, as the Leader of the Opposition is doing when he suggested an increase in royalties which would introduce profound uncertainty to the resource sector, not unlike Bill C-69, Mr. Speaker, which would also have a devastating effect on our economy.

[14:00]

What's the Economy critic's position and opinion on that one? He's called coal low-hanging fruit. He hates uranium, and he

would keep the oil in the ground. Potash is all he has left or would he keep that in the ground as well?

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

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is always shocking to see a government that doesn't believe the Saskatchewan people deserve a fair share of our resources. Mr. Speaker, these tax credits for head office jobs are paid for by Saskatchewan people. Saskatchewan people deserve to know how much we're paying, Mr. Speaker, and whether there are any results. We're on track to have only one senior executive by this new company based out of Saskatoon. We're hearing very significant concerns about how seriously the company takes that pledge, that commitment to have the head office jobs in Saskatoon.

So let's have some answers, Mr. Speaker. How many jobs is the tax credit subsidizing today? How much are we paying per job? And what reporting requirements are in place to ensure that those are head office jobs?

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

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Mr. Speaker, certainly we expect Nutrien to adhere to the governing legislation, but let's not forget the 30 per cent increase in corporate office jobs in Saskatoon, for example, Mr. Speaker. I attended the Saskatoon headquarters announcement in June and was heartened at the company's reaffirmed commitment to Saskatchewan.

It fairly warms the cockles of the heart, Mr. Speaker, his sudden interest over there in the economy and corporate executives. It was former Premier Wall who fought for revenue for this province and jobs during the threatened BHP takeover. He also oversaw unprecedented growth in the potash industry over the last decade, growth that will continue under this Premier.

Nutrien makes an enormous contribution to this province. We will proceed diplomatically, as opposed to the bull-in-the-china-shop approach being preached by the member for Regina Rosemont, for example, the Leader of the Opposition. But let's not forget a key member of their team, the new member for Regina Northeast, who said that as a "democratic socialist," his job is not to build the economy. Is not. Those are their true colours, Mr. Speaker.

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

Truck Driver Training

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once again no information on how much we're spending on those tax credits. No information on what this government is doing to ensure that those tax credits are actually resulting in jobs, just an expectation. It seems that this government is going to ask nicely but have no plan for any action.

Mr. Speaker, concern for licensing in the trucking sector has been building for months in Saskatchewan, and there's a need for action there as well. A disturbing report from CBC [Canadian Broadcasting Corporation] this morning shows that, despite officials in SGI [Saskatchewan Government Insurance]

recommending mandatory training for commercial drivers, this government appears to be backing away from the idea of mandatory training.

Alberta's already moved forward with new training requirements in that province, including mandatory training for commercial drivers, with a specific number of hours required in class, in the yard, and in the cab of the truck. The Minister of Highways is apparently making an announcement very soon about driver training. Will she do the right thing, the thing Saskatchewan people expect, and introduce mandatory training for commercial vehicle licences in Saskatchewan?

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

Hon. Mr. Hargrave: — Thank you. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, before I get in, I want to say my deepest sympathies go out to all the families that were affected last week by the deaths from the semi accidents involving semis last week. Mr. Speaker, there was three deaths. Three deaths — that's three deaths way too many, Mr. Speaker. And I'm fully aware of that.

I worked very hard, Mr. Speaker, on improving highway safety, impaired driving, lowering the number of deaths in this province on the highways, and I am continuing to do that, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I've been working for the past year, Mr. Speaker, with the other provinces in developing that. The other two provinces have made an announcement of what they want, Mr. Speaker, but they haven't come out and fleshed out the details.

Mr. Speaker, we've been working very diligently to get all that information. We want to do it, and we want to do it right. And we plan on making an announcement very soon, Mr. Speaker, an announcement that industry and the stakeholders of this province — we've consulted with them — and they're very interested in, Mr. Speaker. So that's where that will end up. Thank you.

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

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's notable that the minister does not mention any commitment to mandatory training for commercial vehicle licences in our province, exactly what SGI is recommending, exactly the road that other provinces are going down. The documents from CBC raise serious questions. One of those documents is saying, and I quote, better quality drivers, better trained drivers are safer drivers, and that equals fewer fatal, injury, and property damage collisions.

The CBC article describes the document as saying, "Mandatory training would increase public confidence in the industry, make Saskatchewan drivers more employable in other provinces, and be easier to implement than a complicated incentive program." This is something other provinces are already implementing. We shouldn't be content with less-stringent protection for the people on our province's roadways.

Mr. Speaker, will the minister listen to his officials and put safety first by implementing mandatory training for commercial drivers in Saskatchewan?

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

Hon. Mr. Hargrave: — Yes, Mr. Speaker, I'm glad their crack

research team from CBC is working hard for the NDP [New Democratic Party] again. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Oh, I recognize the minister.

Hon. Mr. Hargrave: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier, safety on our highways is of the most importance to me personally and to this government, Mr. Speaker. We've been working very hard on that. And, Mr. Speaker, we've dealt with and we've consulted with many industries right across this province and many individuals and many companies, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, these things have to be done in a timely manner. And, Mr. Speaker, we're working on that. And the members opposite know that we have been working on that. So to ask that question and to demand an answer today is a little premature. As I've said, we'll be making an announcement in regard to truck driver training very, very soon. And that's two "verys," just in case, Mr. Speaker, they didn't hear it the first time. Thank you.

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

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That was very upsetting to hear the minister denigrate our public broadcasting corporation in that fashion. Journalists do a very important job keeping this government and all of us in check by looking into the stories. And that was a very dismissive statement; very disappointing by this minister.

Mr. Speaker, in 2008 the Sask Party moved driver training from SIAST [Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology] to the trucking industry. Now it's trucking companies that are responsible for training and testing drivers in Saskatchewan. At committee in September we heard that this change in delivery was brought in because of increased demand for truck drivers when the economy was booming and that this move in training from a public institution to private industry has not been reviewed since that time.

In the recent review of driver training that the Sask Party undertook, have they reviewed the impact of this 2008 decision on public safety? And if they haven't reviewed this decision, will they commit to doing so and explore returning driver training to Saskatchewan's high-quality advanced education sector?

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

Hon. Mr. Hargrave: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we've consulted with industry. We've consulted with training schools. We've consulted with all kinds of proponents in relation to truck driver training, Mr. Speaker. We think that we're coming up with a very usable, fair, and equitable system that's good for everybody, Mr. Speaker.

If the member would wait, we'll make our announcement very, very soon, Mr. Speaker. And we'll have that. And he'll have all his questions fully answered at that time, Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Cumberland.

Suicide Prevention Strategy

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, suicide is a serious problem in Saskatchewan. In cities, towns, rural and remote areas, people are dying because they can't access the care and support they need. Our province doesn't have a strategy to address suicide and to help make progress in this important issue. And last week in the 75-minute debate, government MLAs spoke against the idea of supporting a strategy to address suicides in Saskatchewan.

Why won't the Minister of Health develop and implement a strategy to prevent suicides in our province?

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

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Mr. Speaker, suicide and loss of life to suicide is a very serious issue that I know all members of this Assembly take very seriously, Mr. Speaker. And I don't know too many members around this floor that maybe haven't been touched by it personally.

Mr. Speaker, we do have the mental health and addictions action plan, which I would point out 42 of the 46 recommendations are either enacted or in the process of being acted upon, Mr. Speaker, a lot of them involving suicide, suicide prevention. We know the panel report that was done for the single health authority transition spoke to a lot of the services to be delivered around the province, whether in urban or rural, some of them involving suicide, mental health and addictions, Mr. Speaker.

We know the child advocate report focusing mainly on children's suicide in the North is something that we accepted all the recommendations, whether it's working with the FSIN [Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations] with their strategy, the Métis Nation with their strategy, Mr. Speaker, or enacting things like Jordan's principle, which the advocate pointed out, which we did in 2010, Mr. Speaker.

We look at our health funding. We've increased our health funding by about 60 per cent over the last 10 years, an equitable amount going to mental health and addictions, which involves our suicide prevention. We've committed publicly on the floor here of moving our provincial spend from 5 per cent, moving towards a 7 per cent, and also expanding some of those mental health services through other ministries.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — The government always says there is more work to do on this file, but they have been in government for more than a decade and they still haven't implemented a strategy. Children and families in the North, all across this province, are looking for the government to move beyond talk and commit to real action. The FSIN has released their strategy and they noted that the rates of suicide among First Nations is more than four times higher than the rest of the province. And for First Nations girls, the rate is more than 29 times higher than the rest of the province.

Why won't the Sask Party government work with FSIN, work with stakeholders to develop a strategy to prevent suicides in our province?

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

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Mr. Speaker, we look at what many advocates will talk about when it comes to the suicide prevention strategy: awareness, education, needs of the high-risk, Mr. Speaker. I can point to multiple initiatives through this government, through multiple ministries that do address many of those different approaches, Mr. Speaker.

The member opposite talked about the FSIN strategy. Well I would point out that Minister of Health and myself have a number of times met with Vice-chief Pratt to discuss the FSIN strategy. And if we look at that strategy, Mr. Speaker, we note that it calls on . . . The needs are to be implemented not only at a provincial and a national but also at the local level, Mr. Speaker. So the leadership within the FSIN realize that there is some responsibility that we all share.

When we look at some of the recommendations by the FSIN strategy, Mr. Speaker, we see a lot of them have been enacted through their provincial strategy. Of course there is more work to do, and we're working with our FSIN partners and Métis partners and other partners throughout the province to implement those strategies, to make an effective system that is very accessible by those in need of service, Mr. Speaker.

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

Provision of Mental Health Care

Ms. Chartier: — Across the board, this government has fallen short on supporting people struggling with mental health and addictions issues. RUH [Royal University Hospital] in Saskatoon was over capacity by 98 people this morning, an issue that has persisted for years. So has the shortage of mental health beds in the Dubé Centre, which is leaving people in mental health crisis waiting in emergency rooms or staying in the ECT [electroconvulsive therapy] suite in the basement.

These aren't appropriate spaces for people who are acutely sick, and this government knows it. And despite knowing the Dubé Centre has been chronically over capacity for years, this government has sat on their hands while people needing urgent mental health care struggle to access that care. We know that when people who are struggling reach out for help, it needs to be there.

When will this minister get people in mental health crisis out of the emergency room and out of the basement and get them the care that they need?

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

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Mr. Speaker, we as a government have done a lot of work in this regard, Mr. Speaker. Whether it's even some of the recent activities when announcing some of the police and action and crisis teams throughout the province, we know Regina and Saskatoon have them; recently announced in Prince Albert; North Battleford announcement's coming; and Yorkton announcement's coming, Mr. Speaker. So we're enacting

multiple different approaches to help those access services as quickly as possible.

We did hear about, in the debate last week, about 811, although I've multiple times said it's not a stopgap. It's a very quick service, accessible to those in need of services very quickly to be directed towards areas that they might need, Mr. Speaker. Members across are very aware of the emergency system that's right adjacent to the emergency area in RUH right now, that can assess and treat and direct people to services very quickly, as well as the Jim Pattison Children's Hospital. Some of the services will be available in there.

And we've talked about the Dubé Centre, services that are there. We also know that those that are less acute, that don't need the acute services in the Dubé Centre, where some children will be accessing services of the professionals nearby, they will be able to access minor services throughout the Jim Pattison Hospital.

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

Ms. Chartier: — That assessment unit at RUH is a nice emergency room, Mr. Speaker. It is not a treatment centre. And this is a government who didn't add new dollars for that. They made them take resources out of other parts of mental health and addiction services, Mr. Speaker.

[14:15]

The current over-capacity arrangement where acute psychiatric patients are placed in the basement of the Dubé and moved around throughout the day simply isn't sustainable. We know there are 10 child and youth mental health beds in the Dubé Centre, and kids in this unit will be the only sick kids without a space in the new children's hospital. We know there is a desperate need for more adult beds, and we also know that having children and youth with mental health challenges isolated from other sick kids only perpetuates the stigma we all need to be fighting.

Will this government recognize excluding kids with mental health issues from the children's hospital was a mistake, repurpose Dubé's youth beds to accommodate adult demand, and create a psychiatry unit for sick kids in the children's hospital?

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

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Mr. Speaker, I don't propose myself to be a mental health expert. That's who we rely on for these services, and to direct us where these services should be, Mr. Speaker. In my previous answer I pointed out, in consultation with these experts, they pointed out that these children that are really acute, that need these mental health supports that are very acute, it's better to be served at Dubé Centre where the professionals are, Mr. Speaker. Services can be accessed by some children who need less acute services in the Jim Pattison Children's Hospital. We've been made aware of that.

But, Mr. Speaker, to say that money was taken out of the mental health budget, the health budget to direct towards that facility is wrong, Mr. Speaker. We were told there was unused funds within

the budget that were directed in that area, Mr. Speaker.

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

Global Transportation Hub and Land Transactions

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, last week the Minister of Agriculture said that as taxpayers, we don't care what was paid for the major deficiencies in the bypass because he thinks we weren't on the hook for it. Well, Mr. Speaker, as we also learned in committee last month, taxpayers are on the hook for close to \$3 million for the GTH east parcel's borrow land. This is millions Saskatchewan people have no guarantee of recovering because the deep-in-debt GTH can't pay for it.

The 2014 agreement shows the borrow was to come from the GTH footprint before these parcels. It appears Highways and the GTH never had any intention to use the east parcels for borrow. So why, why did Highways prepay \$3 million to the GTH when they didn't even know if it was necessary, and when will Saskatchewan taxpayers get that money back from the GTH?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, this is getting to be somewhat repetitive. We had discussions about borrow pits before. I indicated my lack of experience in dirt. I don't want to go down that road again. But I would say, to the members opposite, this: they set out with the idea that they were going to use this land. They'd use a borrow pit to extract the dirt from, use it somewhere else and, when the project's done, the dirt comes back and it's redone.

Mr. Speaker, they've learned since that time some of this was done by way of landscaping and road levelling for the area. Mr. Speaker, as land is sold, the projects will pay themselves out as the sales close. Mr. Speaker, right now does it make a lot of difference whether it's on Highways' books or on GTH? We know what it is. It's all accounted for. The Provincial Auditor reviews the books. Mr. Speaker, we'll continue to do that.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, if the minister wants to continue to give vague non-answers about GTH, perhaps at least he should read the 2014 agreement first. It's not just the money that Highways is owed, Mr. Speaker. It also remains unclear why Highways signed a contract in 2014 with the GTH to haul and strip dirt in the first place.

The ministry appears to have directly paid the GTH millions to do the conglomerate's work. It makes no sense for Highways to have paid for the hauling and stripping of borrow material used for the bypass. Isn't this part of what we're paying the foreign-led conglomerate \$2 billion to do on our behalf? And then why would the GTH then pay a middleman, a well-connected donor to both the Sask Party and the Premier's leadership campaign, millions to do that work for the GTH? Shouldn't the foreign-led conglomerate have done this themselves? And exactly how much bypass work has Highways taken on and funded on behalf of the bypass partners, or should we not care?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, Highways is in the business of building roads and highways. That's what they do. They move dirt. They put down asphalt. They put down lighting. That's what they do. That's what Highways is for. GTH built a project. It's a land development project. They want to sell land out of that. They want to have people move in and do it. And they hope that they will continue a partnership with Highways where Highways builds the roads. They're the land developers. They're going to put in lights, sewers, and all the things that are necessary, and they'll continue to work with the Ministry of Highways.

Mr. Speaker, this is a project for all the people of Saskatchewan. I'd urge people to support this project. An endorsement from the members opposite would be wonderful. They've supported it in the past, and I'd like to see them support it in the future.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, the Minister for the GTH doesn't seem to get it. Despite Premier Wall supposing this land purchase made taxpayers whole for the east parcels, it's clear Saskatchewan taxpayers are still millions short.

Now maybe, just maybe, the minister and this government's ongoing confusion on this file could be taken as evidence to suggest that no one has really gotten to the bottom of what went down with these land sales at the GTH. Could the minister save himself the hassle, take the advice of his Deputy Premier, and finally call the judicial inquiry Saskatchewan people deserve today?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, this matter was reviewed, and reviewed extensively, by the Provincial Auditor. It was reviewed again by the prosecutions branch. It was viewed for hundreds and thousands of hours by the RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police]. It was reviewed by the RCMP's officials in Ottawa. It was referred to the prosecutors in Manitoba. It was analyzed incredibly carefully. And, Mr. Speaker, that's what should happen on this type of thing, is you do a careful analysis. You do a review.

And you know what it came back? The RCMP came back. They held a press conference. They said in that press conference, no criminal activity, no wrongdoing. The Provincial Auditor simply said we paid too much for some land. That's where it ends, Mr. Speaker. We're not having a judicial inquiry to review and prove something that we don't know, Mr. Speaker.

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

Development in Wascana Park

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, with that lack of transparency, it's no wonder so many people are concerned why the Sask Party unilaterally took over the board of Wascana Centre Authority. The provincial government used to be but one voice on the board for Wascana Park, but last year the province took full control and power away from the city and the university.

More and more people are becoming aware and concerned by

what this government will do to Wascana Park. Will the Sask Party government do the right thing and commit to reversing their takeover today?

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

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to the member for the question. Most happy to talk about the good work that's going on in Wascana Park. And the member has asked questions in the past. She's made erroneous statements in the House most recently. On November the 8th when we had an exchange, she told myself and the media that The Willow on Wascana was grandfathered in the park. This is not the case, Mr. Speaker. The Willow was never grandfathered. It was the NDP government at the time that approved the commercialization of the restaurant back in 2005.

It was okay to do it back then. You know, we heard about the CCF [Co-operative Commonwealth Federation] approving the original CNIB [Canadian National Institute for the Blind] building. We heard about the NDP approving the CBC building within the park, Mr. Speaker. And again we hear about their position on things.

The Government of Saskatchewan contributes about 60 per cent of the funding to Wascana and has about 60 per cent of the representation on the board. That being said, everything will be done on a consensus basis, and that's agreeable to all parties concerned. Thank you for the question, Mr. Speaker.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 159 — *The Securities Amendment Act, 2018*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that Bill No. 159, *The Securities Amendment Act, 2018* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 159 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.

Principal Clerk: — 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.

Bill No. 160 — *The Trespass to Property Amendment Act, 2018*

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you again, Mr. Speaker. I move that Bill No. 160, *The Trespass to Property Amendment Act,*

2018 be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 160 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.

Principal Clerk: — 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.

Bill No. 161 — *The Trespass to Property Consequential Amendments Act, 2018/Loi de 2018 corrélative de la loi intitulée The Trespass to Property Amendment Act, 2018*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that Bill No. 161, *The Trespass to Property Consequential Amendments Act, 2018* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 161 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.

Principal Clerk: — 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.

Bill No. 613 — *The Saskatchewan Strategy for Suicide Prevention Act, 2018*

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, I move Bill No. 613, *The Saskatchewan Strategy for Suicide Prevention Act, 2018* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member that Bill No. 613 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.

Principal Clerk: — First reading of this bill.

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

Mr. Vermette: — Next sitting of the Assembly.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of the Standing Committee on the Economy.

Standing Committee on the Economy

Ms. Young: — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on the Economy to report Bill No. 132, *The Management and Reduction of Greenhouse Gases Amendment Act, 2018* without amendment.

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

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

The Speaker: — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 132 and that the bill be now read a third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 132 — *The Management and Reduction of Greenhouse Gases Amendment Act, 2018*

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 132 be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Principal Clerk: — Third reading of this bill.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of the Private Bills Committee.

Standing Committee on Private Bills

Mr. Steinley: — I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Private Bills to report Bill No. 901, *The Luther College, Regina Act, 2018* without amendment, and Bill No. 902, *The St. Andrew's College Amendment Act, 2018* without amendment, and to present its second report. I move:

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

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

That the second report of the Standing Committee on Private Bills 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 member for Batoche.

[14:30]

Mr. Kirsch: — Mr. Speaker, I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 901, *The Luther College, Regina Act, 2018* and that the bill now be read the third time.

The Speaker: — The member has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 901, *The Luther College, Regina Act, 2018* and that the bill be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. The member may proceed to move third reading.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 901 — *The Luther College, Regina Act, 2018*

Mr. Kirsch: — Mr. Speaker, I move that this bill be read the third time and passed under its title.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member that Bill No. 901, *The Luther College, Regina Act, 2018* be now read a third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Principal Clerk: — Third reading of this bill.

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

Mr. Forbes: — I request leave to waive consideration in the Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 902, *The St. Andrew's College Amendment Act, 2018* and that the bill now be read a third time.

The Speaker: — The member has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 902, *The St. Andrew's College Amendment Act, 2018* and that the bill be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. The member may proceed to move third reading.

**Bill No. 902 — *The St. Andrew's College
Amendment Act, 2018***

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member that Bill No. 902, *The St. Andrew's College Amendment Act, 2018* be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question? Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Principal Clerk: — Third reading of this bill.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Brkich: — I ask leave to move a motion of absence.

The Speaker: — The Government House Leader has moved a motion of absence. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Agreed. Carried. Go.

MOTIONS

Leave of Absence

Hon. Mr. Brkich: — The motion reads:

That leave of absence be granted for the member for Regina Rochdale from Monday, November 26, 2018 to Thursday,

November 29, 2018 to attend the Women Leaders Global Forum in Reykjavik, Iceland on behalf of this Assembly.

I so move.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Government House Leader:

That leave of absence be granted to the member for Regina Rochdale from Monday, November 26, 2018 to Thursday, November 29, 2018 to attend the Women Leaders Global Forum in Reykjavik, Iceland on behalf of this Assembly.

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.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Lawrence: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to order the answers to questions 12 and 13.

The Speaker: — Ordered, questions 12 and 13. I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Lawrence: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the answer to question no. 14.

The Speaker: — Tabled answer to question 13 . . . 13? 14.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 158 — *The Youth Justice Administration Act, 2018*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to move second reading of *The Youth Justice Administration Act, 2018*. *The Youth Justice Administration Act* came into force in August of 2003, coinciding with the implementation of the federal *Youth Criminal Justice Act*. The Act establishes the minister's authority to set up and operate custody facilities and provide youth justice services.

It is recognized and established that youth in conflict with the law have the potential to make changes and become contributing members of their communities and thereby promoting public safety. The long-term reduction of youth offending occurs when youth are held accountable through a balance of meaningful consequences and rehabilitation.

Mr. Speaker, the new Act will codify existing regulations, policies, and best practices to provide a more comprehensive piece of legislation to govern our youth custody facilities. Provisions being moved from the regulations to the Act include, firstly, respecting when and how searches of young persons, visitors, and youth workers will be performed and who may perform those searches; secondly, establishing informal discipline processes and requiring that youth workers attempt informal resolution; also providing for the use of reasonable force and establishing provisions surrounding secluded room time.

Mr. Speaker, the new Act will include appeal processes for young persons where there is a transfer at the discretion of the director; also disciplinary action that involves a loss of privileges. Where the young person has made a complaint respecting the administration of the facility, the young person is placed in a secluded room from time to time. Mr. Speaker, the new Act includes provisions defining secluded room time and how long a young person can be kept separate and apart from other young persons in the facility.

The Act will also establish timelines that must be met in reviewing any decision to remove a young person from his or her unit. The Act will also include provisions detailing a young person's right to contact legal counsel and the Advocate for Children and Youth. The Act will also ensure that young persons receive any assistance they may need to complete any written materials required if the young person is making a complaint or pursuing an appeal within a youth custody facility.

Mr. Speaker, the Act will also carry over from the regulations the provisions placing limits on the use of force and the use of physical restraint devices. The Act will also support community youth workers in their efforts providing reports for youth justice courts and supervising young persons, as well as the creation of community youth justice services.

Finally the Act will support the impositions of just sanctions that will have meaningful consequences for the young person. And it will promote his or her rehabilitation, reintegration into society, thereby contributing to the long-term protection of the public.

Mr. Speaker, with that I move second reading of *The Youth Justice Administration Act*.

The Speaker: — It's been moved by the minister that Bill No. 158 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased once again to stand in my place and offer a few perspectives as it pertains to Bill 158, *The Youth Justice Administration Act, 2018*.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we watch very carefully as to what is being proposed by the Saskatchewan Party on many fronts as we deal with the challenge of crime within our province, within our communities, and certainly within our First Nations and northern communities and rural communities as well. Obviously this is a province-wide law that's intended, or effort at a law that's intended to reduce crime and certainly bring forward some very solid measures on many fronts that would help the communities

deal with their hurt and certainly deal with the challenges that many young people certainly go through in our communities and certainly impact many of our lives.

I listened with a great deal of focus on what the member from Cumberland spoke about on many occasions, Mr. Speaker, and when he spoke about the matter of youth suicide and the rates that were quite high and the fact that we need a strategy to begin to address that component of ensuring that our communities continue to remain safe and continue to provide hope for many different groups of people in our communities, and that certainly includes the young people as well.

Now, Mr. Speaker, when you look at *The Youth Justice Administration Act* and some of the other Acts that have been introduced by the Saskatchewan Party over the last several weeks, we're trying to find what I would consider the matrix to success, that there's a portion of how we would enforce laws; there's a portion of how we would certainly incorporate the youth strategy necessary to reduce crime amongst that particular group. There's also a portion within that matrix to look at options of creating hope within our community and really, quite frankly, intercepting many of our children and youth that may be enticed in many unsavoury ways to join criminal activity.

And we can certainly ascertain, Mr. Speaker, from our perspective as legislators, that part of the challenge that we face as a province is the challenge of poverty. We all know that not every child has a safe place to sleep. We all know that not every child goes to school with a full stomach. We know that not every child is healthy and functioning as they start their young lives in all parts of our province. And this is the point that I was making in response to the member from Cumberland's speech about youth suicide.

Now, Mr. Speaker, there's no question in my mind as I look at the young people that live in my own community, and I can tell you it with great pride that in all of our communities, in the indigenous communities as well, that we have such beautiful children. You see the hope in their face and you see really the strength that they offer even to parents and grandparents.

On many occasions people believe, and rightfully so, that parents should lead and guide and strengthen their children. But I know on many, many occasions that it's the child that inspires the parent on many fronts. And I can tell you that in my own experience as a father, as you watch your daughters go off to school and you watch them cross the road safely and they're off to school, it's only a few blocks away but they really inspire you. You watched them walk away as they're playfully walking towards the school, and you think about what options and what opportunities await them, and which hope awaits them.

And so when I say that many of our children and our youth in our communities offer, certainly inspire us, I think that certainly is something that I think a lot of parents recognize, and grandparents as well. And now that I'm a grandparent, I want to point out that my grandchildren also inspire me. And they're at the tender age of 13 and 14 respectively, and I have a granddaughter and a grandson that are both in that age category, and I watch very carefully what they do.

And so we're blessed in that way in the sense that we've had very

good luck in terms of the health of our grandchildren and our children overall. But we also know that there are many dangers out there. So as they enter the young age of 13, 14 years old, there's an especial keen grandma that watches over these children on a regular basis and is very, very careful as to what they do. Because they certainly know that their grandmother, in my absence of course, are watching, and so are their mom and dad.

So it makes it really important to note that there are many successful families in many of our communities that do in essence raise a functioning, happy, disciplined, educated, and hopeful child. There's always that particular success that we've enjoyed in all of our communities.

Now what we need to do as a community, and this is why it's important to look at the effects and the impacts of such a bill when you talk about *The Youth Justice Administration Act*, Mr. Speaker, is that we have to go back and find the cause of how criminal activity becomes the norm for many of our young people.

[14:45]

And I know that we've been lucky. As I reflect on my own life as a young man, and we had a disciplinarian as a father, and that really helped things out as you go through your teenage years and certainly as you go and continue on with school. But like I said at the outset, part of the challenges within the delivery of justice, so to speak, Mr. Speaker, is to incorporate the causes of justice or the causes of crime and injustice throughout our communities. And many of the professionals, people that are in the know . . . And he understands. The Minister of Health made reference today that he's not an expert in mental health. But many mental health therapists and many people involved with this particular field will point out that poverty is one of the leading causes of creating crime within our communities. And Saskatchewan is not immune to that particular challenge.

So we needn't debate whether the effects of poverty have effects on the child's perspective on life. We needn't debate how the effects of poverty will formulate their mind as to how they're going to approach valuable exercises such as education, team building, spiritual beliefs, and the list goes on. If you're having a difficult time in going to school without being hungry, obviously it's going to create some bitter feelings within a young mind. And that's why it's important to point out that sometimes poverty does have its way of capturing young people and trapping them into — in some instances, not all — the whole notion around crime.

Now, Mr. Speaker, again as I watch how the Saskatchewan Party is rolling out some of these bills, and they talk about regional policing . . . I made reference to that Act several days ago. And they also talk about some of the enforcement procedures that they're going to undertake. They talk about *The Youth Justice Administration Act* in this particular bill. And we try in our own minds, try to figure out how all these pieces are fitting together to really reflect what I think the people of Saskatchewan want, and that is a responsive, compassionate, and swift system of justice so people could certainly — the ones that need to be captured from the life of crime — can be saved on many occasions.

Those that continually disobey laws can be dealt with on, you know, in a swift action, in a swift manner. And those that are genuinely trying to reach out for help, that we find ways and means in which we could help. And part of that process, as I indicated, is through the mental health initiatives that my colleague from Cumberland spoke about at great length.

So, Mr. Speaker, again we need to ascertain whether this particular youth justice amendment Act is going to . . . or administration Act, is going to complement all those efforts. Because as I mentioned at the outset, many northern communities that I visit have such beautiful, wonderful children. And with the proper guidance and support mechanisms in place, these children can grow into disciplined, functioning teenagers and youth. And of course they become very productive and happy and certainly well-adjusted adults. And they again in turn have their own children, and these children turn into grandchildren. Eventually they become grandparents, rather.

So you can see through the life cycle that there's a lot of opportunity and value in some of the comments by professional people when they say that you have to have good, solid parenting. You have to deal with poverty overall to be able to turn the lives around of many of the young children that are living in our communities. And, Mr. Speaker, if we do that and you do it community by community, you use the resources well and the resources are there, many can see that there is a significant opportunity to really build disciplined, educated, motivated young people in all of our communities.

So I say at the end of the day, at the end of the day, Mr. Speaker, I see it all the time when I travel visiting communities: we have such wonderful, beautiful, caring, intelligent children. And then the trick and the focus that we have to undertake is to make sure that we support the parents in guiding them through their formidable teenage years. And, Mr. Speaker, this is where the mental health supports, this is where the drug and alcohol addiction treatment services must come in in some of the communities. This is where a compassionate process to dealing with young people is necessary. This is where I think overall that you have to also incorporate a very sound strategy on how you deal with some of the youth in our province because they are complex. Mr. Speaker, they often make critical decisions, and we have to recognize that sometimes those decisions aren't good. But we have to do all we can to rescue them from what many people perceive would be a life of crime if that interception isn't happening to really reach out to them.

So I think there's a lot of things that we need to look at. There's a lot of impact and effect that we have to incorporate in some of the legislation that we are presenting here today. And again, as I mentioned, it's complex. I may have confused people with some of my statements today. But the point being is that as we all struggle with how to deal with this matter, there's many perspectives and many people have different ways of viewing what the Act may or may not do. And this is the reason why we need to reach out and ask for advice from those learned people as to whether this Act really achieves its intended objectives and how it interacts with other parts of the justice system so once and for all we can see whether our youth are being served well through Acts of this sort.

So, Mr. Speaker, we have a lot more to say on this particular bill.

We are really watching very carefully how it affects and certainly interacts with other bills that are intended to deal with the challenge of crime in all of our communities. We will continue that work. We encourage people to approach us to give us some advice, and that door, as I mentioned on a continual basis, is always open. So on that note I move that we adjourn debate on Bill 158, *The Youth Justice Administration Act, 2018*.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

**Bill No. 157 — *The Education Amendment Act, 2018*
*Loi modificative de 2018 sur l'éducation***

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Trade and Export Development.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to move second reading of Bill No. 157, *The Education Amendment Act, 2018*, which proposes several amendments to *The Education Act, 1995*. The amendments to the Act are largely housekeeping in nature and are required to reflect current drafting and terminology standards, changes to other Acts, and recommendations from the Saskatchewan Professional Teachers Regulatory Board, the Ministry of Justice, and the Ministry of Education.

The first amendment deals with the minister's amending orders. Currently both the Act and the regulations provide requirements for the establishment of boards of education and the conseil scolaire as well as the alteration of school division and francophone education area boundaries, which are required to be set by minister's order and posted in *The Saskatchewan Gazette*. Boards of education and the conseil scolaire submit these amendments to the ministry on an ongoing basis. A change has been made so that all minister's orders will now be repealed and replaced, rather than amended, to ensure all information is consolidated into one order. This will ensure information is clear and accessible for all boards of education, the conseil scolaire, and the public.

The next amendment deals with education property tax. Earlier this year, the Ministry of Government Relations brought *The Education Property Tax Act* and regulations into force. An amendment to the Act is now required to clarify that, in this case, "the minister" refers to the minister responsible for the administration of *The Education Property Tax Act*. As well, the city of Lloydminster is being exempted from the application of section 10 of *The Education Property Tax Act*. This provision was added to clarify that the city of Lloydminster is paying boards of education directly.

The next amendment deals with boards of education and the conseil scolaire providing notification of the suspension or severance of a teacher to the Saskatchewan Professional Teachers Regulatory Board. The SPTRB has requested that subsection 212(3) of the Act be repealed as it is in conflict with requirements for reporting misconduct to the SPTRB, which are identified in section 35 of *The Registered Teachers Act*. We have

accepted this request and are repealing this subsection.

The last amendment is in regard to the inclusion of personal property for boards of education and conseil scolaire. Personal property is defined in legislation to include goods such as furniture and equipment or an instrument, money, or an intangible such as stocks or bonds. This definition has led to non-capital requests being sent to the ministry for approval. As personal property reflects the standard operations of boards of education, it should not be subject to ministry approval. An amendment has been made to reflect this.

Finally a number of housekeeping amendments have been identified by both translation services and the Ministry of Justice. Amendments have been made to repeal outdated French and English terminology, and to update drafting standards throughout the Act as required. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — It has been moved that Bill No. 157 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thanks again, Mr. Speaker. I'm once again pleased to stand in my place and present our initial comments on Bill 157, *The Education Amendment Act, 2018*. And certainly as the minister indicated, the bill does a number of things.

It changes and corrects terminology in both the English and French version of the bill. It exempts the city of Lloydminster from paying proceeds of the school tax received to the government, as the city of Lloydminster pays boards of education directly. It changes the clause on acquisition of personal property and changes the clause on the disposal of real and personal property by the board of education or the conseil scolaire.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I think that what the important message on it . . . When we look at *The Education Amendment Act* itself, obviously these matters are housekeeping in nature, certainly as you look at the correction of terminology. This is something that I think the people of Saskatchewan ought to know: that some of the bills, no matter how simple that they may appear, they do have some ramifications.

And this is why it's important we take the time within the legislature here to look at ways and means in which we can connect with various organizations and see what their particular perspective is on some of the changes attached to Bill 157.

I think it's important to point out that as we look at the history of how education has been treated by the the Saskatchewan Party government, no question in our minds, Mr. Speaker, that there is a level of mistrust or distrust with all the boards of education throughout the province, because we've seen some of the cuts that have some dramatic, drastic effect on many of the activities of our school divisions throughout the province.

We've seen it and felt it in northern Saskatchewan. We've seen it and certainly know that people in rural Saskatchewan have felt it as well, and the cities as well, Mr. Speaker. Because what we've seen is in 2017, or one year, they took away \$24 million from the Education budget; the following year they took another \$54 million and then they returned 30 million.

So I would ask all the children in the classes here to look at the history of the Saskatchewan Party commitment to education. You take out 24 one year and you take out 54 the next year, and then you return \$30 million. And they still tell the people of Saskatchewan, you guys are still ahead. And that's kind of the math that they use when it comes to the boards of education throughout our province, Mr. Speaker, and that certainly is a crying shame.

So it's important that we pay very close attention to what they do on any front when it comes to education, because obviously they have failed math on many occasions. As I look and speak about the changes from last year and the year before, the net effect is that the boards of education across the province of Saskatchewan were handed a \$48 million grab by the current government. And, Mr. Speaker, those effects were felt right across the province, and there's a lot of people that are suffering as a result of these education cuts.

So people don't want to see this type of treatment towards the teachers and to our education system. I spoke earlier about the importance to reach out to the young people that are attending our school to make sure that we can do all we can to support them, Mr. Speaker. This is part of the process, that we don't simply put in laws and not provide the resources to achieve the objectives within those laws. And we've seen the Saskatchewan Party do this on numerous occasions and, Mr. Speaker, at the end of the day they have failed the people of Saskatchewan on many fronts.

[15:00]

So this is obviously a smaller bill, but nonetheless we will take our time to review it. We will ask for a consultation or ask for advice and seek consultation from the various organizations that are impacted by this bill. And certainly as I mentioned, Mr. Speaker, from our perspective we will have a certain prejudice against the Saskatchewan Party government when it comes to a commitment to education, because they have failed miserably in the past and they're continuing to fail the education front. And this is why it's important we pay attention to these bills.

So on that note, Mr. Speaker, I move that we adjourn debate on Bill 157, *The Education 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. 153

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 153 — *The Saskatchewan Employment (Leaves) 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. Good to be recognized and to join debate this afternoon on Bill No. 153, *The Saskatchewan Employment (Leaves) Amendment Act, 2018*.

Mr. Speaker, there are a number of measures contained in this particular piece of legislation that will be of benefit to the people of Saskatchewan, to Saskatchewan families, particularly as relates to maternity/paternity leave and getting caught up with what have been some federal changes that are outstanding now, Mr. Speaker. Some good changes around allowing access to leave for family members with a critically ill or injured family member, and then indeed with the interpersonal violence leave that has been included in this legislation.

There are some good steps here. Some of them, you know, moves to catch up to the federal changes that have been made, Mr. Speaker, to different of these regimes. Some of these steps as regards the interpersonal violence leave, again a good step, Mr. Speaker, but in our submission does not go far enough. And certainly I recognize the good work that's been done by the member from Regina Douglas Park on that front in particular, Mr. Speaker.

I'd also like to recognize as regards trying to get our leaves provisions caught up, Mr. Speaker, the good work that had been done by the member from Prince Albert Northcote, and the private member's bill that she'd introduced last year to try and get us caught up with the federal provisions. That is now taken care of by this particular piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker.

So in order that we might get with the benefits accruing to the families that they will advantage, Mr. Speaker, we're prepared to see this bill moved to committee so that we might ask some questions just about the general expenditure and the impact of these measures and what the basic baselines are there. But as such, there's no further need for second reading stage on this bill. And with that, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to conclude my remarks and invite my colleagues opposite to do what they need to do to move this on to committee.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the minister that Bill No. 153 be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Principal Clerk: — Second reading of this bill.

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

Hon. Mr. Brkich: — I designate that Bill No. 153, *The Saskatchewan Employment (Leaves) Amendment Act, 2018* be referred to the Standing Committee on Human Services.

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

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 for Regina Northeast.

Mr. Pedersen: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure today to rise in the Assembly here and participate in the debate on this bill. It's been a long time since *The Residential Services Act* has seen an update, so this is due for an update and I think that's a good thing.

There are a few things that potentially concern me in this bill, Mr. Speaker. So before I get into that, basically this bill is kind of a catch-all. It's more defined by what it doesn't cover than what it does. And basically it's any sort of a residential facility, once you carve out child care, special care facilities that are operated by part of the public health system, mental health services facilities, and any other homes that might be basically regulated by the ministry. So it's kind of this catch-all category for whatever's left is what's regulated here.

And in his opening remarks, the minister gave some examples of what might be included under this legislation. So he mentioned group homes, approved private service homes, domestic violence shelters, community-based homes. Basically, Mr. Speaker, these are ones where the people in these homes likely have capacity, but might be experiencing some difficulty in their life or might have a little bit of diminished capacity but still have some capacity. And so that's what this bill applies to.

Now my initial concern when I read the minister's remarks on introducing this bill was he talked about this bill providing more flexibility and allowing more innovative options. And any time I hear innovative options coming from the opposite side of the House, it immediately raises my flag and makes me think that they're talking privatization. But I think in this case a lot of these homes were already either operated privately or by non-profit facilities rather than the government.

But my other concern in reviewing the minister's comments was he talked about this bill reducing unnecessary barriers. And again when you hear members from the opposite side talking about removing barriers, it often means removing regulations and protections which are not there simply, as they believe, to create red tape, but they're there actually for the reason of protecting people.

Now when it comes right down to it, the detail and where the rubber hits the road with this bill is going to be in the regulation, which of course we don't get to see right now and which we can't debate on. But whether people are adequately protected under this legislation, that detail is going to be found in the regulations, not in the bill itself.

Now I did notice a couple of things, Mr. Speaker. So in section 16, the bill requires any employee or agent of somebody operating a care home, that if they become aware of abuse or have reasonable grounds to believe that there is abuse, it imposes a duty on them to actually report that to the minister. My concern is not that provision, Mr. Speaker, but that there doesn't seem to

be any sort of process whereby somebody who is not employed or an agent of the operator to report concerns or abuse, so for instance a friend or relative of a resident in one of these facilities.

And in my past life as a lawyer, what we could see is that oftentimes it was actually family and friends who discovered concerns and raised these concerns, because of course they have the familial relationship or the concern for the person living in the facility. And so I think, Mr. Speaker, it'd be good if this bill would have some sort of process whereby a concerned family member or friend could actually bring forward concerns about abuse of a resident to somebody in the ministry and possibly even to the court.

Because sometimes people who have concerns about abuse in facilities are getting stonewalled and they're not actually getting the response back from the operator of the home or from the ministry. And so sometimes they actually need that outlet of being able to go to the court to actually get things investigated and to have things brought to light. And so I think, Mr. Speaker, that that would be something good that would be good to be added to the legislation.

The last comment I'll make, Mr. Speaker, is that although the minister talked about removing barriers which, as I said, sometimes sounds like a code word for moving regulations, when you actually look at the section towards the end of the bill, which gives the minister . . . It's section 33 of the bill, or of the new Act, that gives the cabinet the power to make regulations. What we can see is that the cabinet has significantly expanded their ability to make regulations in this field.

And because all of the teeth to this legislation will be in the regulations, basically what is being proposed here, the bill simply says that a facility can be licensed, and then it'll be completely left up to the discretion of the ministry to decide what the conditions of that licence will be. And that list of what the ministry can make regulations on, or what the cabinet can make regulations on, has been vastly expanded.

In summary, Mr. Speaker, this bill primarily is about protecting residents of these type of facilities who might have some sort of vulnerability. It's about protecting them from abuse and providing some sort of basic regulation. And on this side of the House, Mr. Speaker, we're always about protecting people who might be vulnerable, and so we think that that is a good thing. With that, Mr. Speaker, I will wrap up my comments and move that debate on this bill be adjourned.

The Speaker: — It's been moved by the member 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 Saskatoon Centre.

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure today to enter into the debate on Bill No. 147, *An Act to amend The Oil and Gas Conservation Act*. And it's a very interesting one before us because of course today we passed the greenhouse gas bill that the government was keen to do, and that was part of their Prairie Resilience issue. But it does get us to reflect a bit on oil and gas and the conservation of that in the Act as it was in '93.

So for the people at home, I would like to just review some of the comments the minister made when he entered the debate on this back about two weeks ago, exactly November 13th, 2018. And at that point the minister at the time raised her concerns about this, that she wanted to make sure that we maintained the intent, the purposes of the oil and gas conservation which “. . . is, among other things, to develop, process, protect, and conserve the oil and gas resources of Saskatchewan.”

And that's a pretty major purpose and aim I think that we all share, because we all appreciate the use and the . . . personally in terms of heating our homes and, you know, fuelling our vehicles and that type of thing. And so it's a very important thing, but also for the major role that oil and gas plays within our economy.

[15:15]

And so she wants to make sure that we keep pace with how industry has evolved, and of course we have to make sure that it does happen, but that in fact that we do reflect on the environmental impacts. Because obviously this has been a major, major concern, and particularly since the oil leak of Husky a few short years ago in the summer that affected both North Battleford and Prince Albert and many First Nations along the way. And that is still not fully resolved, just because of the huge impact when things go wrong.

And we need to make sure that people have full confidence in the monitoring of the transportation of oil and gas in the pipelines, and other means as well, particularly as we see the increase in the use of trains. Definitely it's an economic issue, and we need to make sure we do this. But of course this government, while it, you know, cries crocodile tears over pipelines and it's failed to act, failed to act both with Conservative governments and Liberal governments to ensure that pipelines are constructed in a safe way, process, and also with full consultation with stakeholders, including First Nations.

So she references that the significant changes are in support of Prairie Resilience, and of course we've had a lot of conversation around that, and of course we still wait for that to be fully fleshed out. And of course she makes the comment they will help both the Ministry of Energy and Resources and the Ministry of Environment move forward on this strategy. So of course this will be the development of regulations that will reduce the greenhouse gas emissions, and that's very important because we want to make sure that we do have a plan in place in Saskatchewan around the reduction of greenhouse gases. So this is not a small thing.

She talks about this being a results-based program as opposed to, I assume, that she is talking about a command-and-control program that many of us are familiar in the past with because of

the idea that she brings forward penalties on emission exceedances by operators who fail to meet the emission reduction targets. So she's specifically talking about the greenhouse gases when she's talking about the emissions. Interestingly, we'll have to wait and see what those will be in terms of the actual penalties. And as this government is so reluctant to establish a price of a tonne of carbon and what that will mean for the industry, it's still very vague, very vague. And the issue will be, what will be those penalties, what will they . . .

And the government's used some very clever language like “flexible compliance.” And I'm sure that other people who break regulations or laws would love to have that term applied to them, that it's very flexible in terms of complying with the laws. But what does that really mean? And this is why people have a lot of questions, and they raise the issue around confidence in this government that is so reluctant, so reluctant to move with any meaning for any kind of a commitment to really dealing with the reduction of greenhouse gases.

They talked about the fund, the climate change Technology Fund. And that's established by *The Management and Reduction of Greenhouse Gases Act*, but of course from what we understand that it won't be used to encourage or help ordinary citizens who may want to do their share in reducing greenhouse gases, that in fact it will be the large emitters, the ones who are penalized and will be getting their money back through innovation. It's an odd type of a scenario that in fact you have those who are penalized actually being able to get back those penalties. It reminds me, Mr. Deputy Speaker, of if you're speeding on the highway and you've been fined and it goes into a fund, that the only people who can actually access those funds are the speeders, not the rest of society who are interested in promoting safety and that type of thing. So why this makes any sense, I'm not sure. So we'll have a lot of questions about how that works and how this particularly will move forward.

You know, she talks about the “. . . fund specifically designed to support investments that help Saskatchewan achieve the goals set out in Prairie Resilience.” And those investments, it sounds like — and if I'm wrong, I'd be very happy to be corrected — but from what I understand, it's not ordinary people that will be making those investments, but in fact the large emitters. And those may be the ones who are being penalized under this. So this is something that we'll watch very carefully and we'll have questions in committee when this goes forward.

She talks about “The proposed amendments also provide the basis for the negotiation of an agreement with the Government of Canada to prevent federal regulations related to methane emissions from applying to Saskatchewan producers.” And we do support a made-in-Saskatchewan solution, but we hope that in fact this is not a way to duck responsibility, that in fact we want to see a reduction in methane emissions. And so we hope that it's strong and it's rigorous and it does achieve the purpose of reductions, and particularly from methane. That is very, very important.

And so, you know, then she talks about that changes will bring the current Act into alignment with amendments proposed in 2017 to *The Pipelines Act*, that they work together to regulate oil and gas activity in Saskatchewan. So consistency in term of application, always a lofty goal and it's really worthwhile. But

again we must go deeper and we must go stronger because we see how this government is reluctant to really act quickly when it comes to pipeline leaks.

And actually I have to say that how that particular minister . . . I fail to understand and fail to really appreciate some of the ideas that we've come forward . . . in terms of taking a look at pipelines, establishing a best-before date to ensure the pipelines are durable and going to last. We need to work with stakeholders, establish that kind of information. But it's important that we do establish that type of thing.

Pipelines, like everything else, should be inspected and then there should be a date where we think they're probably are really ready to be renewed. And of course this would go a long way to helping the people at Evraz in terms of establish a made-in-Saskatchewan pipe that can continue to be sustainable into the future by recycling that kind of steel. But of course this minister has gone to the place of ideology and not thinking really carefully about the implications about what it means, what it means.

We see in Oshawa today where 2,500 people will be out of work in a matter of months. And we hope that this government isn't taking lessons from their best friend Doug Ford, who throws up his hands and says, there's nothing we can do. There's nothing we can do. We're just going to hope that they extend the months of EI [employment insurance]. I think that is a weak way out. And these guys are the guys who champion people like him and say that he knows all about the economy. And how does he know all about the economy when all he's saying is, let's extend the employment insurance months? And he's backing away.

I have to say, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that I'm deeply concerned about that kind of approach, when we see the changes to industry, changes to strong middle-class jobs. And these folks over here are really reluctant to even think about it because of ideology, because of ideology. It's simply that.

So I do want to say that this bill does raise a lot of opportunity for questions. And one of them that I do want to raise is at this particular time that . . . And this is what the former premier, Brad Wall, a few years ago when he had raised the concerns about what kind of work would we make in Saskatchewan, we could do something around orphan wells. Now this is the Act that deals with this, but not the amendment Act, not the one I have here today, but the previous one, and not a single word about orphan wells and what we should be doing about orphan wells.

And, Mr. Speaker, I have the section of *The Globe and Mail* and maybe we'll start to talk about that. But *The Globe and Mail* had a special section about orphan wells and what was happening to the oil wells and gas wells that are being abandoned in Western Canada. It had some very interesting information about the concerns we should be having about the wells that are being just left unattended in the ground. And here's an interesting factoid, Mr. Speaker, you might like to know. The oldest orphan well in Western Canada was drilled in 1918 and abandoned in 1918 in Alberta, that that well has been left to idle, as it were.

And so we have many wells here in Saskatchewan in the same situation that are being left. And of course former Premier Brad Wall raised that as a potential for economic activity. But really, the issue really became, what's happening to the funding? Who

would fund that? And I was hoping to see in this Act something more rigorous around that. This was the opportunity to deal with orphan wells, the funding to fix that situation. And so here we have a situation where yet again it's being left to simply idle. And they have not addressed the other issue in oil and gas.

So of course we're dealing . . . There's many issues, but of course the biggest one of course is greenhouse gases. So we dealt with that and we worked with the government of the day to make sure that bill passed. And I understand the committee was rigorous but positive last night. That's a good thing.

But we also have the pipeline failures. What happens when a pipeline fails for a variety of reasons? And we wonder why there's not as much confidence in this government to deliver when they simply keep their heads in the sand when they come to this issue and how we could be more innovative. But in fact they go to the place of ideology, and that's why in many ways we are seeing this being stalled out, because they will not be innovative. They will not listen to the people who have some very good ideas about this.

And of course then the third that I think, particularly in this area, is around orphan wells and what can we do about orphan wells. This is one, as I said, the former Premier Brad Wall thought was a big issue. And these folks all rallied around it a few years ago as a potential job creator, that we could be fixing up those orphan wells. But we have not seen any action, not any initiative from this government or from this minister to say, hey, that is an issue that we could be doing when the economy of this province is struggling, is struggling and particularly in that sector. But they are ideologically bound by what they are willing to do and not to.

And so, Mr. Speaker, with that I've raised some concerns that I have and I would have a . . . I do want to say there's a couple of things. I just want to say two other things before I close off, and one is the pooling of interests. And of course, you know, it's funny how we didn't have a definition of pooling of interests, but you have to read that. And then really what that is is when "separately owned interests in all or part of a drainage unit . . . the owners of these tracts may pool their interests for the development and operation of the drainage unit . . ." So I would have thought that they might have defined the word "pooling" so we don't automatically go to the thinking that it's pooling of oil on the ground. That's not what we're talking about. We're talking about pooling of interests, financial . . .

An Hon. Member: — Honest mistake.

Mr. Forbes: — Yes, just one of those things. But the other one that I wanted to say which was interesting, and it'll be interesting how this government responds to this, and that is section 53.65(1) when it calls for a request for investigation. And this is for the emission of greenhouse gases, I imagine. But (1) talks about:

Any resident of Saskatchewan who is at least 18 years old and who is of the opinion that a contravention of a greenhouse gas emission regulation has occurred may apply to the minister for an investigation pursuant to this Act of the alleged contravention.

[15:30]

And talks about the requirements, including a concise statement of evidence supporting the allegations.

So you know, I have to say, Mr. Speaker, this government — who prides itself on being not criminal by nature — will be acting with a lot of attention to this kind of report for any issue. And we've tried so hard, you know, whether it's getting to the bottom of STC [Saskatchewan Transportation Company], getting to the bottom of . . . Even the libraries. Trying to get a simple copy of the questionnaire, where the minister wants . . . demands to see our work. When we ask to see their work they say, hey, you have to wait.

So good luck to these folks who are 18 years or older asking for a report. Good luck to you, unless you happen to be, I think, one of the big corporations who may have influence. Because I think this is a very . . . It just stuck in my mind how hard we've worked to . . . And this government, when they came to power, they came to power and then they said they would be the most transparent and accountable government that you ever could imagine. And here there is no way you're . . . absolutely no way you're going to get anything out of them, because they are all tied up in confidentiality agreements or whatever.

Can't find out what happened to STC and all those buses, because that seems to be sensitive commercial information. And so how are they ever going to tell anybody anything? You know, you name the cause; they have a reason why they can't talk, why they can't talk. You know, and so whether it's libraries, STC, Global Transportation Hub, the borrow pit, the borrow pits that they've talked about, we can't find out anything from these guys because they would prefer . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Bottomless pits. It's a black hole of information over there. So good luck on finding out about the greenhouse gas emissions. Good luck on that. And I know we won't find anything out from this minister when she stands up and has a really good pivot. Anything else but a straight answer in question period, Mr. Speaker — that's something that's very foreign, very strange to them.

So, Mr. Speaker, I know they're sensitive about that. Their answers are as . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Yes. I don't know whether it's FM [frequency modulation] or AM [amplitude modulation] over there, but they're wavy answers. They're not straight. They're pretty curvy answers. They're all over the map but they don't answer the questions. In terms of transparency and accountability, that's a foreign concept. That's a foreign concept. They're strangers to that, Mr. Speaker.

And I feel that here we have this and we'll be taking a look at this, and of course many people, many people in the industry and other sectors will have a lot of questions. But I know, Mr. Speaker, we have a lot of work to get through today, but I wanted to get those points on record. So I will be moving adjournment to Bill 147, *An Act to amend The Oil and Gas Conservation 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. 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 Elphinstone-Centre.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Good to join debate presided over by yourself, and proud to take my place and say a few words on the Bill No. 148, *The Pipelines Amendment Act, 2018*.

Now, Mr. Speaker, there are a couple of ways you can take this information when it's given in the House. Sometimes it's straight up and sometimes it's kind of hard to separate the message from the messenger or to, you know, take what is in and of itself and put it aside from the context from which it emerges, Mr. Speaker. But in terms of the stated intent of this government in March 2017 of funding a multi-year pipeline regulation enhancement program, and its purpose to accelerate improvements to Saskatchewan's pipeline regulatory system, Mr. Speaker, you know, this may come as a bit of a shock to some of the members opposite. But that all seems like good stuff, Mr. Speaker, I think is the technical designation for it.

And certainly it's interesting to read this speech in the sort of dispassionate language with which it's stated across, because of course we've got some good men and women working in the public service and in the Ministry of Energy and Mines, Mr. Speaker, or Energy and Resources, pardon me. And you know, what's stated here is fairly straight ahead and fairly agreeable, Mr. Speaker, in terms of modernizing our regulatory regime, modernizing the oversight that you need to make sure that you've got a sustainable, economic, environmentally responsible pipeline regime in this province and pipelines, Mr. Speaker, of which we have very many. Certainly I think the last figure I'd seen where Saskatchewan has some 30 000 kilometres of pipe.

And, Mr. Speaker, having grown up looking straight down Elphinstone Street to what was then the Interprovincial Steel Corporation, and certainly many of my school friends, often as not their dads worked at IPSCO, Mr. Speaker. Or in the case of our family, where my father worked as a gas serviceman for the gas division of SaskPower, which of course was broken off into SaskEnergy and then the Devine Tories tried to sell it off, Mr. Speaker, and were stopped dead in their tracks on that score, Mr. Speaker.

But certainly, you know, pipelines, it's a fact of life in Saskatchewan. And just as compelling is the fact that you want to have good oversight of what is an integral part of our energy sector. And indeed, be it the manifold pipelines that take gas to our local houses, Mr. Speaker, including mine over on 12 block Cameron, or be it to the larger pipelines and flowlines that again constitute the 30-some thousand kilometres of pipeline in the province, Mr. Speaker, again these are things that you want to have good oversight. You want to make sure that you've got as modern and as durable a regulatory oversight regime as possible.

So again, that members opposite like to get kind of squirrely on occasion around the whole subject of pipelines and try to attribute

different positions to the official opposition on pipelines, Mr. Speaker, it's kind of interesting. It's kind of interesting.

And I guess, you know, I guess that beats talking about the various spills that that government's presided over. Because as has been pointed out at different times in the not too distant past, Mr. Speaker, that by no lesser a light than the Provincial Auditor, the various shortcomings when it comes to this government's oversight regime and the way that they've discharged their responsibilities, Mr. Speaker, in terms of making sure that we've got a pipeline system in this province that is again safe, economic, that we've got a reliable, transparent, accountable oversight regime.

You know, you think that they would spend more time worrying about that, Mr. Speaker, and worrying about things that are enumerated in this particular piece of legislation. But that, you know, that doesn't fit their allogical proclivities over there, Mr. Speaker. They would rather spend a bunch of time chasing the straw man rodeo, Mr. Speaker.

So again I understand the appeal of that in terms of, you know, who would rather talk about their record on that side, Mr. Speaker, in terms of failure to get, you know, pipelines to tidewater or making sure that we're attacking that differential or, you know . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . No, well again, if they want to spend a bunch of time, you know, having a yelling match in the mirror, Mr. Speaker, instead of getting the job done and then look, look . . . scan the heavens for some kind of explanation as to, oh how did this all happen, Mr. Speaker, and blame everybody but themselves.

I could spend a bunch of time wondering, you know, well who was in government for the past 11 years in Saskatchewan? You know, who was that? You know, like will they ever wake up from the nightmare, Mr. Speaker? You know, so they spend a bunch of time doing that kind of stuff and less time doing the hard work that's entailed in this piece of legislation.

So if their record was about this kind of legislation, Mr. Speaker, then I guess we'd take them a bit more seriously on some of these scores. But again, proof's always in the pudding. The records sort of . . . It's like that old line from Bob Dylan, Mr. Speaker, where "money doesn't talk, it swears." You know, the record over there, it speaks for itself.

So in terms of this particular piece of legislation, a lot of straightforward and fairly common-sense measures contained therein. But it's often hard to separate these things, the message from the messenger, or particular measure from the context of the way that this government does its business.

So, Mr. Speaker, I know that other of my colleagues will have much more to say on this particular score. And with that, I move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 148, *The Pipelines Amendment Act, 2018*.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 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 Regina Lakeview.

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And it is my pleasure this afternoon to rise and enter into debate on Bill No. 149. This bill is known as *The Police (Regional Policing) Amendment Act, 2018*. Mr. Speaker, some folks will remember that this bill was initially announced, or at least referred to, in the Speech from the Throne at the beginning of this session by the Premier at that time.

There were a number of questions about the details that would be contained in this bill, and I think a lot of those questions do still remain, even after the introduction. I looked back to November the 19th of this year when the minister rose to enter her comments into the record, Mr. Speaker. She noted that the intent of this bill is to enhance rural policing in the province and to address issues surrounding rural crime. She also noted that this bill . . . I guess the main thing that this does is to allow RMs of under 500 to join regional police forces. Up until now, I understand, this was something that most RMs were precluded, that there are provisions for regional police forces but for the most part RMs were kept out of them.

Of course this all happens in the larger context of concern about rural crime in the province. And, Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt that this is something that is on the minds of people in the province. I think of a meeting that we had not that long ago — I guess it was probably awhile ago now — as a caucus with the chief of police in Saskatoon and a number of senior police officers there. And I do remember being struck by the graphs of crime in not only the city of Saskatoon, but I believe we saw graphs around the city of P.A. [Prince Albert] and the city of North Battleford. And certainly there was a very large increase in property crime specifically in those areas.

And I do remember also asking the chief of police about what some of their best evidence was in terms of what was driving these increases in crime. And I do remember that the answer was at least in part, or in large part, was the increasing, expanding crystal meth problem in the province and also a number of calls that related to mental health issues.

[15:45]

So when we look at policing, certainly that is one of the important measures but it is not a preventative measure in most part. This is not a full measure either, Mr. Speaker, in terms of addressing the rising rates of crime.

So in terms of, Mr. Speaker, regional police forces, I'm going to digress for a second because when I first read this . . . I'm just going to tell a little bit of a story. I was thinking about a regional police force in the province. It's not something that you hear about a lot. I understand it's more common in Eastern Canada. I do remember municipal police forces in small towns. I don't know . . . Those who live in the Southeast in the province might

remember a municipal police officer in the town of Yellow Grass. And folks who would be going along to Weyburn would often, especially if you weren't familiar with the highway . . . When you get to Yellow Grass, you have to slow down to 50 kilometres an hour to go through the town. And it's a fairly busy highway, as everyone here would know.

And often if you didn't quite get slowed down soon enough, you would see the lights — I think it was a brown car — and you would see the constable. Clayton Toovey would often be in the rear-view mirrors. So I just wanted to share with that. Maybe some folks who are reading this record or watching at home might remember. I don't know if I . . . It certainly was one of the characteristics of Yellow Grass that most people who had had the pleasure of being through there and not slowing down certainly remembered about Yellow Grass. And anyway, I just, I entered that in terms of municipal policing, but what we're talking about here is regional . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Yes, I am. I'm waxing nostalgically, having a little trip down memory lane. And that is probably way longer than I care to admit or remember. It was many years ago.

But what's proposed here is regional, regional police forces and the ability of RMs to join them. And certainly as we've discussed, I think we've established — and I don't think there's any argument on this side — the perception and the fear of crime is real in the province. And there is a lot of ways to take leadership on that, around that fear. Sometimes it is, you know, giving in to that fear, using it for political gains, for political ends. I don't know if I would consider that leadership, but it's one way of dealing with it. But another way to deal with it is to look at ways to actually improve, look at what the evidence is that actually might improve that very real concern that is out there.

And as I've said, there is evidence that at least with regard to property crime this is not just a perception. It is a reality. Been fuelled in part by crystal meth, by mental health. But we've yet to see a real strategy to deal with either of those two issues that really are pushing crime numbers up.

I was looking at a study, one of the longest standing studies as far as I can see, with Stats Canada that looked at four types of crime in Canada from 1962 all the way to 2003, so fairly lengthy period of time. This was a Stats Canada report. It looked specifically at those socio-economic — economic and socio-economic — variables that most directly correlated with the increase or decrease in crime, and four specific types of crime: homicide, robbery, break and enter, and vehicle theft.

Some maybe not-so-surprising and some surprising results with this large study. And this was again over several decades, over four decades, and looked at 22 police forces right across the country. So this wasn't regional and it wasn't specific to a certain decade. This is a four-decade study. When looking at what impacted most or correlated most closely with homicide and other violent crimes, the two variables that were most correlated with that were unemployment and alcohol use. I would suspect, although it's not referred to specifically in this study, that addictions more broadly probably fuel rates of crime. But specifically for the purposes of this four-decade study, increasing unemployment and increasing alcohol rates most closely were linked to violent crime, and specifically homicide.

Of course when we look at rates of unemployment in the province, economic insecurity, we look at the number of people who are in arrears with their mortgage payments — again, three times the national average in Saskatchewan — we can see that we have some of those aspects with the current economy. The number of people, both statistically and anecdotally, who have lost good-paying jobs in this province — not part-time, not precarious work, but jobs that pay the bills — we certainly do see, both with evidence and anecdotally, a rising concern there. So that's one of the pieces that if we want to be serious about addressing crime we need to look at both unemployment and alcohol use and addictions.

And it's surprising with robbery, break and entry, and motor vehicle theft, the economic factor most closely related with or correlated to those types of crime was inflation. It wasn't unemployment but it was inflation. So when we see the cost of goods going up sharply, that tends to fuel, according to this study anyway, crimes such as robbery, break and entry, and motor vehicle theft. Certainly we have seen a huge increase in the cost of living in Saskatchewan — housing, power, food right across the country. So again it's not always obvious or simple how to address crime, but it is important to look at evidence and, when you're looking at those drivers for crime, to address those when you're looking for any strategy to reduce crime.

And I think that is something that members on all sides of this House would have in common, the desire to increase safety for the people of the province and to decrease the rates of crime. We want effective policy in order to do that. And I'm not sure . . . I'm not saying it doesn't at this point, but it's not clear to me in reading either the minister's comments or some of the background information that this bill, certainly not on its own, will have the desired effect. And there are a number of questions certainly.

One of the pieces that I wanted to talk about specifically in terms of crime and addressing rates of crime in the province may be not contemplated in this bill. But certainly something that we know all too well in this province is that we have doubled the rates of domestic violence, which is a crime. Some of the drivers for that certainly include family stress; include lack of options, so lack of housing options for women; economic disparity between what men and women make; and so on and so on, in our province. So that would be another aspect. I think it's important to put that lens on this as well when we're looking at crime, what type of crime exactly we are looking to alleviate, and then following public policy from there.

I think there was another study that I was looking at that specifically compared Ottawa and Saskatoon. I'm just going to try to find it here. And maybe this is a bit of a white elephant in the room, and I think it certainly has been around this issue, and that is the fact that this study . . . I'm just looking for the date on this study. This is a research and statistics division, Department of Justice Canada report that compared Ottawa to Saskatoon in rates of crime and the factors.

One of the biggest factors in Saskatoon was correlated with indigenous population in communities. I mean this takes a longer view to look at the root causes there. We have a history in this province and in this country of colonialism, of residential schools, Sixties Scoops. All of those — trauma heaped upon

trauma heaped upon trauma, disconnection, alienation — that have to be addressed. And this is not going to be an easy answer but by not talking about it, by skirting around, by using cloaked language, we are not going to deal with it either, Mr. Speaker. And certainly we have seen in recent months and years in this province that this is barely contained below the surface and sometimes bubbles over in very disturbing and unsafe ways in our province, and it needs addressing. And it's not going to be fixed by band-aid solutions.

So I guess by way of saying that, you know, this piece of legislation may be part of the solution — there are some questions about that — but if we really truly want to look at safety, if we really want to look at improving crime rates in our province, we're going to have to look at our history and look it straight in the eyes and be willing to do the work, based on the evidence, to take the leadership role. If we just follow, you know, public opinion and what is the easiest response sometimes, that might be the popular answer but it won't be the effective answer and it won't be the long-term answer that this province needs. So I would just submit that.

We are not the only ones who have questions about this bill, of course, Mr. Speaker. I refer to a paNOW article shortly after . . . This is from October the 25th, 2018. Some not concerns but questions that Ray Orb and Don Fyrk with SARM [Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities] both had, and what they were wondering about was around funding. One of the things that is not clarified in this bill: is there additional funding that comes along with this change? You have the ability to join a regional police force as an RM but is there any funding that follows that? Or the question . . . And I'll read the quote from Mr. Orb. "The only concern we have is that we don't want the funding to the RCMP to be cut back anyway because we are still asking for more RCMP officers for greater visibility."

So that is a question that has yet to be answered, and hopefully that will be something that will be answered in committee. The reeve, Mr. Fyrk, said he was ". . . pleased to hear rural crime is a priority, but he added the idea is not a new one." In quotes:

[It] has been kicked out for a couple of years but nobody wanted to grab the bull by the horns. [Everyone] . . . wanted to get involved but . . . [no one] knew how to do it and so they just kept talking about it.

Mr. Speaker, when I started looking at this, I was . . . Initially, I assumed that this was something that had been asked for, perhaps by SARM or by others. I do note that the minister — I'm just looking for the quote here, Mr. Speaker — after this bill was announced, noted that this didn't come from any particular ask. So I guess that will maybe be a question that we have as the opposition and the critic will have, is what the impetus was for this bill. Who was asking for it? What consultation perhaps happened prior to this? What evidence there is from other jurisdictions that this is an effective way to promote safety, as is the stated goal by the minister in her second reading speech.

[16:00]

All those questions and more I'm sure, Mr. Speaker. Just a minute. I think that another question that we have, as I've noted, is around the funding. Are there expanded resources to go along

with this? How will this work in concert with the existing police forces, with the RCMP, with the other aspects of the rural crime strategy? And those questions remain outstanding.

So hopefully by the time we are through committee some of them will be answered. I know that they will be asked. But I do think at this point, I'm coming to the end of my own questions on this bill and will move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 149, *The Police (Regional Policing) Amendment Act, 2018*.

The Speaker: — The member's moved to adjourn debate. 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 Regina Northeast.

Mr. Pedersen: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased today to participate in the debate on this bill. So I guess I'll start by saying that, on this side of the House, we have no problem with the concept of making sure that criminals don't profit from their crimes, and so to the extent that this legislation accomplishes that, we don't have any issue with that.

But I think there are some concerns with this legislation. Perhaps where I'll start, Mr. Speaker, is with some comments that Derek From, a lawyer with the Canadian Constitution Foundation made, and I'll refer you to some of those comments, Mr. Speaker.

So the first thing Mr. From said was this, and I quote, "Civil forfeiture laws allow the government to take your property from you even if you haven't committed any crime or what the laws call unlawful acts." And so that, Mr. Speaker, strikes me as a bit of overreach. It's one thing to take property from criminals that are proceeds of their crime, that are furthering their crimes, that are profits from their crimes, but to take property from somebody who hasn't committed a crime, or hasn't done something unlawful, that strikes me as a bit of an overreach. And it strikes me as further surprising from a government that today, Mr. Speaker, moved to enhance the rights of property owners. So it seems to me that they're trying to talk out of both sides of their mouth when it comes to property rights.

Going on, Mr. From, from the CCF [Canadian Constitution Foundation], noted that in 2016 that organization, the Canadian Constitution Foundation, their report in 2016 noted that they gave Saskatchewan a D grade on its forfeiture legislation on policies. One of the things that they drew attention to was the balance of proof in that it's less than the standard of proof in criminal proceedings.

One of the things that Mr. From said, and again, I'll quote from him, "There's hundreds of thousands of dollars of property taken every year and no one has any clue where the money goes." In

the news story, it said that, "The police receive a portion of the profits from their own policing activity," and I'm reading from a CBC report. Actually I'll just read the CBC news story directly in, Mr. Speaker:

From said that creates an incentive for them to go after someone's property.

"Now we are looking at policing for profit. The police who are supposed to be protecting the public and deterring crime, these sorts of things, and protecting the rights of Canadians to own and enjoy property, now have an incentive to strip them of their property."

From said they have found no evidence of corruption, "but the stage is set for corruption to happen."

"There's no obligations on any of these civil forfeiture regimes in any province, including Saskatchewan, to be accountable to taxpayers or even elected officials by saying, 'Look we collected this much and we dispersed this much money and this is how we are spending the money,'" From said.

So those are some of the concerns that organization raised, Mr. Speaker, and I think, you know, these are people with some expertise under their belt and those concerns should not be lightly dismissed.

Now I also note that the Minister of Corrections and Policing said when she, at the time she introduced the bill, she said, I quote, "We are committed to ensuring property is taken out of the hands of criminals." The problem, Mr. Speaker, is that this bill doesn't just target criminals; it goes beyond criminals. In fact a news story by Adam Hunter also at CBC, from November 14th, he notes right in there, "The province doesn't have to prove that the property was part of criminal activity and it doesn't require a conviction before seizing money or property." So this is a bill that goes beyond just taking money and property from criminals. It actually takes money and property potentially from people who are not involved in the crime.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I want to go through a few parts of the bill itself. So first of all there's, in section 4 of the bill, which adds a new section 10.01, that section is what I would call as a lawyer, a fairly draconian response to some procedural faults. So what it's saying is that if somebody in a proceeding doesn't show up, you know, for part of the court process, basically they lose their entire right. They basically waive their right to their own property.

Now normally, Mr. Speaker, when we deal with procedural defaults in the legal system, we leave that up to the court's discretion. We leave that up to a judge to decide whether the case has truly been made out that these people should be punished. And if they should be punished, then the judge will usually punish them. But to say you lose, you would lose your own property in this proceeding simply because you didn't show up and can't prove that you had a lawful excuse, that's a pretty draconian response, Mr. Speaker.

The second section I want to draw your attention to is section 6 of the bill which amends section 10.3 of the legislation, and again

this is kind of dealing with those procedural defaults. And basically what the proposal is, is it's saying if the respondent or the person who's, you know, looking at losing their property, doesn't give an address, or if the director isn't able to verify the address, well all the minister has to do is publish a notice on the minister's website.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I have some difficulty with that. I mean I was first introduced to the concept of email in 1993, I believe. So here we are 25 years later, and this legislation says, only provides for notice in person or by mail. And if you don't do those then the only notice you get is some notice that's buried in the internet on the ministry website, where I'm quite sure nobody is looking.

Why isn't there provision for notice by email? We have umpteen dozen ways to get a hold of each other now. We can FaceTime. We can text. We can Snapchat. We can use all of these different tools and media now to get a hold of each other, but this legislation is stuck in the 1970s and it only provides for notice in person or postal address. That strikes me as a bit of a problem, Mr. Speaker, especially when you're talking about taking somebody's property.

Now my third concern is in section 10 of the bill, and this is adding a number of sections. Now I didn't have a great deal of time to dig into this, but it's referencing a number of sections of the Criminal Code that don't appear to currently be part of the Criminal Code, or at least I couldn't find them on the federal Department of Justice website for the Criminal Code. So obviously we'd want to make sure that our legislation is actually referring to current, in-force legislation of the federal government if we are using it as a reference point.

My fourth concern is in the new section 16.3 of the bill, and this is introducing a new presumption. Just to back up, the sections around section 16 of the bill, or section 16 of the legislation, provide these presumptions, and it basically puts a reverse onus on people in certain circumstances to prove that they weren't involved in some sort of criminal activity, that they should lose their property.

And so in the new section 16.3, what it's talking about is gang-related firearm activity. Now I don't think you'd find too many concerns on this side of the House about keeping firearms out of the hands of gangs. But from a legal point of view, I've got a concern in that this section is introducing a new definition of "gang" when the rest of the legislation talks about "criminal organizations," and it's adopting the term "criminal organization" from the Criminal Code.

And any time you introduce two different terms that probably mean the same thing, that creates the potential for confusion, differing interpretations. And when I look at the definition of "criminal organization" in the Criminal Code, it's pretty broad and I think would encompass everything that the ministry wants to achieve with its definition of "gang." So I'm wondering why they wouldn't just use the term "criminal organization" instead of this new definition of "gang."

Then we move on to section 16.4 of the legislation as it will be amended, and this is adding a new presumption that where property is used in connection with specified sexual offences that that property can be seized. And I think, Mr. Speaker, that this

section is again probably reaching to a broader group of people than it ought to. Obviously the offences that are listed there are bad offences. These are not things that we want to condone in any way. But what the subsection (2) does is it allows property to be taken from people who didn't necessarily even have any involvement in that. So if they just happened to own the house where that activity occurred, regardless of whether they had any knowledge or participation in it, they can lose their house or property.

[16:15]

Now I don't think it would be at all unreasonable if you're operating some place, for instance, where one of these offences involving children is involved and it's your house and you're doing this to further your criminal activity, I don't think you'd find too many people that would object to that. But taking property away from people who you haven't proved even had anything to do with the offence, that seems to be going a little bit far or maybe I should say a lot far, Mr. Speaker. That seems to be overreaching.

One of the things that we've also noticed, Mr. Speaker, and it's not, I guess it's not directly tied to the wording of the legislation, but when we look at the financial records we notice that there has been an increase in the actual numbers of civil forfeitures over the years, but the amount of money that is actually being collected is declining. So in other words, we're taking action against more people but actually getting less money. And it just kind of makes you wonder about the effectiveness of some of these provisions.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I think I will wrap up my comments and I will 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. 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 Saskatoon Centre.

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise and enter into the debate on *The Personal Property Security Amendment Act*. And it's a very important one and it is interesting in terms of what it means to ordinary people, but also those who are heavily involved in personal property security and what that looks like in this modern age.

And of course it is a changing world, isn't it, Mr. Speaker. When we have bitcoin issues and, you know, just on an interesting side here, I found it fascinating about how the production of the bitcoins . . . and actually bitcoins are nothing but a statement of worth. But actually how you acquire bitcoins is your computer,

the machine, is actually consuming energy trying to resolve mathematical problems and the more the money is worth, the tougher the problem. And I mean it's hard to imagine, it's hard to fathom this.

But the person talking about this . . . and it was on a credible radio. It was on CBC, Mr. Speaker, and I know the folks over there have a difficult time with CBC. They tend to think that . . . I don't know what, but it has a long history of being accurate, and yes. And so I would just say, you know, it's sometimes painful to be criticized by them. I've had that unfortunate pleasure of being criticized by them, I think more than once or twice.

But at any rate they were talking about the value of the energy going into figuring out these mathematical problems of bitcoins, and that they're actually pretty significant, that in fact you're spending more energy solving these mathematical problems than you are mining gold and getting actual gold out of the ground. It was very interesting. It's something that we don't often think of, Mr. Speaker, about how much energy our modern age, particularly our technology, consumes. But we take it for granted, you know, because we don't see the production of the energy. We can imagine. We can see in our mind, the production of gold and silver, but we can't imagine these, you know, how much these computers that are working through these mathematical situations.

So, Mr. Speaker, I digressed there for just a brief moment, but I thought it was very interesting, because when we think about how our world is changing and the old establishment about having things based on the value of gold, and that was how we establish things, but now that, in fact, personal property and values are established, in fact, by other means, and it is a bit amazing.

So what this bill does, it introduces new definitions and updates language uses. The previous Act establishes procedures to be observed for the control of the electronic record of the transaction. And of course, this will be an interesting thing because we hear about the disintegration of electronic records that, again, while we have problem in archives where ink fades, paper deteriorates, that in fact the same thing can happen with electronic records, particularly as we move from one platform to another and we're not bringing the old material up. But it's almost like an inverted pyramid, where you have more and more stuff that you have to convert to the new platform, and you have to keep adding and adding. You know, it's sort of like the old record collection. Then you went through the eight-tracks, then you went to the CDs [compact disc], and all this you have to keep bringing into the new platform. So this will be very interesting to see.

It outlines the purpose of a purchase money security interest and inventory, how that is done; general rules in determining the validity of interests by the law of jurisdiction in which the collateral is situated. And, Mr. Speaker, you know, I almost feel, as we get through this jungle of legalese, that it is really something.

And I appreciate that the minister, and I think this is actually the first time I've recalled where the government side, on either side, has acknowledged the leadership of one person in particular. And the minister at the time, and this was back on November 19th,

2018, the minister made a point of talking about Professor Ron Cuming, and recognize that he's "... been a leader in the development and operation of personal property law and registries in Canada." And so a shout-out to Professor Cuming, I believe who's at the University of Saskatchewan, and well deserved. As we get tangled into the legalese, it's very important that we have people who have followed this and really in fact led this discussion for many, many years in the development of this. This is very, very important.

So now the minister talks about "These changes will ensure that ... [the] ... commercial advantage is maintained for Saskatchewan businesses and consumers." We sure hope that's the case, that really is the case. We heard a very disturbing story yesterday about ... on CBC again, that ... And I don't want to say that only my news source is ... I want to give a shout-out to CTV [Canadian Television Network Ltd.] as well. You know, I feel I'm a well-rounded fellow when it comes to the media sources ... [inaudible interjection] ... Yes. Oh, Fox? I don't know about Fox. Now we're getting into American stuff, but when I want entertainment I think I tune into Fox and see what's happening there.

But as I was saying, as I digress, I heard a very disturbing story of a woman whose dad had invested \$250,000 in an unnamed company, and the accountant, the long-time accountant for the family, didn't recall how much or where it was at. In fact this story was happening in Ontario, but unfortunately we've read in the papers about another situation in terms of investment just a few short weeks ago. But in this case, the reluctance of the local police to get involved because they just didn't have the expertise, they don't have the expertise to get involved with white-collar crime, and especially nowadays when some of it is online. And it's just very, very difficult to have a strategy to solve it, so it's easier to say we just don't think there's anything here.

But yet there sure was. The family was out a quarter of a million dollars. Their accountant was less than helpful, not helping at all, and because the father was still alive but with dementia, the local police were unwilling to move forward. Now, I understand, the RCMP is getting involved and as well as some local law students from the local university.

But again it just shows how big of an issue this is, and when we're talking about consumers and investors, that this is important law that we have before us, and so we can't take this lightly. And as I said, we appreciate the good work that our academics, particularly Professor Cuming, is doing in this area, and the fact that the government is relying on that advice.

And so it would be interesting when we go into committee to talk about this because it is something that the language is very specific and the meanings are of their own and ones that are not of the common dialect. I would think that Shakespeare would have a lot of fun with this, and particularly when I talk about the "clarifies perfection" rules when goods are removed from one jurisdiction to another. So what does that mean? And it talks about standardized future and all of that.

But we have experts in these areas, and we need to make sure that we use them fully and that we work with this. One of the other rules we talk about is setting up the rules to determine where a debtor is located for the purpose of conflict rules. Now it is

interesting, and we've seen many pieces of legislation come forward from this government, particularly when we talk about uniform law and how we want to establish that in Canada, in fact actually internationally because it is something that we live in a global society, particularly when it comes to how fast money can travel and move around the country, around the globe.

And I've remarked more than once in this House that if you go to a post office on Friday afternoon and watch for how people are sending money back home to their family in another country, it's no small thing. It's something that really, really matters, and as we talk about another piece of legislation before us, the foreign workers, this is one that's really meaningful for them because they're trusting the money will travel and that it will get there, and that all of it will get there and everything is on the up and up. And while most of these are good, upstanding, corporate citizens, there are some that makes you wonder, in terms of the transfer of money, what's really happening.

So this is something that we need to watch. And so again there is a lot of work here, and as the minister said, he's directed his Justice officials to continue to work with Professor Cuming and the Canadian Conference on Personal Property Security Law. He wants to work to get to a precise uniformity as much as possible.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I think this is a very important piece of legislation. It's one that, as we understand that there is a lot of wealth, particularly among retirees or near retirees, that could create issues and a lot of ambiguity. And when we're dealing with things electronically, it is a problem. And so, Mr. Speaker, I know as I said earlier, we do have a lot of work to get through today, but this one is one that I think is very timely. As I said with the news story yesterday morning, I couldn't believe how a family could lose a quarter of a million dollars and their accountant — and this is why you hire accountants — says, I don't know. And they don't know where the money is, who is the company, what's involved. They're just going to have to live with it. And hopefully it can get resolved and hopefully there will be justice served in this.

[16:30]

But, Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the good work of, I said, of the folks who did the research on this and the fact that, as I said, language is important and the accuracy is huge. But I know they will have a lot more to talk about, and I look forward to seeing this in further discussion. So with that, Mr. Speaker, I would move that we adjourn debate on Bill No. 151, *The Personal Property Security Amendment Act, 2018*. 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.

Bill No. 152

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 152 — *The Builders' Lien (Prompt Payment) Amendment Act, 2018*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I'm rising to enter into the debate on the Act to amend *The Builders' Lien Act*. It's called *The Builders' Lien (Prompt Payment) Amendment Act, 2018*.

You know, when you look at a name of a bill like that, it sounds kind of self-evident. Yes, people should make payments promptly. That's what's supposed to happen. But when you look at the history of this bill, Mr. Speaker, and where it's coming from, apparently not everybody's making prompt payments.

And so the construction industry has been asking for this kind of legislation to require people and set up a process for prompt payment for those that are delinquent in making those payments.

The whole idea of a builders' lien is one that's completely statutory. Under the common law, there was absolutely no way to put an encumbrance on a title or a deed of property for monies owed. And so the whole builders' lien statutory intervention in the common law has led to a fairly considerable body of law in and of itself, Mr. Speaker. And I believe pretty much every jurisdiction in Canada, if not in the Commonwealth, has now introduced builders' lien legislation. It's been around for probably several decades now. But obviously the refinements that are being proposed here are ones that weren't considered necessary I believe at the time that the builders' lien regime came into effect.

And I do want to give a shout-out at this point to Brent Gough, a lawyer from Saskatoon who was kind of like the leading voice on builders' lien and actually wrote a practitioners' manual that is available through the Law Society of Saskatchewan. And it was written in 1994. I remember that well because I had just finished law school and I was actually doing my articles, Mr. Speaker, and we had presentations from Mr. Gough on *The Builders' Lien Act*. And he certainly was highly regarded, much like Professor Cuming is in the personal and property security registry. So we have a lot of able practitioners here in Saskatchewan, legal professionals who are making contributions to the construction industry, for example, in this particular instance, and also to the home builders' associations.

And this kind of legal procedure has been instrumental I guess in many ways in the construction industry and the home builders' industry, the real estate world, where we need to make sure that people are able to get paid. And I think that was the original impetus behind builders' liens, was just getting paid, period. I mean builders didn't have any legal mechanism to be able to ensure that they're paid. And so when a statute with builders' lien provisions in it came along, what it effectively did was it would allow the builders, the person who constructed the home or the building, to actually place a lien on the title of the owner.

It was considered probably, at the time, fairly radical because those types of liens were never ones that you could enter on a title for property, for real estate. Normally you would only see maybe mortgages or easements of some sort would be registered against a title. But for the idea for a builder to put a lien on it, what that means then is that owner cannot sell the property without paying that debt or passing it on to the new purchaser. So there's an actual warning on the title saying, hey new purchaser, if you buy this house from this guy you are taking on his debt to this builder.

Obviously the builders also have access to the civil courts to sue for payment, and that's a remedy that is available to pretty much anybody who's owed money, Mr. Speaker. But I think the problem in the construction industry was so great that legislatures across Canada and in the Commonwealth have seen fit to give builders this tool of a builders' lien to protect themselves and to ensure I guess that they got paid.

Now if you look at the title of this bill, Mr. Speaker, obviously just having the ability to place a lien has not helped builders as much as they need to be helped, because even if you have a lien on the Act it doesn't ensure that you will be paid promptly. And I know we all like getting paid promptly when we're owed money and I can . . . Just a small experience from my own personal life is when a group of musicians that I know does shows at a school, for example. They'll go and do a school show, but we don't get paid when the school show is over. We have to file an invoice and then the invoice has to go through the school board. And often it can be weeks before these musicians are paid, Mr. Speaker, and quite often those musicians would like prompt payment as well.

So the idea of prompt payment isn't unique to the construction industry. I would think anyone who exists in an invoicing world would like to be paid the day of, but invoices are, as you know, Mr. Speaker, fairly widespread throughout, I would say, any service industry or retailing, all kinds of things where if you buy . . . If you're a shoe store owner and you buy shoes, I imagine you get invoiced for the payment of those shoes and you may not pay for those shoes the next day. You might want to use your 30-day or your 60-day or your 90-day warnings on the invoices to decide when you're going to pay for those shoes.

So prompt payment I think is something that must be desired across the board, no matter what industry you're in, no matter how you're being paid. Prompt is kind of a good thing. And I'm sure when producers, farmers, sell wheat or cattle, they'd like to be paid promptly. I mean that was, I guess, one of the advantages of something like the Canadian Wheat Board where there's actually an interim payment where you were actually given money before the wheat was even sold, Mr. Speaker. Because that's the grease that keeps those wheels moving in any industry. And so advance payments are probably even better than prompt payment. And I think those kinds of things are desirable.

So when the construction industry has come to governments across Canada — this is not unique to Saskatchewan, if I understand correctly — they are saying to the legislatures of their particular provinces, look, there's an issue here. And as you can imagine, if you're a builder and you have subcontractors that are working for you, they also want to be paid promptly, Mr. Speaker. Well you can't pay them promptly if you haven't been paid promptly. So this has a real trickle-down effect for the construction industry that I think has become an issue to the point where they're coming to legislatures across Canada and saying, we need help here; we need help from some form of law that will require people to pay their bills promptly.

The other thing I think that's quite complicated in construction, Mr. Speaker, is holdbacks where, you know, owners can hold back a certain amount of the payment before something is substantially completed. And these are all concepts that are set out in the existing builders' lien law here in Saskatchewan. It's

complicated. I think it's fairly detailed in terms of how people are paid. But if you look at the actual existing law that we have in Saskatchewan, there's a number of sections in the bill.

The first part is the trust provisions. And these are trusts that are, legal trusts that are created in the Act. I'll just take a quick look at one of them. For example, the owner's trust in section 6 says that any money that the owner receives to be used in financing an improvement constitute a trust. So if you're doing an addition on your home or if you're building a new Quonset and you borrow some money from a financial institution and you've got some money for that improvement, that is actually a legal trust that you now have in order, which creates obligations to the people that are doing the work for you as an owner.

A contractor also has trusts. These are set out in section 7 of the Act, and then subcontractors' trusts. Because every time you're receiving money to pay somebody else, that creates a trust in the building industry. And, Mr. Speaker, I am very, very superficially treating this. I mean this is a very rudimentary way of describing what is in fact a very complicated process.

There's also a trust created for insurance proceeds. So if your house burns down and you have a payout by your insurance company and you're hiring someone to reconstruct that building, that creates a trust. So you have an obligation to do certain things with those funds. So part II of the existing Act is about trust provisions.

Part III of the existing Act deals with the actual lien itself. So how do you put a lien on land? And for example, in section 22, that lien can also extend to the mineral rights if you have title to that. So you can put a title on the surface title; you can also put a lien on the mineral title. It deals with joint interest, common interest, leasehold interests, condominiums. So you can see that's a fairly complex portion of the bill itself.

Part IV of the existing bill is the holdback. And that's where owners have some rights. If the work isn't done satisfactorily, you are able to actually hold back some of that. And there's a whole section in the bill dealing with holdbacks, which aren't being amended in this new bill, Mr. Speaker.

Part V is how you register your lien. When does the lien expire? And how is the lien discharged from the title?

There's also a whole section, part VI, on priorities. If you are a builder and put a lien on somebody's title and then they take a subsequent mortgage, who has priority? In terms of if there's a forced sale for bankruptcy or anything like that, who has priority?

Part VII is the additional remedies; part VIII is jurisdiction and procedure; and part IX is the general rules.

So it's a fairly well-thought-out regime, Mr. Speaker. But I'm just going to refer now to some of the materials that have been published across Canada on this concept of prompt payment. Right off the hop, we have something like . . . The Saskatchewan Construction Association you will recall were here in the Assembly, Mr. Speaker, when the minister introduced the bill. So they obviously have a very vested interest in this bill and have been writing a lot about it.

So even in their own magazine called *We Build* they wrote a . . . The issue was called the procurement issue and one of the feature articles was a lawyer from Robertson Stromberg who talked about, "What can contractors expect from prompt payment legislation?" And she actually did a quick review of the Ontario process, but basically it is creating a whole new set of paperwork for everyone involved. The whole definition of proper invoice. So once a construction company is able to do a proper invoice on the building of the building or whatever it is they're constructing, then the owner's payment obligation is triggered. And this sets off a whole cascade of things happening now, Mr. Speaker. So that's sort of the way the process is. You can pay within 28 days. If you don't think you should pay, you have to serve a notice of nonpayment. That goes through the constructor, and then the contractor, and then at that point the contractor can do the same thing with his subcontractors. And as you can imagine, if there's a number of sub-sub-subs, then it can get very, very complicated and lots of paperwork will be filed.

[16:45]

The SCA, the Saskatchewan Construction Association, has joined an organization called Prompt Payment Saskatchewan, which has been the main, I think, lobbyist for this particular legislation with the government. And this lobby group, Prompt Payment Saskatchewan, is an industry working group with representation from seven other sector-specific trade and professional associations. And so they worked together to lobby the government to come up with this bill.

And one of the things they said in their summary — it's called the policy statement for prompt payment — is . . . I just find this interesting. They said, "When any other purchase is made in our economy, payment is made at the time of purchase." And I don't think that's quite right, Mr. Speaker, because invoices are used across the board for every imaginable part of our economy. So I'm not sure why this group of professionals has decided that payment is being made at the time of purchase everywhere else except in construction. So I found that to be a bit of an odd statement.

But the groups that are involved in this are the Mechanical Contractors Association, Saskatchewan Masonry Institute, Saskatchewan Roofing Contractors Association, Saskatchewan Association of Architects, General Contractors Association, Electrical Contractors Association, Canadian Institute of Steel Construction, and of course the Saskatchewan Construction Association.

But I'm just thinking of . . . I had my shingles redone on my house this year and I didn't make prompt payment because I got the invoice, and then once you get your invoice then you make payment. So I'm not sure why they would make such a statement that payment is made at the time of purchase when it's really difficult to do that in situations where invoices are involved.

Mr. Speaker, there are some very significant concerns about this bill as well. And I think one of the things I found very strange was the minister's comments in the second reading speech, because he indicated that . . . Normally when you think of legislation, the government consults first and then introduces the legislation second. But the minister is very clear in this bill that that's not the case for this particular bill. And what he said was

this: he said, “This bill will amend *The Builders’ Lien Act* to add two new parts . . .” Here’s what he said: “Introduction at this time will allow for the broadest possible consultation to occur respecting the proposed revisions and their scope of application.” But, Mr. Speaker, this was on November 21st, 2018.

On October 3rd the Saskatoon & Region Home Builders’ Association actually wrote a letter to the minister asking to be consulted. And this was two months before the bill was introduced in the House. So it’s really not clear why the minister and his officials didn’t consult with the Saskatoon & Region Home Builders’ Association.

Now they’ve raised some very, very significant concerns about prompt payment legislation, Mr. Speaker, none of which were addressed in the minister’s second reading speech comments. So he’s had this letter quite a while but chose not to reflect some of the concerns about this legislation. So I’ll just get them a little bit on the record now, Mr. Speaker.

In this letter from October 3rd, 2018, they have indicated they have significant concerns about the lack of consultation to date. I’ll quote that. “In short, we have . . .” This is the quote:

In short, we have significant concerns about the lack of consultation to date with the development and residential construction industry regarding prompt payment legislation.

They go on further at the bottom of the first page:

We have significant concerns with prompt payment legislation. Our position is based on not just the concept of the legislation but also, perhaps even more importantly, the current landscape in which our members find themselves.

The housing market in Saskatchewan is experiencing significant negative pressure from what we can now describe as a policy-stacking issue. All levels of government, local to national, have negatively impacted our local market in the past two years, and the result is that housing is less affordable in Saskatchewan than it used to be.

And now what’s one of those stacking effects that has actually been levied upon the Home Builders’ Association? Well guess what, Mr. Speaker? It’s this government’s PST on construction. That’s one of the layers of stacking that the Home Builders’ Association is currently dealing with. And here’s what they have to say about the PST, and this is a quote:

We are now approaching the 18-month mark since PST changes were implemented, and we have a market that is not only seriously underperforming but is also being negatively impacted by numerous policies, red tape, and other obstacles all at once. From drywall tariffs, steel tariffs, changes to qualifying rules on unsecured and secured mortgages, increasing municipal regulations, our industry is facing a growing list of substantial changes and challenges. Many of our members have reflected that they often feel that every time a developer or builder turns around, there’s another expense, obstacle, cost, restraint, or red tape that negatively impacts the industry and the cost of home ownership in Saskatchewan.

And, Mr. Speaker, often we hear about red tape, and this is something that this government has prided itself on removing, is red tape. And we know the Federation of Independent Businesses has a contest, you know, for the worst red tape in Saskatchewan. And so red tape is something this government was supposed to be fighting against, but it sounds like the Home Builders’ Association is finding more and more of that regardless.

One of the things they point out in their letter is this, Mr. Speaker: “One of the major concerns of prompt payment legislation is that it could turn the temporary cash crunch of a small builder into a much bigger problem” because often these things are also stackable in the way that a builder may be working on one project and starting another and finishing another. And so they run into cash crunches that could basically put them out of business if this prompt payment legislation were to come into effect. So that’s a big concern.

One of the calls by the Home Builders’ Association in its letter is, “We propose an exemption for all community development and residential construction.”

Now this went to the minister in October. There is no sign of that exemption in the new bill, Mr. Speaker. But again because of the lengthy and much-expanded regulatory section in section 104, perhaps that is something that the regulations might deal with. But again here in the House we have no way of knowing if that’s going to be addressed and that concern of the Home Builders’ Association of Saskatoon is going to be addressed. So it really prohibits, I think, rigorous debate on that topic because we don’t even know whether it’s going to be dealt with or not.

There is a new section part I.1, and again we get into a lot of wonky numbering here, Mr. Speaker, but in terms of the new part I.1 is the prompt payment section in the new bill. And one of the sections there is section 5.11. This is in the bill:

Non-application of Part

This Part does not apply to prescribed persons or classes of persons.

Well who’s that going to be, Mr. Speaker? We don’t know. And this is what’s really frustrating about talking about these bills here in the Assembly and trying to debate them because we don’t know who those prescribed persons are going to be. And does that address the concerns of the Saskatoon Home Builders’ Association? Don’t have a clue.

And again that’s, I think, a real frustration when it comes to modern legislation drafting, is that it’s very difficult for the official opposition, for the people that our obligation is to shine a light on the activities of this government, and yet much of the activity is happening after the bill is passed. So it’s incredibly difficult to ensure that the concerns of the stakeholders, when new legislation comes in, is actually being dealt with. Mr. Speaker, the prompt payment section is quite detailed.

And I think something that’s very interesting in this bill is another part called part II.1, which is “Dispute Interim Adjudication.” So what they’re introducing here is a whole new layer of administration called the Adjudication Authority. So the government is setting up a new authority. They’ll have to train

adjudicators. They're going to have to make sure that people have access to this whole new authority, and the powers of the authority are described in section 21.13. The minister is obviously the interim authority anytime the minister wants to be, which is the minister's prerogative according to 21(2).

The "Availability of adjudication," how that's going to work? "Adjudication procedures," you can have a consolidated adjudication. You have to have adjudicators. The adjudicators have to be paid. There has to be "Documents for adjudication," "Conduct of adjudication," and a determination will be made. What's the "Effect of the determination"? Who pays the costs? How do you set aside? What if it's frivolous or vexatious? How do you enforce these payment amounts? I mean, that gets into a whole other area. If you get an order for prompt payment and you still don't make the prompt payment, then what happens, Mr. Speaker? So you can imagine the kind of layers of complications. And then ultimately, enforcement by the court, which is of course where we go now, is to the court for these kinds of enforcement proceedings.

So I do have questions whether or not this will be effective or if it's just going to add layers of complexity to an already existing problem, but again without knowing exactly how it's going to look.

If you look at section 104, which is the regulations section, in the current bill there's only five items. Under this bill, we are now looking at two full pages of regulation-making authority that's being handed over to Executive Council, Mr. Speaker. So sometimes I wonder, when we're, you know, looking at democracy through the eyes of Executive Council, it may be a lens that isn't really representative of the people and the people's needs. But it's a very long section, and we'll have to take a very close look at it in the committee meeting, Mr. Speaker.

Unfortunately, I think I've basically come to the end of my comments on this bill. And I'm not sure if there's more to say at this point, despite encouragement by the individual following me in this adjourned debates. Maybe I could undertake to make a summary, Mr. Speaker, of what I've covered today in summation. That's what I will do.

Just to go through the bill again, under this bill there's a whole new part being added and it has to do with adjudication of the prompt payment that is being alleged. So we're creating adjudicators and we're creating a new Adjudication Authority under the definition clause. There's a new subsection 3(3) and 3(4) that talks about the adjudicator's determination in part II.1 and whether or not that can be added.

And this is in section 3 of the existing Act, is in the introductory part, and that's when a contract is substantially performed. So how do you add the adjudication payment to the performance of the contract itself when it's partially performed? As I said before, the prompt payment section, I didn't go into much detail on that, Mr. Speaker, but prompt payment under part I.1 has a whole structure set up in terms of how do you establish what is a prompt payment and when it's due.

So there's a definition in the first part, section 5.1, which defines what a proper invoice is. And this, as I mentioned earlier, would be the kickoff of this whole prompt payment process that's being

statutorily created. So the proper invoice has to have a whole bunch of different things in it in order to be designated as a proper invoice. As I mentioned earlier, there's non-application of this part, but we don't know to whom that will be because we don't know who those persons will be in the regulations.

Section 5.2, the "Requirement to pay is subject to the requirement to retain holdback." So although you may submit your proper invoice for the whole amount, that doesn't mean that the owner still couldn't hold back some under the holdback provisions. If there's unfinished work to be done, you don't have to pay the whole bill because you know what can happen then, Mr. Speaker. Pay in full and then you don't get the whole proper treatment. And I think we've all been involved in situations like that at some point in our lives.

Section 5.3 deals with the giving of proper invoices. Section 5.4 talks about the payment deadlines from owner to contractor. Section 5.5 is really long. It's a full page, Mr. Speaker, and it talks about payment deadlines from the contractor to the subcontractor. So you can imagine the whole cascading effect that happens when prompt payment is demanded at the top of the line.

I think, Mr. Speaker, having received advice from my colleague, that there's going to be a lot more questions in relation to this once we get into committee, and certainly other of my colleagues are going to want to comment. So at this point I would move that we adjourn debate on *The Builders' Lien (Prompt Payment) Amendment Act, 2018*, and that is Bill No. 152.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Saskatoon Nutana has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 152. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

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

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

[The Assembly adjourned at 17:00.]

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