



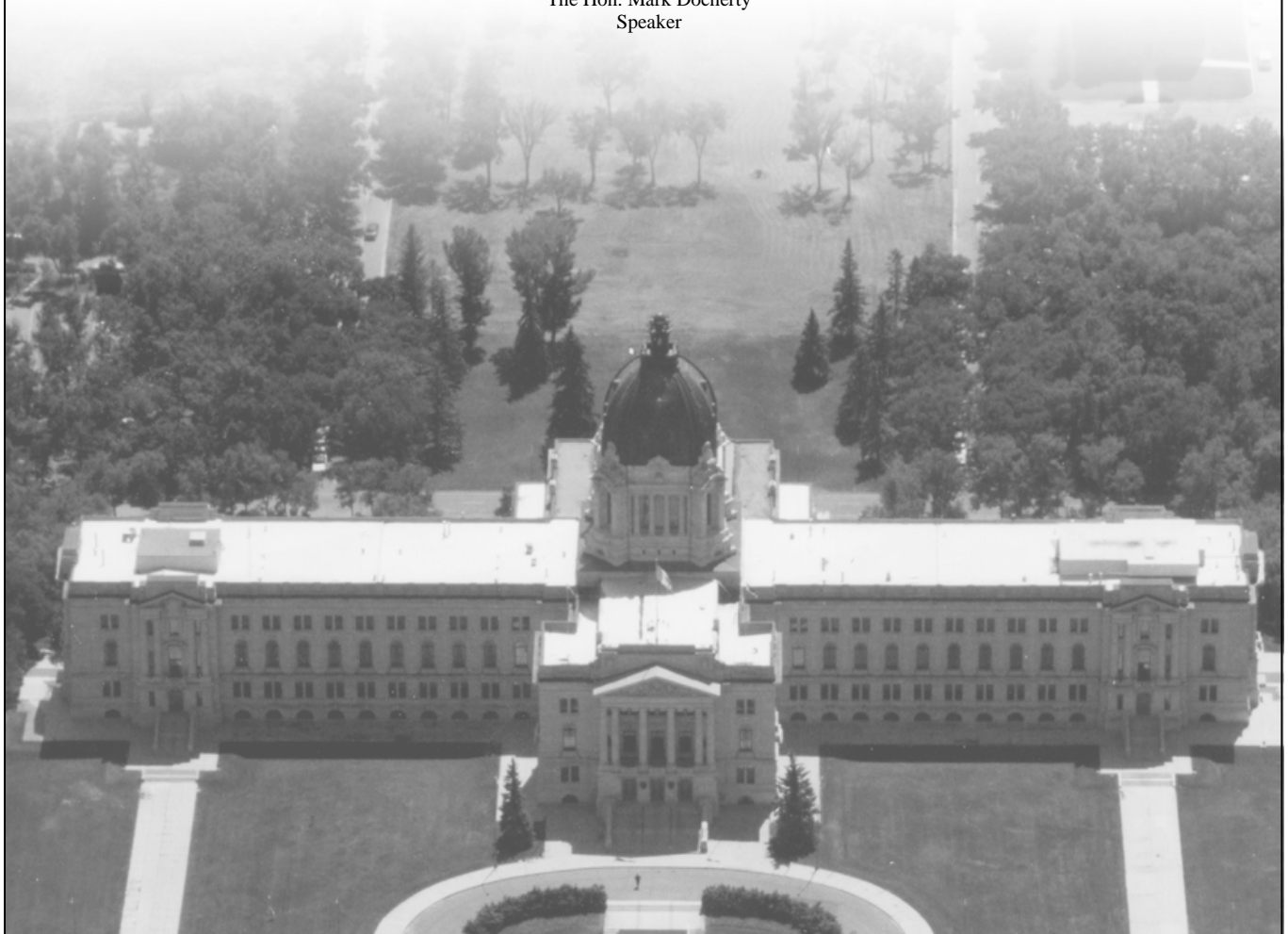
THIRD SESSION - TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

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



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

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

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Goudy , Todd — Melfort (SP)	Steinley , Warren — Regina Walsh Acres (SP)
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Lambert , Lisa — Saskatoon Churchill-Wildwood (SP)	Young , Colleen — Lloydminster (SP)
Lawrence , Greg — Moose Jaw Wakamow (SP)	

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

Clerks-at-the-Table

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[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — I'd ask for leave to make a statement.

The Speaker: — The Premier has asked for leave to make a statement. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

STATEMENT BY A MEMBER

Power Outage

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thank you to the members of this Assembly. As you're all aware, yesterday a widespread power outage impacted a significant portion of our province of Saskatchewan. It was one of the biggest power outages that Saskatchewan has ever experienced.

The heavy frost we experienced this week caused power lines to sag and fall, and there was damage to high-voltage transmission lines throughout the Southeast. Shand, Poplar River, and Boundary dam power stations were all tripped as a result of this, and SaskPower estimates that between 175 to 200,000 of their customers lost power at some point over the course of the past couple of days — nearly a third of their customers, Mr. Speaker.

SaskPower alone had hundreds of people across the province working hard to restore power to their customers and our residents. There were crews on the ground. There were crews in the air with helicopters, spotting for damage. SaskPower crews and contractor crews were engaged in repairing the damage. Customer service and outage centre employees fielded approximately 45,000 calls over the last couple of days. Media officers relayed information to the public and to customers across the province.

Everyone worked tirelessly to ensure that power was restored quickly — and it was — and safely to the people of this province. It was an all-hands-on-deck situation. The Crowns, the ministries, and several agencies across the province worked tirelessly through the night to keep our citizens safe and to ensure that the services would come back online. SaskEnergy worked along SaskPower throughout the outage so that the return to service for customers didn't result in the lights coming on but very shortly after, the heat going out.

So at this time we want to acknowledge, Mr. Speaker, from SaskPower, the IBEW [International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers] members working at both the generation plants and in the field to restore power to the people and the residents and the families of this province. We want to acknowledge and thank the members from Unifor working in the call centres and in support functions throughout the province. We want to acknowledge the customer service and communications staff for ensuring that the public was getting all of the information that they needed to stay

safe and to stay up to date of the situation.

We want to thank the power line contractors for assisting SaskPower on the repairs to the damages that were present. And from SaskEnergy, all of the technicians, the field operators, the gas controllers, the engineers — thank you, as well as any additional staff that we had ready should this switch from being a power outage to a gas outage.

SaskTel also worked tirelessly to ensure that they had generators and battery backups in place to keep our province's core network running smoothly. Their staff was on 24-hour notice yesterday to keep the generators fuelled and functioning, which needs to be recognized by us here today.

I'd also like to thank the team at the Ministry of Government Relations for once again helping to organize and coordinate a provincial response, if necessary. Specifically I want to recognize Commissioner Duane McKay and his team for their hard work reaching out to communities that were affected by this outage and ensuring that they had the support and the resources to overcome the events of the day.

And I want to thank the RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police] for their role in ensuring citizen safety and order was maintained in communities throughout Saskatchewan.

And I want to thank our health care professionals for providing high-quality care in what was quite difficult circumstances in many cases.

Currently SaskPower is feeling confident about where we are today, but we're not out of the woods by any stretch. There's still frost out on our lines, Mr. Speaker. SaskPower is keeping a close eye on this situation and they are doing everything that they can to ensure that service is not disrupted again.

Yesterday the hard-working people at our Crowns and ministries displayed professionalism and unwavering commitment to the people and residents of Saskatchewan. And on behalf of a very grateful province, I want to thank everyone involved. As efforts continue throughout today, I want to remind crews working on the repairs to please come home safe this evening. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Meili: — Mr. Speaker, I ask for leave to respond to the Premier's comment.

The Speaker: — The Leader of the Opposition has asked for leave for a response. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On a cold winter day such as yesterday, certainly the access to power and to heat was of primary concern for people all over the province — lots of folks worried and wondering what they'd be facing in the hours ahead. And I want to join with the Premier in recognizing the

work of SaskEnergy and SaskPower, the IBEW and Unifor members, all the workers who were part of the response to the service being down, as well as the contractors and all the emergency services personnel who worked so hard to make sure that service was returned and that we were ready for whatever difficulties might arise if it did not return quickly.

I want to thank all those who continue to work today to make sure that future interruptions of service are less likely and just speak to the fact that this effort, the group effort that went in around the province is a testament to the strength of our Crown utilities providing, as they do, reliable, quality service through the year but also the responsiveness to be able to react to difficult situations. I'd like to ask all the members to join me and join the Premier in thanking all those who worked so hard to return our service as needed yesterday.

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

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Leave for an extended introduction.

The Speaker: — The minister's asked leave for an extended . . . Well we're not at . . . I'll do introduction of guests first.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it brings me great pleasure to introduce to you and through you to this Assembly one current resident of the constituency of Rosthern-Shellbrook and two previous residents of the constituency of Rosthern-Shellbrook. We have with us Dallas Simmonds from the community of Hafford, Mr. Speaker, just north of the community, as well as Mike Janostin and Shelly Pobran-Janostin who now reside in Regina but did previously reside just down the road from Dallas.

Mr. Speaker, Shelly is no stranger to the members on this side of the Assembly as she has served previously as a chief of staff, Mr. Speaker. And Mike and Shelly are business associates of Dallas.

Mr. Speaker, Dallas Simmonds is a very successful farmer where he farms near Hafford with his parents, Rick and Harlene, in the Hafford-Speers area. And he is a community leader in that region, Mr. Speaker. They have a number of ag service centres in addition to a large farm operation, Raptor Enterprises. And Dallas and his wife Mallory now have three children, Mr. Speaker, and are busy forming the next generation in that area.

They're active volunteers in the community. Dallas is the manager of the Hafford Hawks senior hockey team, a great, tough hockey team, Mr. Speaker. He used to patrol the blue line for that team. I'd go watch once in a while and he'd score a few goals and then he'd take a break on the opposite side of the ice, Mr. Speaker. Now Dallas is busy with his kids, Mr. Speaker, coaching his son's hockey team, managing the senior hockey team, as well as he's president of the Hafford recreation board, Mr. Speaker. And he's a member of the Hafford-Speers branch

of the Royal Canadian Legion where they put on what I would say is just an excellent Remembrance Day ceremony each and every year.

Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to all members of this Assembly I would like to welcome Dallas and Mike and Shelly to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Leave for an extended introduction.

The Speaker: — The minister has asked for leave for an extended introduction. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the minister.

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, I would like to introduce, in your gallery, some very special guests who have joined us and who joined us earlier today for an important announcement for our oil and gas sector.

Mr. Speaker, with us today we have Scott MacFarlane, president and CEO [chief executive officer] of Cathedral Energy Services, and joining him, Troy Smith; David Gowland is also here, manager of government and stakeholder relations. And Kris Bruggencate, VP [vice-president] of engineering at Crescent Point. Jenson Tan is here, Mr. Speaker, vice-president, business development with Vermilion Energy; Siân Pascoe, policy analyst with the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers; and Adam Stewart and Tom Templeton with Millennium Land Ltd.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank each of them for joining us this afternoon as I know a few of them travelled from out of town to be here for the announcement that we made earlier at Cathedral Energy. And I will be saying more about the announced program later in a minister's statement. I would simply ask all members, Mr. Speaker, to welcome these members of industry and these industry leaders to their Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I too as the Energy critic on behalf of the official opposition want to welcome our leaders in the oil and gas sector. I believe that there's no question in our minds that they have a lot of innovation, a lot of investment, and make Saskatchewan an exciting place to do business. So we're pleased to see that they are here today and we're looking forward to responding to the minister's statement. But again on behalf of the official opposition, we welcome all the oil and gas sector players and thank them for their investment and their contribution to the economy of Saskatchewan.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Corrections and Policing.

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the Minister of Energy and Resources in welcoming Troy Smith

and Scott MacFarlane to your legislature here today. Both are with Cathedral Energy, and hosted a wonderful spot to host an announcement. Thank you very much. The Cathedral Energy Services in Saskatchewan, their only location, is located in my constituency of Regina Wascana Plains. Again, welcome, and thank you very much.

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, I'd wish to introduce several people and organizations who are seated in the gallery today. Seated in your gallery, Mr. Speaker, are Lori Johb, president of SFL [Saskatchewan Federation of Labour]. She's here with Debbie Lussier, also of Sask Federation of Labour. She's joined with Crystal Giesbrecht who's from PATHS [Provincial Association of Transition Houses and Services of Saskatchewan], and Hillary Aitken who works at the YWCA [Young Women's Christian Association].

They're here to witness the introduction of our private member's bill, *The Saskatchewan Employment (Support for Survivors of Domestic Violence) Amendment Act, 2018*, which will happen later this afternoon. Mr. Speaker, I'd ask all members to join me in welcoming them to their Assembly.

And while I'm on my feet, Mr. Speaker, I'd also like to introduce an organization, a group who is seated, I think, in several locations in the gallery. Mr. Speaker, they're a group of concerned Regina citizens who call themselves No Business in the Park. They are advocates for Wascana Park, the area which this building is, Mr. Speaker. They've been staunch advocates for equality, equity in the governance structure, as well as a reversal of commercialization in the park, and the need to protect what is the crown jewel of our city, Mr. Speaker. They're joining us in the gallery today, and I'd ask all members to join me in welcoming them to their Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the member opposite in introducing and welcoming Lori Johb and the other leaders to the Assembly today. These are people that work tirelessly on behalf of members of our public service, and provide great service with regard to workplace safety and advocating on behalf of those people. We thank them for the good work that they do, and want to join with them in welcoming them to their Assembly today, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join the member opposite in welcoming those that are here to talk about what is the jewel of our city and our province, Wascana Park. We've had some good discussions across the way. I hope that we continue to have that, so we can lay out the facts on the table. But I would really like to thank those people who are voicing their opinions and their concern about Wascana Park and thank them for being here today.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Kindersley.

[13:45]

Mr. Francis: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, I would like to join with the ministers in welcoming the oil and gas delegation, specifically a couple of young fellows in the back row there, Tom Templeton and Adam Stewart. Up until last March, they were my employees. So it was either I had to leave or they had to go. And I guess I lost. So I would like everyone to join me in welcoming them to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, I would like to introduce some folks from the Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism. I see them up in the gallery and on the floor here today. I had the pleasure yesterday, actually, of taking in their annual Christmas party, which was by candlelight, Mr. Speaker. It was a little chilly and we all had our coats on, or most of us had our coats on, but it was really nice. So I don't know if that might become an annual tradition.

But I just want to thank the folks here today for all the work that they do in advocating for seniors and supporting seniors and working hard to try to develop a seniors strategy that won't just cover health for seniors, but thinking about things like transportation, connection to community, affordability, all things that matter to older adults in our community.

So with that I'd like to ask all members to welcome the Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism to their legislature.

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

Hon. Mr. Kaeding: — Mr. Speaker, to you and through you and all members of the Assembly, seated in your gallery today is the Esterhazy High School. We have 14 grade 12 students here today to take in the goings-on. And with them is Shayna Zubko, who I believe you may recognize as the Saskatchewan teachers' institute steering committee. She's a volleyball coach extraordinaire and just a general great organizer. As well, by being able to get 14 students here today from grade 12 I think is a great accomplishment after the great power outage. And with her today as well is her intern, Chace Bock. And I'd like all members of the Assembly to welcome Esterhazy High School to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I ask leave for extended introduction.

The Speaker: — The minister has asked for leave for an extended introduction. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the minister.

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a great pleasure, to you and through you to all members of the Assembly, I introduced a group of seniors in the Assembly today, some on the floor and some up in your gallery. They're with the

Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism and communities that have been awarded with the age-friendly community status, Mr. Speaker.

The Government of Saskatchewan and Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism have partnered to present this award, and we are pleased to have representatives from three successful communities here with us today. I will recognize Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism representatives Holly Schick, their executive director; Robert Wushenny, Chair of the Age-Friendly Communities committee; Adeline Wushenny; Linda Anderson; Michel Sorensen; Shirley Dixon; Doug Sutherland; and Dale Williams; along with Ruth Robillard.

Representing Strasbourg will be Barbara Hayes and Jane Grieve. From Regina Beach/Buena Vista/Kinookimaw area, Ron O'Donnell and Nancy O'Donnell-Monk, Marie Sakon, and Fred Ziegler. And last but not least from Rosetown, Crystal Storey and Pat Aylward. My apologies if I have missed anybody, Mr. Speaker. We do have a very good group here today.

The government of Saskatchewan supports the Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism Age-Friendly Communities initiative, which promotes healthy, accessible, and inclusive communities where all individuals are valued and supported. These three communities have undertaken activities and created programming to be more inclusive of seniors, leading to communities that are more inclusive of all people.

We will officially be recognizing them later on in the Saskatchewan gallery, about 3 o'clock. But, Mr. Speaker, for now I ask that all members join me to thank the Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism people for working with these communities, to acknowledge the leaders from Strasbourg, Rosetown, and Regina Beach/Buena Vista/Kinookimaw for their efforts to become age friendly and inclusive. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise this afternoon and introduce two special guests seated in the west gallery. I'd like to introduce to the Assembly Dr. Bryan Hillis, the president and professor at Luther College here in Regina; as well as Dave Solheim, the Chair of the Board of Regents. And I'm not sure if they have other board members here with them today. No strangers to this Assembly, Mr. Speaker.

As a former Luther grad, it is always nice to see people here from Luther, and I suspect that they are here today to witness passage of the bill respecting Luther College later this afternoon. So happy to be here for that as well, and I welcome these guests to their Assembly and invite all members to do so as well.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to this Assembly, I'd like to join with my colleague, the Minister of Rural and Remote Health, welcoming all the people from the Seniors Mechanism here for the age-friendly event today, but specifically two members I would like to welcome, Mr. Speaker. They're from my home community of Rosetown, Pat Aylward and Crystal Storey.

They should not only be congratulated for the good work they did on the event today, Mr. Speaker, but they are held in high esteem in Rosetown for all the tremendous volunteer work they've done in the past and hopefully continue to do in the future on many events. I want to publicly thank them for that, and I'd ask all members to please join me in welcoming them to their Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Batoche.

Mr. Kirsch: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also would like to welcome members of Luther College because that was the school I also attended. So I ask them to give a wave as I introduce them. We've got Dave Solheim, Karl Tiefenbach, Daryl Nelson, and Dr. Bryan Hillis, the president of Luther College. Thank you very much for being here, and we will see this bill passed today. Thank you.

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

Hon. Ms. Beaudry-Mellor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Well I would like to join with my colleague in welcoming Dr. Bryan Hillis and the members from Luther College to their Legislative Assembly. Dr. Hillis has been a long-time president of that college, has been a thoughtful and kind leader. I've gotten to know him a little bit over the last little while, and so I want to thank you and welcome you to your Assembly.

And while I'm on my feet, I'd also like to recognize Crystal Giesbrecht from PATHS and Hillary Aiken from the YWCA, Mr. Speaker, both of whom do very important work in our community. And I would ask all members to join me in welcoming them to their Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Biggar-Sask Valley.

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, I'd like to introduce two gentlemen seated in the west gallery: Laurie Bradley, a Saskatoon land developer, and with Laurie, Douglas Richardson, Q.C. [Queen's Counsel], legal counsel. Please join me in welcoming these two gentlemen to their Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. I too want to join with the member from Biggar-Sask Valley to introduce Mr. Bradley and Mr. Richardson to the House today — good friends of mine, Mr. Speaker.

I especially want to recognize Mr. Doug Richardson. Doug and I practised law together for a number years in Saskatoon, and I need to publicly recognize him for being a mentor to me, not just as a lawyer, Mr. Speaker, at the McKercher firm in Saskatoon for many years, but in my job as a politician. I often seek Doug's advice on a number of matters, so I wanted to publicly acknowledge that, Mr. Speaker, and again welcome both these gentlemen to their House.

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

Mr. Fiaz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to all the members of the Assembly, I would like to introduce 51 very brilliant students from grade 7 and 8 from Deshaye Catholic School, Mr. Speaker, accompanied by their teachers Carrie Woodrow, Lindsay Morhart, Sheldon Rieger, Claire Tochor.

After the question period, Mr. Speaker, we're going to tour the building and may be having a little bit of question period out there as well, and a photo of course. And I ask all the members of the Assembly to join me, welcome all these students in their Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Okay, you're done. Okay, you're done. Okay, we're good. I think we got everybody. Okay.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, I rise to present a petition in support of Pelican Narrows airstrip. This petition is supported by the local leadership in the community and has hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of signatures.

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 government to recognize that the community of Pelican Narrows is in dire need of upgrades to their airstrip to meet the air medevac standards and to provide access to health services, and commit to immediately providing resources for the upgrade of the current airstrip.

It is signed by the hundreds and hundreds of people. I so present.

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

Mr. Steinley: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to rise today to present a petition from citizens who are opposed to the federal government tax of the federal government and the tax on Saskatchewan. And, Mr. Speaker, we all know the people of Saskatchewan have spoke in a loud voice and in unison to not have a carbon tax foisted upon them. We know that it's going to be burdensome. It's going to cost. Everything's going to be more costly to the people of our province, and we've seen time and time again that 70 to 80 people are in favour of opposing this carbon tax.

And I'd like the 13 members from the opposition to join us and send a single voice to Saskatchewan and say no to their federal colleagues who want to impose the carbon tax and are against pipelines, Mr. Speaker. I think it's time that we speak in unison for the people of the province to ensure that there is not a federal carbon tax in our province now, April 4th, or ever, Mr. Speaker.

So I'd like to present the petition and 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 of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, I present this petition on behalf of citizens of Regina. I do so present.

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

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

I'll read the prayer:

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

Mr. Speaker, the folks who signed this today are from the city of Regina. I so submit.

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

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

We believe that the people of Saskatchewan deserve to live in a fair province where all voices are equal and money can't influence politics. But, Mr. Speaker, 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.

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

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

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

Mr. Speaker, the people that signed this petition today come from the communities of Saskatoon and Paddockwood. I do so present. Thank you.

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

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

I'd like to read the prayer:

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

This particular petition is signed by individuals from Regina, Mr. Speaker. I do so present.

[14:00]

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition calling on the government to restore public control over Wascana Park. Mr. Speaker, those 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. And the city of Regina and the University of Regina have both expressed an openness to return to a governance-based model based on equality.

I'd like to read the prayer:

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

Mr. Speaker, we have hundreds of pages of this petition. I'm going to submit one page of this today. The signatories to this petition come from Regina. I do so present.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Celebrating the Life of Jack MacKenzie

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to remember and celebrate a remarkable person and educator, Jack MacKenzie. Jack passed away at the end of summer, and a celebration of his life was held in a church filled by community and at a reception at the Regina school that bears his name.

Jack loved the outdoors, children, learning about cultures, and indigenous history and traditions, music, and exploring the world. He lived with an insatiable curiosity. When it comes to outdoor and physical education, Jack was a visionary. Jack earned six degrees, from sciences to arts and education, and he was awarded an honorary doctorate in 2015 for his exemplary contributions.

I'm thankful for childhood memories with Jack, as he was a friend to our family. While together with him, my dad, and other volunteers, we helped build and support Saskairie, an outdoor education camp and site in Moose Mountain. He left a mark on me as he did countless others.

It's fair to say that the only thing that dwarfed his enormous hands and feet was his heart. He brought kindness to all and without a doubt leaves a legacy, a legacy that's being carried on by so many that he mentored and educated. I ask all members to join with me to celebrate Jack MacKenzie in his remarkable life of contributions.

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

100th Anniversary of Moose Jaw ANAVETS

Mr. Michelson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, last Friday I, along with the member from Moose Jaw Wakamow, had the honour of attending the 100th anniversary celebration of the Moose Jaw ANAVETS [Army, Navy & Air Force Veterans in Canada]. ANAVETS is an acronym for the Army, Navy & Air Force Veterans, and is Canada's oldest veterans' association. This year marks the 100th anniversary of the end of the first Great War, and the Moose Jaw ANAVETS were formed shortly thereafter to support veterans returning from military service.

The branch has been operating since its formation on December 16th, 1918 in the Brunswick Hotel. The club has moved to various locations in Moose Jaw, some of which are no longer standing today, and in 2009 the grand opening was held for its new premises now located on High Street.

Mr. Speaker, the ANAVETS association serves two primary functions. It's a centre for both veterans and non-members to meet socially, as well as it provides services to its members and to the community at large. That includes supporting our cadets, Remembrance Day ceremonies, parades, colour parties, hospital visits, and other special events.

I ask all members to join me in congratulating the Moose Jaw ANAVETS and to thank them for their support to veterans, and

their community support and service for over a hundred years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Remembering Bob Van Impe

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to pay tribute to a well-known and deeply loved sportsman, builder, and volunteer in Saskatchewan, Canadian, and international sports communities — Bob Van Impe.

On November 16th, Bob passed away at 96 years old. The fastball world lost a dedicated citizen and I lost a really lovely constituent who had lived in Riversdale for a very long time.

A youthful Bob Van Impe played recreational softball during the Second World War. His love for the sport inspired him to begin an important role as a builder and an administrator. After organizing a team in the Saskatoon Amateur Softball League, and after becoming the first commissioner of the league, Bob was elected president of the Canadian Amateur Softball Association in 1969. As Bob grew active and renowned in the international softball scene, he was appointed to the board of directors of the Canadian Olympic Association.

His subsequent awards to recognize his many contributions include the some of following: in 1979, Saskatoon Kinsmen Sportsman of the Year; in 1984, Saskatoon's Bob Van Impe Stadium was named in his honour; in 1987, induction into the International Softball Hall of Fame; in 1990, induction into Softball Canada's Hall of Fame.

Perhaps Bob's greatest gift was his enthusiastic leadership. He loved working with others to develop personal excellence and vibrant sports communities. Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in offering condolences to the Van Impe family as they celebrate the life and contributions of Bob Van Impe. Thank you.

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

Training for Commercial Truck Drivers

Mr. Buckingham: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise in the Assembly and talk about our government's announcement to make Saskatchewan roads safer in our province and across Canada.

When implemented on March 15th, 2019, drivers seeking a class 1 commercial semi licence in Saskatchewan will be required to undergo a minimum of 121.5 hours of training. With the help of SGI [Saskatchewan Government Insurance], a new curriculum is being developed to include 47 hours of instruction in the classroom, 17.5 hours in the yard, and 57 hours behind the wheel. The new curriculum will focus on areas including basic driving techniques, professional driving habits, vehicle inspections, and air brakes.

Our government is also introducing a 12-month safety monitoring program for all new semi drivers, effective immediately. This means SGI will monitor semi drivers more

stringently for one year post-testing so action can be taken if there are safety concerns. We will continue to consult with industries, including agriculture, as we recognize the difference in various industry operations versus commercial space and feel the training should reflect that.

I am proud of the hard work that has been done by SGI and this government to introduce mandatory semi driver training. This is a huge step to improving the safety on the roads for the people of this province. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Saltcoats Students Attend National Debate Tournament

Hon. Mr. Kaeding: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise in the House to recognize two students from my constituency, Isabelle Easton and Liam Baron. Isabelle and Liam are in their third year of debate at their K [kindergarten] to grade 8 Saltcoats School, and recently attended a British parliamentary-style debate held in Saskatoon. Isabelle, who is in grade 8, and Liam, who is in grade 7, ended up placing top three in their under-15 category, earning themselves a ticket to the national British parliamentary tournament in Toronto held this past weekend.

They debated current event issues in several impromptu debates, gaining very valuable experience participating at the national level. They debated against students well above their age group from across the country and performed admirably.

The two students have both received top placements from both their debate team and their individual speaking skills over the past two years, receiving multiple awards along the way.

Mr. Speaker, the Saltcoats School debate team is led by Candice Baron, who is also Liam's mom and has also been a teacher at Saltcoats School since 2004. Out of the 140 kids that attend the school, she has 30 kids registered on the debate team.

Mr. Speaker, I've had the opportunity to be a judge at some of the local debate competitions and I believe that we truly have many young parliamentarians in the making. Mr. Speaker, I also believe that the legacy of the debate skills of Bob Bjornerud live on well in the community of Saltcoats.

Mr. Speaker, the team had a great weekend in Toronto and our constituency is very proud of them for representing the great debate program at Saltcoats School. I'd now ask all members to please join me in congratulating Isabelle and Liam on their recent trips and wish them the best of luck in the rest of the debate season. Thank you.

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

Rotary Christmas Carol Festival in Regina

Ms. Ross: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. From December 3rd to the 6th, the Knox-Metropolitan United Church in Regina will host the 78th annual Rotary Christmas Carol Festival.

For 78 years this festival has marked the beginning of the

Christmas season in Regina. In 1941 the festival began to collect donations for local charities. Mr. Speaker, this year's charities are the Access Communications Children's Fund, Salvation Army, and the Regina Rotary Club Community Fund. Each year they have a goal to raise \$15,000.

Some of the choirs that will be featured at this year's carol festival include the Winston Knoll Chamber Choir, which is in my constituency of Regina Rochdale, and the Spirit of SaskTel Choir, as well as Regina's German choir.

Mr. Speaker, the Regina Rotary Club was founded in 1917 and is the city's oldest service club of any kind. The club's records of service include many events and milestones such as creating Regina Rotary Park, over 60 years of support for the Salvation Army kettles, as well as the production of this year's wonderful Christmas Carol Festival.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all members to attend the festival this year as we enter the Christmas season. I now ask all members to join me in congratulating the Regina Rotary Club on their 78th annual Christmas Carol Festival and wish them the best of luck, and the best of luck to all the choirs that are going to be participating and the volunteers. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Indian Head-Milestone.

Fraser Institute Survey of Canadian Medical Specialists

Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this year's annual survey of Canadian medical specialists has been released by the Fraser Institute.

Mr. Speaker, the survey says — I mean shows — that the median wait time for Saskatchewan patients receiving specialized services is 15.4 weeks — the shortest in Canada, Mr. Speaker. Specifically, Mr. Speaker, the report found that the median wait time for specialists' consultation after referral from a family doctor was 6.3 weeks in Saskatchewan — the shortest in Canada, Mr. Speaker.

That's not all, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in addition to specialist wait times, the report found that the wait time for CT [computerized tomography] scans and ultrasounds in Saskatchewan was also the shortest in Canada, Mr. Speaker, at 2.8 weeks and 1.1 weeks respectively.

Mr. Speaker, we know there's more work to be done by this government when it comes to specialist care, diagnostic imaging, and other surgical services, Mr. Speaker, but we also know that those four words, "the shortest in Canada," weren't spoke for 16 years under an NDP [New Democratic Party] government, Mr. Speaker. The people of Saskatchewan never want to go back to those dark days because quite frankly I think the people in Saskatchewan like saying, "the shortest in Canada," Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Well now. Well let's see where we go today.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Appointee to Board of Northlands College

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We learned yesterday about a troubling appointment to the board of Northlands College. However that isn't the only trouble that we've heard about when it comes to governance and northern education, Mr. Speaker.

When this Premier was the minister of Advanced Education, he signed a five-year agreement with NORTEP [northern teacher education program] to continue their funding. Months later, after a provincial election and no discussion that this was to be the plan, we saw him then send a letter saying that that was cancelled and NORTEP would be shut down.

Since then, Northlands, we've seen some changes in their governance as well. Three indigenous women were not returned to the board. Instead we saw the appointment, not just of that one individual that we discussed yesterday, but a number of other new members who have prominent affiliations with the Sask Party. NORTEP in its governance had northern school board representatives, northern First Nations representatives — elected representatives who were able to be part of bringing forth the views and needs of the local community.

My question is, why does the Premier want to take greater control over the governance of northern education? Why not trust the local leaders who have been doing such a great job with NORTEP?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, local residents are still in control of education in northern Saskatchewan through Northlands College, Mr. Speaker. The funds from NORTEP were transferred to Northlands College, less \$500,000 for board costs, Mr. Speaker, as we have one board operating.

With respect to the questions that were raised here yesterday, Mr. Speaker, I do want to inform the people of this House that today the cabinet has cancelled the appointment of Mr. Natomagan, Mr. Speaker, on all the boards that he served on. That was Northlands College as well as the Community Initiatives Fund.

[14:15]

Mr. Speaker, in the past and currently, the government has not required the supplying of a criminal record check for appointments to boards, Mr. Speaker. But as we move forward, we are going to look at best practices for just such appointments, including what is done in other jurisdictions across the nation. And we'll be coming forward with a policy that will require, quite likely, the disclosure of criminal records in the future, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I believe that's the right thing to have done. However, there remain a number of questions about how we got to this place in the first place. And one of those questions is in regards to the Premier himself. He's the person who signed the order in council appointing this individual to that board. My question is, at what point did the Premier become

aware of this individual's past? Had he any awareness prior to that decision?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Yesterday.

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

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Orders in council, which is the way in which these appointments are done, are also communicated to the public through an online listing of any appointees. What was notable was that, in this case, all of the names of the new appointees were listed except the name of Mr. Natomagan. So my question is, why was that the only name that wasn't included on the list?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, that was a clerical error. And I would just inform the House that there will be an order in council that will be going through, Mr. Speaker, removing Mr. Natomagan from the boards he served on.

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

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a concerning clerical error, and we hope that that's exactly what it was. And we remain with some questions; however, I believe that the Minister of Advanced Education had no idea about Mr. Natomagan's past and that she was quite forthright in coming forward.

I do, however, find it more difficult to believe that no one in the cabinet was aware, given that this is an individual who was an approved candidate to seek the Sask Party nomination in the Athabasca constituency in the last election and withdrew at the last moment. Members of this cabinet were deeply involved in that campaign and would have many opportunities to be aware of what was going on.

My question is, how are we expected to believe that no one in the cabinet was aware of Mr. Natomagan's past prior to this order in council being signed?

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — I'm allowing it. I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, as I indicated, I became aware of this matter yesterday. Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Advanced Education had answered to the best of her knowledge yesterday, and today cabinet has made the decision and passed the order in council to remove Mr. Natomagan from the boards that he served on.

The Speaker: — Yes, I'll remind the Leader of the Opposition to keep "party" out of this. I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Then I will repeat the question. Were any members of the cabinet aware of Mr. Natomagan's history prior to this order in council being signed?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, I'll speak for myself. I was made aware of this yesterday.

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

Conduct of Former Member of the Legislative Assembly

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today we've learned that while he was minister of the Economy, Mr. Bill Boyd had issued letters of invitation to facilitate the immigration of individuals to come to Saskatchewan, individuals who are connected to a company that Boyd would soon go into business with shortly after leaving cabinet. A few weeks after leaving cabinet, he would go into business with individuals, including some of the people who were communicating, asking for these letters to be put into place. This is the same business he was involved with that would lead to his eventual departure from this Assembly due to conflict of interest.

Further evidence suggests that Blue River, a company that was affiliated with Boyd's Modern Hi-Efficiency Agriculture, had individuals connected to them approved through SINP [Saskatchewan immigrant nominee program] to come to Saskatchewan. So my question for the Premier: is it common for cabinet ministers to write letters of invitation directly to . . . for the ministers themselves to write the invitations and to do so at the urging of particular companies?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, with respect to the event dating back to last August 2017, I would remind this House, Mr. Speaker, that Mr. Boyd was determined by the Saskatchewan Conflict of Interest Commissioner to be in violation of certain provisions of *The Members' Conflict of Interest Act* that applies to all of us here in this House, Mr. Speaker, in relation to his involvement with the agricultural-based business that was referenced here, as well his trip to China in March of 2017.

Mr. Speaker, I remind the members of this House and the people of the province, Mr. Speaker, that immediately after this finding by the Conflict of Interest Commissioner, Mr. Boyd was removed from the Saskatchewan Party caucus. There was consequences, Mr. Speaker. And he resigned his seat in this Assembly shortly after that.

Mr. Speaker, I would just remind the members of this House that there is consequences, Mr. Speaker, in this House when *The Members' Conflict of Interest Act* is violated, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A number of questions remain. This is an individual, Mr. Boyd, who was deeply involved, described by Brad Wall as being in the DNA of the Sask Party. And whenever scandals come up — GTH, things that have gone on with carbon capture — you see Mr. Boyd's name involved.

So my question is, for one, when did the Premier and the rest of

his cabinet become aware that Mr. Boyd had been using his position as minister of Economy to bring people into the country who would be connected to his business interests? And will the Premier commit, will the Premier commit to doing a full review of Mr. Boyd's time in cabinet, of all of the projects that he was involved in, to get to the bottom of just how deeply this web of scandal goes?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, when the allegations of conflict of interest were made, the matter was handled promptly and expeditiously. It was referred to the Conflict of Interest Commissioner. The Conflict of Interest Commissioner did the work that he's supposed to do: reviewed the matter, made a determination that Mr. Boyd was in conflict, was in breach of the Act. Subsequently he was removed from caucus. He resigned as an MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] not in cabinet.

Mr. Speaker, those things are the way things are supposed to work, and that's the way they worked in this time. And, Mr. Speaker, the members on this side, when they learned about those things, the information was forwarded directly.

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

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Many of the individuals who worked with Mr. Boyd on some of these questionable issues continue to work in this Premier's government: Laurie Pushor for example; and a Mr. William Wang who is the director of the government's Greater China unit. His name was raised last session regarding telephone calls that occurred between himself and Mr. Boyd prior to and after Boyd's infamous trip to China that later resulted in the revelation of his conflict of interest.

We've now learned that Mr. Wang was also involved in the procuring of some of the letters of invitation described that Mr. Boyd was putting out to people connected with his soon-to-be business interests. This May the Premier promised an investigation, a review, and a report into the activities of Mr. Wang, and in particular his work with Bill Boyd. Did these letters make up part of that review? And when will we be seeing that full report?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Trade.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Now, Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition is quite right. In May 2018 we did ask the deputy minister of Trade and Export Development to conduct a review of Mr. Wang, and that review was conducted. There was no finding of misconduct or conflict of interest.

And as the member opposite well knows, ministers do not get directly involved in HR [human resources] reviews of staff. Nor should they, Mr. Speaker, that is for the professional public service to do. That was carried out by Deputy Minister Kent Campbell in Trade and Export, and I have full confidence in his ability and full confidence in the outcome of that report. And, Mr. Speaker, obviously — obviously — we don't table reports on HR matters in the Assembly.

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

Global Transportation Hub and Land Transactions

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, we do see a bit of a pattern here with this government, where they say yes, we'll make an inquiry into it, and then we never get to see the reports.

Mr. Speaker, let's start with what this question, this question is not about, in the hopes that we can guide the minister responsible to providing an actual answer. This question is not about whether providing free-flow access through to the GTH was the right choice, and is not about whether free-flow access makes the GTH safer. In fact this question is really not about road design nor transportation at all, Mr. Speaker. So let's hope neither is the answer.

This question is about the truth and whether that was provided to the people of Saskatchewan. In December 2015 Bill Boyd told us he had no choice but to overpay for land at the GTH. Well, Mr. Speaker, we now know that the contract Boyd claimed he was held hostage to makes absolutely no reference whatsoever to this super-important, crucial clause. So my question for the minister is a simple one: was Bill Boyd being honest to the people of Saskatchewan about the real reason he and your government overpaid for land at the GTH?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the member opposite's lecture on what her questions are not about. Mr. Speaker, I'll tell you what the people of Saskatchewan are interested in. They're interested in seeing that the GTH gets finished. They're interested in seeing that the land that's there is getting sold. They're interested in seeing vehicles move in and out of there safely.

If they don't want to hear about free-flow traffic, I'll give them a free-flow answer if they'll just listen, Mr. Speaker . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . It may not be a joke to you. It's not a joke to us either, Mr. Speaker. If the members opposite don't want to hear the answer, Mr. Speaker, then they can end question period right now.

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Well thanks. Thanks for telling me my job as well, Minister. Order please. You've got a few more seconds, Mr. Minister.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, this project was intended to be complete. It was intended to have safe egress and safe ingress out of it. It was intended to have vehicles coming in and going out as they should. Global transportation hubs in other places where they haven't had good free-flow access have not worked out well.

I can't speak to who directed the . . . or prepared the contractual information or who drafted it. I wasn't party to it. It's serving the purpose that it's supposed to right now, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, last time I checked, that minister is the Minister Responsible for the GTH. He is responsible for

providing questions to answers that the public have.

Unfortunately it's no surprise that he will not confirm or deny his predecessor's rationale. Yesterday when asked by reporters to confirm whether minister Boyd was forthright about his reasons for giving sweet deals to his political donors, the Minister Responsible for the GTH replied that reporters would have to ask him — him being Bill Boyd, who hightailed it out of his office in this building last year, him who has refused to speak to reporters.

Mr. Speaker, the truth keeps emerging. We know now that the contract that this government tried and failed to hide makes absolutely no reference to Boyd's rationale. Did Bill Boyd tell the truth to Saskatchewan taxpayers, or is there yet another secret contract somewhere confirming Boyd's super important obligation?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I'm not aware of any other contracts. Mr. Speaker, if the members opposite want to make allegations and comments about Mr. Boyd's state of mind, they can contact Mr. Boyd and have that discussion with him. I can tell you this, Mr. Speaker. The intention at the Global Transportation Hub and the dealings with Loblaw were to ensure that we kept jobs here, that we were able to move vehicles safely in and out of that property. That's what's taking place, Mr. Speaker, quite as simple as that.

And, Mr. Speaker, I have no intention of going back and questioning what was in Mr. Boyd's state of mind at a particular time. The contract is doing what it's supposed to do. The roads are doing what they're supposed to do. The roads will be fully complete in the near future, and I'm glad it's working the way it's supposed to. And I'd like to encourage the members to take a drive out on those roads and use them and see what it's like.

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

Provision of Long-Term Care for Northerners

Ms. Chartier: — We are joined today by Gary Veteri from La Ronge. Gary has spent the last five years struggling to get his wife the care she needs. Nadine, who is 56, has early onset dementia. Gary is Nadine's full-time caregiver but is also trying to run an automotive business with his son. He's frustrated by the lack of respite services and long-term care beds in La Ronge, and the need to constantly travel to Saskatoon for testing, and weeks later to get results. It's an eight-hour round trip to Saskatoon and very challenging for Gary and Nadine as well as other seniors from La Ronge who are forced to make these trips. He wants to know why specialists can't visit the North so people's lives aren't turned upside down when they need access to care.

Does the minister recognize that this is a huge challenge for Gary and others in his position in the North? And what's the plan to get northern seniors care even close to what's offered to people in the South?

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

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, these reasons are exactly why a new, expanded, long-term care facility's been approved for La Ronge, is in the planning stages. This is exactly why the budget for northern medical services has increased by an average of 70 or 80 per cent, overtop of an overall 60 per cent increase in our health budget over the years.

That's why this government has expanded medical training seats to the North, to make sure that those medical professionals get exposure to those areas, to see that is maybe a good career path, Mr. Speaker. That's why we've expanded the movement of specialists into the North for more access.

[14:30]

Mr. Speaker, that's why we've also invested heavily into remote presence technology and connecting people with the North with specialists in Saskatoon and other areas through remote presence technology to make those services more accessible.

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

Ms. Chartier: — It isn't just the lack of respite and services in La Ronge that worries Gary. There are currently only 14 long-term care beds in La Ronge. This government first committed to replacing the tiny long-term care unit in the 2014 budget. Planning dollars were spent. Consultants were hired. But since then, everything has ground to a halt.

According to government documents, seniors in that region wait an average of more than 165 days to get placed. Gary says that with so few options, people are leaving the community because there's no space for seniors, and they have to choose between dignified care for their loved ones or staying and being hours away from their loved ones.

This government promised this new facility because they knew it was a problem almost five years ago. Will this government commit to fully funding the desperately needed long-term care facility in La Ronge in this next budget?

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

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Mr. Speaker, this government has committed to replacing and expanding that facility. Mr. Speaker, this government has also committed to replacing a lot of long-term care facilities that were left to rot underneath the NDP, Mr. Speaker. In fact we've replaced 15 of those long-term care facilities.

Is there more to do? Absolutely. We have more in the planning stages, but we have increased the spending for our long-term care beds throughout the province, including the North, Mr. Speaker. One of the first long-term care facilities that did open was in Prince Albert, not north to many people, but more of a northern facility in this province, Mr. Speaker.

I've spoken to, you know, a lot of the other investments we've made, Mr. Speaker. But when it comes to placement of seniors in long-term care beds we realize, from time to time, people can't get to the closest bed that they would wish, Mr. Speaker. Our first

priority is to get high-quality care for those seniors that are in need. So they'll go to the first available bed, to be moved back to their local community as quickly as possible, Mr. Speaker. But I'd be happy to meet with the individual after question period to speak about his concerns.

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

Development in Wascana Park

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, the minister continues to ignore the voices of the people of Regina when it comes to commercial development in Wascana Park. Instead of listening to the growing chorus of people, like those who are on the steps of this building today, who are protesting these developments and that government's board takeover, he spent his time coming up with excuses.

The minister claims the board will be operating on a consensus basis, but this board has been working effectively on a consensus basis for more than 50 years. So why make the change in the first place? And how can the people of Regina trust this so-called consensus when meetings are held behind closed doors and those minutes aren't publicly available?

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. I can certainly assure her that this minister is listening very closely to individuals on all sides of the issues and those that put forward the ideas for the betterment of Wascana Park.

I think it's important to review the facts on the floor of the legislature. Commercial development has always been possible in Wascana Centre. I provided to this House before the examples of the CNIB [Canadian National Institute for the Blind] building in 1955, the CBC [Canadian Broadcasting Corporation] building, and most recently the Willow on Wascana that was approved by members of that government back in 2005, Mr. Speaker.

So indeed, you know, as the question relates to governance of the board, she is indeed correct that things are done on a consensus basis collectively by the board of directors with membership from the Government of Saskatchewan, the city of Regina, and the University of Regina. And the board composition is proportional to the financial contribution of each party. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, to date the minister has failed to commit that there would be no further commercial development approved in Wascana Park. Will he commit today that they won't go down that path without taking it to the people of Regina, the people of Saskatchewan, the true owners of this park, first?

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

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Well again thank you very much for the question. We began this conversation at the beginning of

session, and since that time the city of Regina has come forward with some additional ideas. I can quote for the member opposite:

We have pools that are extended beyond their life cycle [said City Manager Chris Holden]. This starts a conversation in the community about rebuilding a destination facility in Wascana Park to replace the existing pool. We expect our proposal will go forward through the Provincial Capital Commission board for approval.

That's what the board is there for, to look at those proposals. It's governed by the master plan that was started in 1913, and it continues. So decisions are made on a consensual basis. And I remind members opposite that the city of Regina and the University of Regina . . . the city of Regina certainly voted unanimously in favour of the two proposals that we're talking about: the Conexus-University of Regina one, and the CNIB-Brandt one. So there's the facts, Mr. Speaker.

[Interjections]

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

Review of Vendor Contracts With eHealth

Ms. Mowat: — Mr. Speaker, the former CEO of eHealth wrote us to say the board was going to decide what would be done with investigations into eHealth. I asked the minister two direct questions yesterday, and he didn't answer. Again, what was the consensus of the board and what were the recommendations?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said yesterday, as I said a number of times over the last number of weeks, Mr. Speaker, my understanding from talking to the Chair of the board of eHealth was that the decision that they made of not turning the report over to the police was based on outside legal advice, Mr. Speaker. It did result in dismissal of the employees in question, Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Mr. Speaker, the letter couldn't be clearer, and I quote, "Once the report has been received and reviewed, the board will determine the appropriate action."

We have it on good authority that the board's recommendations weren't followed and there was interference by the minister or this government in making its findings public. This is very concerning. And if it isn't the case, the minister needs to shelve the talking points and clear the air. Did the board recommend releasing the report to the public or the RCMP, or not?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, throughout this session we've heard questions from the members opposite, Mr. Speaker, under the careful guidance of the Leader of the Opposition with respect to eHealth, Mr. Speaker, and we must recognize that there was consequences in the case when policies were violated in this

instance. The same was true for a former member of this Assembly, Mr. Speaker, there was consequences when there's violations. And, Mr. Speaker, we saw yesterday in the case of a board member that was appointed and had some charges, Mr. Speaker, there was consequences with respect to that.

And to quote an esteemed journalist, Mr. Speaker, with the *Leader-Post* most certainly, "Long gone are the days of doing politics differently . . ." in this House. Mr. Speaker, just this session, just this session we've seen the Leader of the Opposition accuse myself of using weasel words. Mr. Speaker, he's attacked and denigrated the professionalism and the integrity of the public service, Mr. Speaker, in this province by stating, and I quote, there is a "culture of rewarding gifts with contracts."

Mr. Speaker, he's accused professional child protection workers of taking babies away from their mothers. Mr. Speaker, he's made inflammatory and racially charged statements with respect to dog whistle politics and to legislation that affords rural property owners in this province, Mr. Speaker, the same rights as urban property owners.

Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition continues to virtue signal and say he's above the fray, but like all other NDP leaders in this House, he says one thing, Mr. Speaker, and does another. It's the same old NDP over there.

The Speaker: — We have a long day ahead of us, folks.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

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

Government Announces Waterflood Development Program

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform the House of an exciting new program that supports Saskatchewan's petroleum industry. Joined by industry representatives, today our government announced the waterflood development program. This program is designed to improve the petroleum industry's long-term operating environment, sustain jobs, and increase investment activity in the province. We believe this will put Saskatchewan on the map, Mr. Speaker, and increase our competitiveness at a time when, as we know, the oil and gas sector is facing considerable headwinds.

The waterflood development program will incentivize the conversion of producing wells into waterflood injection wells, or the drilling of new, dedicated waterflood injection wells. Waterflooding, Mr. Speaker, is a proven secondary oil recovery strategy that increases the amount of oil that can be produced from a reservoir, which is good for the sustainability of the reservoir, for the sector, and for the environment, Mr. Speaker. In fact waterflooding can lower the per-barrel greenhouse gas emissions intensity by 20 to 30 per cent.

Mr. Speaker, this is about planning for the future. In the face of a rapidly changing global market, our government is addressing competitiveness by supporting one of our province's largest economic sectors with a cost-effective policy that encourages long-term capital investment. At maximum uptake the program

will support \$375 million in new investment over the next five years and 500 new permanent jobs. Over 10 years, the program will lead to an estimated \$245 million in new provincial royalties. This program will also enhance the competitiveness of Saskatchewan's energy industry by facilitating an economically sustainable increase of production capacity by an estimated 72 million barrels over the course of the next 35 years. And forecasts suggest that over those 35 years, the program will generate \$8.5 billion in total GDP [gross domestic product] benefits.

It's important to note, Mr. Speaker, that this program will not undermine the actions of Alberta in its attempt to solve the differential crisis because this isn't about heavy oil. What this is about is enhancing the competitiveness of our energy industry into the future, ensuring that we're suited to address not only today's challenges, but those that lie ahead.

More investment is also good for communities, for local payrolls and taxes and the great range of offshoot activity that comes with this.

Mr. Speaker, the time to act is now, to do all we can as a government to send the signal that despite all the challenges that we face, we stand with our oil and gas sector, with the 35,000 people who go to work every day in Saskatchewan in our oil industry. With this waterflood initiative and the initiatives to come, Mr. Speaker, we want to send the message out loud and clear: Saskatchewan remains very much open for business. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased on behalf of the official opposition, as Energy critic, to join the minister in responding to the Saskatchewan's petroleum industry partnership as it pertains to the watershed development program.

Mr. Speaker, at the outset I wanted to say that I sincerely thank, and we're all very grateful for the industry's perspective and participation and of course investment into a very vital industry that the province of Saskatchewan has been counting on for decades. No question in our mind, Mr. Speaker, as the official opposition we will also stand with the oil and gas sector, with the 35,000 people who go to work every day in Saskatchewan in our oil industry.

Mr. Speaker, we also want to commend the various sector players that bring forth a number of initiatives, not just on development of our resources but to make sure that we achieve the balance when it comes to environmental protection. That balanced approach that the industry sector is taking, Mr. Speaker, has got to be recognized. There's no question from the official opposition. We sincerely appreciate the investment and the creation of jobs, as we cannot understate time and time again that this is a very crucial, vital part of our growing economy.

Mr. Speaker, we also have to be wary of some of the challenges that the sector faces, such as the building capacity with our pipelines. And I make reference to the fact that we have a fantastic pipeline industry here in the city that does a great job and provides quality pipeline for all of Saskatchewan and the world to enjoy. So Evraz themselves need to be given a shout-out

for their role in helping develop our oil and gas sector.

So we would say that we do have capacity challenges, Mr. Speaker. We do have over-governance challenges that the industry's well aware of. But I want to say at the outset, Mr. Speaker, from our perspective in the opposition, we need to do all we can to attract more investors, but more so, Mr. Speaker, to retain these investors. And that is something that's a very important part of the opposition caucus.

[14:45]

And I'll finish on this note, Mr. Speaker. Yes, as we say, we stand by the workers, by this industry, by this very important part of our economy. I can say that we didn't have a billion-dollar tax surprise, a tax hike as proposed by the Saskatchewan Party last year, Mr. Speaker. We still have not built one inch of pipeline to tidewater, Mr. Speaker, this despite record revenue. So we've got to do better when it comes to this sector.

But on this note, Mr. Speaker, we applaud the effort. We encourage the investors to keep coming forward because we do have a very strong oil and gas sector of Saskatchewan and we are very proud of that from the opposition perspective. Despite all the challenges that Sask Party provides to this sector, they are still thriving in our province and we recognize that of them and we thank them for their continued participation in the Saskatchewan economy.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Moosomin.

Mr. Bonk: — I ask for leave for an introduction.

The Speaker: — The member for Moosomin has asked for leave for an introduction. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mr. Bonk: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce three guests sitting in the west gallery today. We have Sinclair Harrison, Kevin Weedmark, and Mr. Bill Thorn. These are three constituents of Moosomin constituency.

And Sinclair needs no introduction in the House. He's been a long-time president of SARM [Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities] and just a great supporter of Saskatchewan in general. We have Kevin Weedmark who is the editor of the Moosomin *World-Spectator*, probably the best media man in the entire country. I like him very much. I hope that he likes us. And I'd like to also introduce Mr. Bill Thorn who is a long-time businessman and just a cornerstone of the Moosomin constituency. I'd ask all members to welcome them to their Assembly.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Request leave to join in the introduction.

The Speaker: — The member has asked for leave to join the

introduction. Leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, it's an honour and a pleasure to join with the member opposite to welcome these leaders to their Assembly. Sinclair Harrison, Sinc, certainly requires no introduction in this Assembly. He's somebody who's served this province for many years in many capacities. He's got exceptional expertise and knowledge around many things rural but certainly when it comes to rail transportation . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . I hear from the Minister of Health. He says he's a good golfer as well, Mr. Speaker. But certainly I want to welcome Sinclair Harrison to his Assembly here.

I also want to welcome Kevin Weedmark. I've had the pleasure to sit down with Kevin over the years. He's an exceptional news person, Mr. Speaker. *The World-Spectator's* done a great job. More than that, Kevin's had a strong focus on economic development in Moosomin and in the region and throughout the province, and I certainly want to welcome him and thank him for that attention. And Bill Thorn I don't know as well but certainly want to thank him for his contributions to our province. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 166 — *The Election Amendment Act, 2018*

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

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 166, *The Election Amendment Act, 2018* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice and Attorney General that Bill No. 166, *The Election Amendment Act, 2018* be now introduced and read a first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

The Speaker: — When shall this bill be read a second time? I recognize the Minister of Justice and Attorney General.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I request leave to consider second reading and subsequent stages of the said bill later this day on government orders.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Justice and Attorney General has requested leave to consider second reading and subsequent stages of Bill No. 166, *The Election Amendment Act, 2018* later this day on government orders. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. Leave has been granted.

Bill No. 614 — *The Saskatchewan Employment (Support for Survivors of Domestic Violence) Amendment Act, 2018*

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 614, *The Saskatchewan Employment (Support for Survivors of Domestic Violence) Amendment Act, 2018* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member for Regina Douglas Park that Bill No. 614, *The Saskatchewan Employment (Support for Survivors of Domestic Violence) Amendment Act, 2018* be now introduced and read a first time.

Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

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

Ms. Sarauer: — 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 am instructed by the Standing Committee on the Economy to report that it has considered certain estimates and to present its sixth report. I move:

That the sixth report of the Standing Committee on the Economy be now concurred in.

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

That the sixth report of the Standing Committee on the Economy be now concurred in.

Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

I recognize the Chair of the Standing Committee on Human Services.

Standing Committee on Human Services

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Human Services to report that it has considered certain supplementary estimates and to present its seventh report. I move:

That the seventh report of the Standing Committee on Human Services be now concurred in.

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

That the seventh report of the Standing Committee on Human Services be now concurred in.

Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

I recognize the Chair of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

**Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs
and Justice**

Mr. Bradshaw: — Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report that it has considered certain supplementary estimates and to present its sixth report. I move:

That the sixth report of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice be now concurred in.

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

That the sixth report of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice 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.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 166 — *The Election Amendment Act, 2018*

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

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to move second reading of *The Election Amendment Act, 2018*. This bill makes a number of changes to enhance Saskatchewan's election Act, 1996.

First, the bill contains several changes that will enhance the Chief Electoral Officer's ability to modernize and improve the electoral process. These updates are in response to recommendations from the Chief Electoral Officer, Dr. Michael Boda, and have been the subject of prior consultations with the opposition. In particular, the proposed changes will allow the Chief Electoral Officer to use modernized voting processes at advance voting polls, and to grant the Chief Electoral Officer greater flexibility to table reports before the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, the proposed changes will also update the Act's contribution provisions with respect to loans and guarantees by financial institutions. Currently, loans or guarantees that are provided to political parties or candidates by financial institutions, such as banks or credit unions, must be reported as contributions. This can create the false impression that these institutions are supporting political parties and candidates. Under the proposed changes, loans and guarantees that are provided by financial institutions on standard commercial terms will be excluded from the Act's provisions respecting election contributions.

Mr. Speaker, the proposed changes will also clarify the Act's advertising restrictions during election periods do not apply to advertising by the Saskatchewan Pension Plan that is related to the plan's competitive interest. These proposed changes are in response to requests from Saskatchewan Pension Plan and mirror existing rules for Crown corporations. This exemption will ensure that election rules do not interfere with the Saskatchewan Pension Plan's ability to promote its legitimate business interests and compete with other pension investing services available to the public.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, the proposed changes will clarify the rights of candidates to campaign in condominium and residential rental properties. These updates will ensure that candidates have full access to multi-unit properties in order to campaign and to distribute election materials.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to move second reading of *The Election Amendment Act, 2018*.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Justice and Attorney General has moved second reading of Bill No. 166, *The Election Amendment Act, 2018*. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member for Saskatoon Centre.

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise on this bill, Bill 166. And it's one that has been arrived at at consensus, as the minister said. There was consultations with both sides of the House. And we think that is important as we move forward with amendments to *The Election Act*, that really it's for the purpose of the people having their voices heard at election.

And while the system is not quite yet perfect, it is moving in the right direction. And these innovations, or enhancements as the minister said, are very, very important. And whether we're talking about the way to test new alternate procedures, equipment, technologies — those are very important. It talks about a process of how we have pilots, whether they be in a by-election or a general election. That's very, very important. And I appreciate the good work around the financial institutions and funding for that, straightening that out, because we need to make sure that loans are recognized as loans and nothing more. And that is something that is important.

The other issue — and it's one I know particularly well but I think it's a reality that we all face — is around access to condos and apartments. And that sometimes can be an awkward thing. It's a positive thing when people in our democracy have access to their candidates, and the candidates have access to the citizens of the province. And sometimes people . . . [inaudible] . . . don't understand the law and somehow . . . While we all want to make sure people feel secure and safe, whether they be in apartments or condos, there is this reality that we do live in a democracy and we should value that.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, my comments are limited because of course this is a short Act, but we want to see it move forward quickly so that the Chief Electoral Officer can make preparations for the next election, which we so hope will be in June of 2020 and not in October. We always remain optimistic to that point, but we'll go with these amendments right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Question before the Assembly is a motion moved by the Minister of Justice and Attorney General that Bill No. 166, *The Election Amendment Act, 2018* be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

The Speaker: — To which committee shall this bill be committed? I recognize the Minister of Justice and Attorney General.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — I designate that Bill No. 166, *The Election Amendment Act, 2018* be committed to the Committee of the Whole on Bills and the said bill be considered in the Committee of the Whole on Bills immediately.

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

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — Committee of the Whole on Bills.

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

[15:00]

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ON BILLS

Bill No. 166 — *The Election Amendment Act, 2018*

The Chair: — The item of business before the committee is Bill No. 166, *The Election Amendment Act, 2018*. Clause 1, short title, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried.

[Clauses 1 to 14 inclusive agreed to.]

The Chair: — Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan, enacts as follows: Bill No. 166, *The Election Amendment Act, 2018*.

I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I move that the committee report the bill without amendment.

The Chair: — It has been moved that the committee report Bill No. 166, *The Election Amendment Act, 2018* without amendment.

Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. I recognize the minister.

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

The Chair: — The Minister of Justice has moved that the committee rise, report progress, and ask for leave to sit again.

Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried.

[The Speaker resumed the Chair.]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of committees.

Mr. Hart: — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the committee to report Bill No. 166, *The Election Amendment Act, 2018* without amendment.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Justice and Attorney General may proceed to move third reading.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 166 — *The Election Amendment Act, 2018*

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved that Bill No. 166, *The Election Amendment Act, 2018* be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

The Speaker: — When shall the committee sit again?

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

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — Committee of Finance.

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

COMMITTEE OF FINANCE

Motions for Supply

The Chair: — The business before the committee is a resolution. I call on the Minister of Finance to move her resolution.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — I move the following resolution:

Resolved that towards making good the supply granted to Her Majesty on account of certain charges and expenses of the public service for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2019, the sum of \$51,402,000 be granted out of the General Revenue Fund.

The Chair: — The Minister of Finance has moved:

Resolved that towards making good the supply granted to Her Majesty on account of certain charges and expenses of the public service for fiscal year ending March 31, 2019, the sum of \$51,402,000 be granted out of the General Revenue Fund.

Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — I move that the committee rise and that the Chair report that the committee has agreed to a resolution, and ask for leave to sit again.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried.

[The Speaker resumed the Chair.]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of committees.

Mr. Hart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Committee of Finance has agreed to a certain resolution, has instructed me to report the same, and ask for leave to sit again.

The Speaker: — When shall the resolution be read the first time? I recognize the Minister of Finance.

FIRST AND SECOND READINGS OF RESOLUTIONS

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — I move that the resolution be now read a first and second time.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — First and second reading of the resolutions.

The Speaker: — When shall the committee sit again? I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Next sitting, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

APPROPRIATION BILL

Bill No. 167 — *The Appropriation Act, 2018 (No. 3)*

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — I move that Bill No. 167, *The Appropriation Act, 2018 (No. 3)* be now introduced and read the first time.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Finance has moved that Bill No. 167, *The Appropriation Act, 2018 (No. 3)* be now introduced and read the first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — First reading of this

bill.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — I request leave, and pursuant to rule 32(1)(e), I request that Bill No. 167, *The Appropriation Act, 2018 (No. 3)* be now read a second and third time.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Finance has asked for leave to move second and third reading of Bill No. 167, *The Appropriation Act, 2018 (No. 3)*. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. Leave has been granted. I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — I move that Bill No. 167, *The Appropriation Act, 2018 (No. 3)* be now read a second and third time.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is that Bill No. 167, *The Appropriation Act, 2018 (No. 3)* be now read a second and third time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

The Speaker: — I am advised that His Honour the Administrator is here for Royal Assent. All please rise.

ROYAL ASSENT

[At 15:10 His Honour the Administrator entered the Chamber, took his seat upon the throne, and gave Royal Assent to the following bills.]

His Honour the Administrator: — Pray be seated.

The Speaker: — May it please Your Honour, this Legislative Assembly at its present session has passed several bills which in the name of the Assembly I present to Your Honour and to which bills I respectfully request Your Honour's assent.

Clerk: — The bills are as follows:

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

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

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

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

Bill No. 166 - *The Election Amendment Act, 2018*

His Honour the Administrator: — In Her Majesty's name, I assent to these bills.

The Speaker: — May it please Your Honour, this Legislative Assembly has voted the supplies required to enable the government to defray the expenses of the public service.

In the name of the Assembly, I present to Your Honour:

Bill No. 167 - *The Appropriation Act, 2018 (No. 3)*

to which bill I respectfully request Your Honour's assent.

His Honour the Administrator: — In Her Majesty's name, I thank the Legislative Assembly, accept its benevolence, and assent to these bills.

[His Honour the Administrator retired from the Chamber at 15:13.]

The Speaker: — I'll bring the Assembly to order. We'll now resume government orders.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 164 — *The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2018 (No. 3)*

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to move second reading of *The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2018 (No. 3)*. This bill will make housekeeping changes to numerous pieces of legislation in order to update and modernize their provisions. Mr. Speaker, the proposed changes will update legislation to uniformly refer to the General Revenue Fund. Currently various pieces of legislation continue to refer to the Consolidated Fund. The outdated reference will be replaced with the General Revenue Fund to ensure consistent language is used throughout Saskatchewan legislation.

[15:15]

A number of outdated references to the titles of ministers and ministries will be replaced with a reference to a central piece of legislation for which the minister is responsible. This will ensure that these references do not become outdated in the future if the names of the ministry is changed. The proposed changes will also replace a number of references to "department" with "ministry."

Mr. Speaker, one of the purposes of these amendments is to standardize terms and phrases in legislation. Doing so, Mr. Speaker, will replace a number of references to department. Doing so assists readers and those who undertake electronic searches to locate the provisions that they require. These changes will provide a benefit to everyone who relies on our legislation. Mr. Speaker, the proposed changes will make a number of additional updates to further clarify and modernize the existing language of legislation. These changes are all housekeeping in nature and will not have a substantive impact on the provisions of the legislation being amended.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to move second reading of *The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2018 (No. 3)*.

The Speaker: — It has been moved that Bill No. 164, *The Statute*

Law Amendment Act, 2018 (No. 3) be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member for Saskatoon Nutana.

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is indeed my pleasure to rise in the House today and address the bill in question, Bill No. 164. The minister indicated that there is a number of housekeeping changes that are being made to reflect current language and also to assist with electronic searching, which I'm sure is appreciated by the members and certainly by the public.

You know, for example, one thing that I wish was more available was the actual full text of orders in council. Mr. Speaker, you can't search them online, and perhaps that's something through your office you could work with the Clerk on. Because it's very difficult if we can't get the summaries right, then we don't have the actual order itself. That really raises some questions, Mr. Speaker. And if they are concerned about electronic searching, you would think that orders in councils would be available electronically as well, Mr. Speaker.

There are some actual changes to sections as well. And the minister didn't give us sort of any insight on those, although maybe when we get a chance to look at them closely we will see how his comments fit in there.

But in particular *The Crop Payments Act* is being amended and sections 3 and 4 are being repealed and substituted with a new clause 3 and 4. This has to do with leases and sales, and this is when farmers have cropping payment arrangements with landlords. So as you know, Mr. Speaker, that's relevant to many, many producers here in the province here today.

Another change of a clause is found in *The Interprovincial Subpoena Act*, and it is a new section 8 which is the order for additional witness fees and expenses. I'm not sure exactly what the changes are to that clause right now, Mr. Speaker, but I guess a person could look at the explanatory notes to see what those have to say. Section 14 of the bill is amending *The Interprovincial Subpoena Act* and it's changing . . . Section 8 is split into two subsections to make it easier to understand, and the intention is to implement gender-neutral language, which is a common practice currently in the government.

In *The League of Educational Administrators, Directors and Superintendents Act* there's a number of changes. And if you look at section 15 under the explanatory notes, section 25(3) is being amended to make certain references to "conseil scolaire," which is the French school boards.

And they're going to replace the phrase with the . . . the existing phrase with the "'Department of Education, a board of education, or a conseil scolaire' with 'ministry over which the minister presides, a board of education or the conseil scolaire.'" And I believe the minister indicated that this type of change is intended to facilitate when ministries . . . different ministers take on different responsibilities and there won't be a need to amend the Act if it's more generic, Mr. Speaker.

The Power Corporation Act is being . . . Section 31(3) is being repealed and there's a substitution there. And I'll assume that the minister is making the same kind of changes to that section.

Also *The Public Officials Security Act*, subsection 31 is being repealed and a new section is being substituted there.

The Saskatchewan Housing Corporation Act is also being amended under section 28 of the bill and in the explanatory notes we see the purpose of that is to change . . . some of the housekeeping changes that are being made. And subsection 31(1) is replacing an outdated reference to *The Urban Municipality Act* and at the same time it will be updating the formatting of the section.

So, Mr. Speaker, as you can see these are pretty much housekeeping changes that are being made here to a large number of bills, including *The White Cane Act*. And, Mr. Speaker, I didn't know we had a white cane Act, but it is obviously in existence and making reference to opticians and substituting . . . striking out opticians who are holders of licences and just substituting who is the holder of a valid and subsisting licence.

So again there's a large list of bills that are being corrected or updated and the language in this amendment Act. I'm sure others will want to have an opportunity to comment, so at this point I would move that we adjourn debate on Bill No. 164, *An Act to amend the Statute Law*.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 165 — *The Workers' Compensation Amendment Act, 2018*

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure to move second reading of Bill 165, *The Workers' Compensation Amendment Act, 2018*. We are introducing two very different but significant changes to the Act. The first is to expand presumptive coverage for Saskatchewan firefighters to include prostate cancer, skin cancer, breast cancer, cervical cancer, ovarian cancer, and multiple myeloma.

I would like to thank the Saskatchewan Professional Fire Fighters Association for working with the government in the development of this amendment. The addition of these six cancers will place Saskatchewan among the leaders in Canada, along with Ontario and Alberta. This list demonstrates the range of occupational risks firefighters face in their chosen profession. The newly added cancers also recognize the changing demographic of firefighters, with half of the forms of cancers added impacting women in the field.

Mr. Speaker, we owe a debt of gratitude to first responders in Saskatchewan. They are the ones running towards danger as others flee, reacting to challenging situations to help others. To our firefighters and others who put themselves at risk to keep it safe, thank you very much.

Secondly, we have made changes to board composition at the WCB [Workers' Compensation Board]. When the committee of review submitted its recommendations in August of 2016, one recommendation was to increase the size of the board. We

undertook further consultations on how to achieve that in 2017, receiving input from 26 stakeholder groups representing a wide variety of interests.

What we are proposing is expanding the board to seven members as per the committee's report: one full-time chairperson; two full-time members, one representing employers and one representing workers; and four part-time members, once again equally representing employers and workers.

Mr. Speaker, the Act previously allowed for a board of up to five full-time members. Historically the board has been composed of three full-time members. During consultations, we heard concerns that board members focused on hearing appeals, which did not provide them time to consider board governance. We believe that increasing the size of the board will allow it to hear appeals in a more timely manner. It will also allow time to focus on policies, procedures, and other governance issues.

Another change here moves the exemption from *The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. In doing so, we are enabling workers to access their claim file while ensuring their information is protected. This was an issue identified by the committee of review and the Information and Privacy Commissioner, who also helped us develop the solution.

Mr. Speaker, we will also extend the time between reviews of the Act. Currently the legislation calls for us to appoint a committee of review at least every four years. Historically it takes two to three years to implement recommendations from the committee. As a result, there is insufficient time for the subsequent committee to fully assess if the changes are effective. Going forward, a committee of review will be appointed within five years after the previous report is submitted to the minister.

Finally, we are making a housekeeping amendment to correct the existing legislation. When the Act came into force in 2013, benefits for dependent spouses were inadvertently changed to remove indexation. This has been corrected. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I move second reading of this bill.

The Speaker: — It has been moved that Bill No. 165, *The Workers' Compensation Amendment Act, 2018* be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Again I'm very pleased to present our position as it pertains to this particular bill as the first thought that the opposition would have on this particular bill. We obviously have to go through all the contents of the bill to make sure that we see what the minister has spoken to as to the intent of the bill and to make sure that there's no shortcuts, and certainly that there isn't anything that would weaken the legislation or the commitments made to various parties that are affected by these bills.

Mr. Speaker, I want to spend a bit of my time as it pertains to the professional firefighters. Mr. Speaker, we've had the great opportunity over the years to listen to some of their concerns as it pertains to their profession. As we all know, the professional firefighters that protect our homes and our families and respond to crises of all sorts, Mr. Speaker, are people that we admire each and every day. Our experience, from the opposition perspective,

is that professional firefighters are very, very . . . a group of hard-working, dedicated individuals that have really afforded Saskatchewan communities all throughout the province great protection, great service.

But more so, Mr. Speaker, they have been steadfast in supporting their own people to make sure that there's proper protection. Because as we all know, firefighters, the professional firefighters get exposed to many dangerous chemicals. Many different challenges to their health, because as they enter homes and enter buildings and commercial properties, they are exposed to many, many challenging chemicals, Mr. Speaker. Or as fire would burn furniture or would burn paint, some of these noxious chemicals and fumes and substances, Mr. Speaker, do pose an incredible health risk to these professional firefighters. But nonetheless, Mr. Speaker, they . . . again, it's their job. They'll go into these burning buildings, get exposed to all of these challenges and dangers, Mr. Speaker, and yet they do this kind of work day in and day out.

So I would certainly point out that from our perspective as the official opposition, we've enjoyed a fantastic relationship with the professional firefighters of our province. We will continue standing with them and beside them on some of the issues as it pertains to the cancers that the minister made reference to, Mr. Speaker. These are some of the things that they have long fought. Despite losing many of their members to these cancers in the earlier years, Mr. Speaker, and families having to go through that very, very trying challenge of dealing with a cancer, Mr. Speaker, many of these firefighters and their families know first-hand the challenges of this particular industry and the pain that must be part of the expectations as you begin this career of being a professional firefighter.

So, Mr. Speaker, they know the risks. They know the challenges. They know the hurt and pain. And it's about time this government recognizes this. And it's certainly something that the official opposition would certainly applaud and would support on many, many fronts, Mr. Speaker.

So we're going to have many more of my colleagues speak about the great value of the professional firefighters, some of the existing challenges that they still face in this day and age, Mr. Speaker. But I'll say this: that we are blessed in the province of Saskatchewan of having such great people that are not only leading to protect and support the professional firefighters in the province, but to ensure that professionalism and safety and mitigating the challenge of fire for any part of our province, Mr. Speaker, that their commitment is there as well. So we must protect those that protect us, and I think this is a good, positive first step.

[15:30]

I would say at the outset, Mr. Speaker, that we would have . . . I personally would have preferred to see this particular legislation come on its own as it pertains to the professional firefighters. It's a shame that the minister included some of the other work being done on the workmen's compensation board and how it's going to change the mandate of the workmen's compensation board, Mr. Speaker. They could have easily done the firemen's support package in terms of recognizing the cancers as a separate entry, as a separate bill, Mr. Speaker. And that bill would have had

really good passage through the Assembly as the opposition would have supported that initiative.

However, Mr. Speaker, what happened was the minister decided to convolute this whole intent behind recognizing our professional firefighters and added a dimension of this bill that involves the workmen's compensation board. So I think, Mr. Speaker, it is really unfortunate that they're putting both parts of what their agenda is in one particular bill. Again, we would have preferred to have this particular bill recognizing the cancer that our professional firefighters suffer from as being finally recognized by the WCB as a stand-alone bill, but unfortunately that didn't occur. But nonetheless we want to make sure we support that part of the bill.

We have other questions on the bill as it pertains to the workmen's compensation changes. We have to investigate those matters further, Mr. Speaker, and that's the only challenge that I see on this particular bill. But certainly, again, I reiterate our great confidence and gratitude to the professional firefighters of Saskatchewan.

There's more work to be done in recognizing their efforts and certainly the challenges of their field. But I could say at the outset on behalf of the official opposition, I thank the entire membership of the professional firefighters for their dedication, for their sacrifice, for their work, Mr. Speaker, and their continued advocacy for their members, to making sure that their members are protected as best as possible and, in the event that they do have this workplace hazardous challenge affect their health, that there is protection for them. And I think that's very admirable and certainly indicative of their dedication to their industry.

So on that note, Mr. Speaker, I move that we adjourn debate on Bill 165, *The Workers' Compensation Amendment Act, 2018*.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. I recognize the Deputy House Leader and Minister of Trade.

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved that the Assembly now adjourn. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt this motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. This Assembly now stands adjourned until tomorrow at 10 a.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 15:33.]

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