



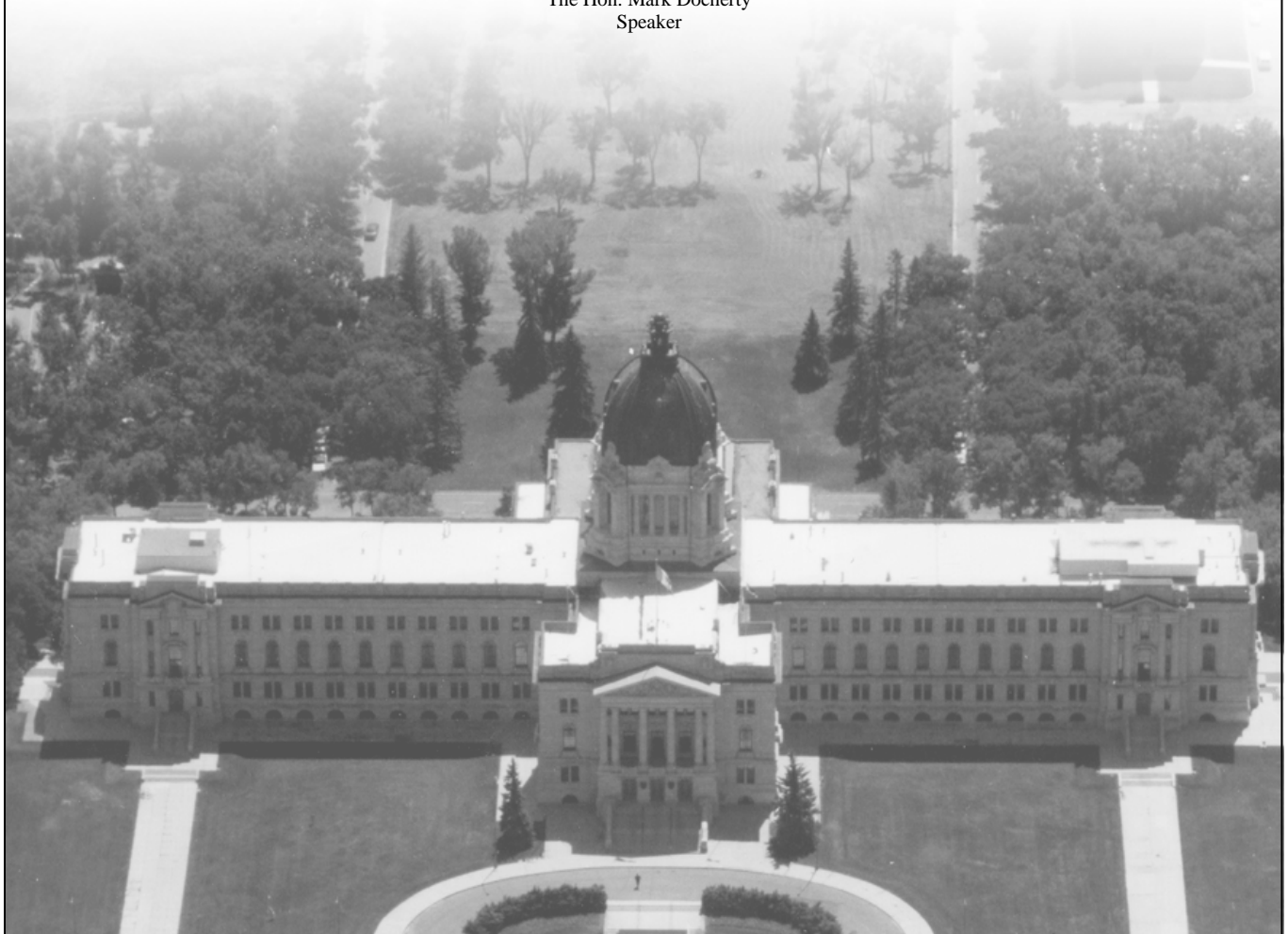
THIRD SESSION - TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

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



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

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Leader of the Opposition — Ryan Meili

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Steinley, Warren — Regina Walsh Acres (SP)
Stewart, Lyle — Lumsden-Morse (SP)
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Tochor, Corey — Saskatoon Eastview (SP)
Vermette, Doyle — Cumberland (NDP)
Weekes, Randy — Biggar-Sask Valley (SP)
Wilson, Hon. Nadine — Saskatchewan Rivers (SP)
Wotherspoon, Trent — Regina Rosemont (NDP)
Wyant, Hon. Gordon — Saskatoon Northwest (SP)
Young, Colleen — Lloydminster (SP)

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

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[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — Introduction of guests, and I have a number, so I'd ask the Assembly for leave for an extended introduction. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Thank you. So in celebration of Commonwealth Day, we have a number of guests sitting in the Speaker's gallery from a number of Commonwealth nations. I'm not sure if the list is up to date. Please stand and give us a wave when I introduce you.

Bert Clarke and Maureen Clarke from Barbados. Are you with us? Kay Doxilly from Saint Lucia; John-Baptist Okai from Ghana; Rosemary Ojo from Nigeria; Benjamin Mazimpaka from Uganda; Omotayo Shoyoye from Nigeria; Kiumbura Githinji from Kenya; Irene Torcheh from Cameroon; Susan Kamuti from Kenya; John Gaithe from Kenya; Suadh Abubaka from Cameroon; Victor Semugooma from Uganda; Fioha Ubega from Uganda; Vaisy Wanjau from Kenya; Onoria Mursal from Uganda; Prisca Aداusa from Uganda; Lydia Kapiugan from Uganda; Melchoir Niyonkuru from Uganda; and Faeza Moola from South Africa. It's great. Thanks so much for being here.

Also joining us, behind the bar, is former member, Dr. Draper and his wife, Trish Draper. Please join me in welcoming all of these guests to their Legislative Assembly.

And while I'm on my feet, joining us today in my gallery as well is Melissa Rae Horsman, the new program coordinator for visitor services. Rae joined the team in January 2019 coming from Parks Canada where she worked in heritage interpretation, also served on a Canadian national response mission to the United Nations working on a strategic environmental assessment for a World Heritage Site. Rae was born and raised in The Battlefords. She has a Bachelor of Arts with Honours in Sociology, Religious Studies from St. Francis Xavier University, Master of Theological Studies from the University of St. Michael's College in the University of Toronto. Currently Rae is completing her diploma in Human Resources from McMaster University. And Rae is most excited to be working alongside the many incredible people in this Legislative Assembly Service, and appreciates the opportunity to support the democratic process in Saskatchewan through education and experience with the visitor services branch. Please join me in welcoming Rae to her Legislative Assembly.

I recognize the member for Regina Rochdale.

Ms. Ross: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would like to join with you in welcoming our members from the Commonwealth. As Chair of Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians of Canada, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to our Assembly, and I know we'll have an

opportunity to visit at the dinner on Wednesday evening. So thank you very much for making the trip to Canada, and enjoy your stay here. Thank you.

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

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join in welcoming the visitors from the Commonwealth countries to this Assembly. And I hope that they have a pleasant experience and exposure to how we do democracy right here, and how much we . . . just emphasize how much we value that relationship with all of our Commonwealth brother and sister countries and appreciate your presence.

I also want to take a moment to also join in welcoming Dr. Draper and Trish to their Legislative Assembly. Dr. Draper of course was a member of the Legislative Assembly under the New Democrats and also was a physician in a number of places in the province, including in the area where I grew up in Gravelbourg. As well he's a published author. He's published a number of books and also articles, always has a lot to say on how we can do a better job of delivering rural health care, something that's always a top priority here in the province. So I ask members to join me in welcoming Dr. and Mrs. Draper and all of our guests here today.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Moosomin.

Mr. Bonk: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce two members of the Grenfell town council. Ms. Constance MacKenzie, she's a retired school teacher and she taught a lot of good friends of mine. And if she can teach them anything, that just proves how good she is as a teacher. It's a pleasure to have you here today.

I'd like to also introduce Mr. Rod Wolfe. He's the mayor of Grenfell, and what a breath of fresh air he's been. He's not concerned about social media posts or being in the news; he just wants to roll up his sleeves and get the work done. And he's just been a pleasure to work with. And welcome to your legislature.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join in with the member opposite in welcoming the mayor and council that are here from Grenfell, and also welcome the concerned citizens that are here from Grenfell and Broadview who are interested in the future of long-term care in their community. I'll say a little bit more in my member statement, but I would like to identify that some of us attended a long-term care town hall in Grenfell back in January. Myself and the member for Saskatoon Riversdale and Regina Northeast were in attendance, and we look forward to meeting with these folks today. So I'd ask all members to join me in welcoming them.

And while I'm on my feet, Mr. Speaker, in your gallery I see the members for the Saskatchewan Coalition for Tobacco Reduction are here today, and I would like to welcome them and thank them for their strong advocacy on behalf of citizens of this province. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to join with my colleague, the member from Moosomin, and colleague across the floor in welcoming Rod Wolfe and Constance MacKenzie from the town council of Grenfell here. I've had a couple of meetings with them over the last little while, couple years . . . Yes, a little while. Rod hasn't been there a couple years yet. But, you know, I had the opportunity to tour their facility there a couple times. And I want to welcome them. And I'm so encouraged with the leadership that they have shown. I want everybody to welcome them to their Legislative Assembly.

And while I'm on my feet, Mr. Speaker, I want to join with the member opposite welcoming the citizens and workers from Grenfell as well. I think we have a meeting set up later on today, 3 or so, whenever we get through question period and whatever media is afterwards. And I'm also looking forward to meeting with the mayor and town councillor at about 2:30 or so, after session. So I ask all members to welcome them to their Legislative Assembly as well.

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

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. In recognition of Commonwealth Day, I'd like to introduce to the House today some very special members from our Government House and Edwardian Gardens staff. Monique Goffinet Miller is here. She's the director of Government House, no stranger to anyone here in the House, I'm sure. Gareth Evans is in charge of programming and visitor services at Government House. So we welcome many, many visitors throughout the year, and the good work that Gareth does is much appreciated. And Susan Schroeder who is in charge of finance and administration at Government House.

Colleagues, Government House is a cherished part of the heritage of the provincial capital. We thank them very much for their work. They attract visitors from around the world that are interested in ornate architectural design, artifacts, and political history. So I'd ask all colleagues to help welcome them on this important day, Commonwealth Day, to their Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd just like to join with the minister in welcoming Monique, Gareth, and Susan to their Legislative Assembly this afternoon. It's always a pleasure to see the three of them. I know all members really enjoy visiting Government House and attending the many very exciting events that I know you and your staff all work very hard to put on. It's great to see the three of you here today, and I ask all members to join me again in welcoming them to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Ms. Ross: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the Minister of Central Services and the member opposite in welcoming Monique, Gareth, and Susan to their Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, on Government House's website it says, "Our Heritage, Our House, Our Future." And these three very dedicated public servants do a wonderful job of promoting Saskatchewan, telling Saskatchewan's story to both visitors from afar and from here right at home. So thank you very much for the three of you for your dedication and your hard work in making sure that the wonderful story of Saskatchewan gets shared. So thank you so much for coming today.

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

Hon. Ms. Beaudry-Mellor: — Thank you so much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the opposite gallery today we have 23 grade 3/4 students from a school in my constituency, Grant Road School, and their parent chaperones. They are accompanied by their teacher, Linda Garratt, and their parent chaperones, Kari Curtis, James Benesh, Jennifer Villafuerte, and Darin Kjeldsen.

I'm really looking forward to the opportunity to spend some time with these young people later. I know those 3/4 students are really engaged and very exciting to be with, so I can't wait to sit with you shortly after session today. Please join me in welcoming them to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too would like to welcome Dr. Lewis Draper to the Legislative Assembly today. He was actually my family doctor when I was a young child. And I don't know if that was your first posting in Saskatchewan or not, but he certainly made an impression on our community. I went to school with his kids, and I just remember fondly the memories of the Draper family in Lafleche. And I just want to welcome you to your Legislative Assembly today.

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

Mr. Steinley: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And it gives me great pleasure to introduce two very important people in my life, my big sister from Halifax, Tanya Phillips, and my daughter, Claire Steinley.

Tanya's in town . . . When you get a bit older, sometimes your family gets together for funerals instead of weddings. So my Auntie Adeline from Swift Current passed away this weekend and we were all together for the funeral. And Tanya came in from Halifax, and she was very excited; she just won the provincial club championship. So she'll be representing Halifax at the Canadian club nationals. It's to be determined where it's going to be, but maybe it'll be close enough that we can go and watch.

My sister's a very accomplished young lady . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Curling, yes. My sister's an accomplished woman. She got a political science degree from Dalhousie University so I think that's where I got a bit of my interest in politics from. She also played basketball while attending Dalhousie. She has two young kids, Evan and Payton. And she also works with the Halifax regional municipality as a program coordinator for bylaw enforcement, Mr. Speaker. And I'd like to welcome her to the Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly.

And my daughter Claire, who is just three — three and a half, she

tells everyone — she's very busy. So it's ironic that they're both here because my sister Tanya taught me how to do my hair, and I think my Claire is going to be the one why I lose my hair. So I'd like you to welcome Claire to her Legislative Assembly.

[13:45]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to this Assembly, it's my pleasure to join with the member from Saskatoon Fairview in welcoming some guests in your gallery, Mr. Speaker, from the Coalition for Tobacco Reduction. We have Donna Pasiechnik from the Canadian Cancer Society, along with Jennifer May, Joseph Chiliak, and Jacob Rohloff.

Mr. Speaker, I had an opportunity to meet with Donna some weeks ago and, as a result of that meeting, some work is now under way. Mr. Speaker, I also understand that they met with members of our Human Services caucus committee today. And I'd ask all members to please give them a warm welcome to their Assembly.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise once again today to present petitions on behalf of citizens and businesses in communities from all across our province as it relates to the Sask Party's hike and then expansion of the PST [provincial sales tax] onto construction labour. This is quite simply, Mr. Speaker, the epitome of a job-killing tax. Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party government saw a slowing economy and slammed on the brakes, Mr. Speaker.

Sadly the reality hasn't been pretty within our economy. We see building permits down across the province. We see employment down. We know that many, many Saskatchewan workers, skilled labour, Mr. Speaker, have been forced to move outside Saskatchewan to pursue employment opportunities. So there's been a whole lot of economic hurt by this very short-sighted decision.

And the prayer reads as follows:

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

These petitions today, Mr. Speaker, are signed by concerned citizens from Spruce Home, Regina, and Moose Jaw. I so submit.

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

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

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

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by citizens of Regina. I do so present. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition calling on the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan to stop the senseless attack on our kids' already strained classrooms. Those who have signed the petition wish to draw our attention to some following items: that the government cut \$54 million from our classrooms in the devastating 2017-18 budget and that the 2018-19 budget restores only a fraction of the devastating \$54 million cut from classrooms; and that even though this government is making us all pay more, our kids are actually getting less, and this has led to cuts to much-needed supports to children and classrooms all around the province.

Mr. Speaker, I'll read the prayer:

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

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

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm rising 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 government has refused to come clean on the GTH land deal, a deal where Sask Party government insiders made millions flipping land and taxpayers, of course, lost millions. Instead of shining a bright light on this issue and unequivocally calling a public inquiry, the Sask Party government is instead hiding behind excuses.

Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party government continues . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . That's a good question . . . to block key witnesses from providing testimony about the land deal, and it is Saskatchewan people who footed the bill for the GTH land deal and deserve nothing less than the truth.

So, Mr. Speaker, I'll read the prayer:

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

And, Mr. Speaker, the individuals who have signed this petition

today live in the city of Regina. I do so submit.

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

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

But we know 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 from outside Saskatchewan.

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

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

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

Mr. Speaker, the people signing this petition come from Melville, Hanley, and Weyburn. I do so present. Thank you.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Regina Women Honoured at Global Citizen Awards Gala

Ms. Beck: — Thank you. On February 2nd, I, along with the member for Regina Northeast, attended the 2019 Global Citizen Awards gala. This is the 28th year that the Saskatchewan Council for International Cooperation has hosted this event held during International Development Week. The celebration is centred on the IDW's [International Development Week] theme of In it Together. And three local women — Cheryl Stadnichuk, Rhonda Rosenberg, and Kyla Wendell McIntyre — were honoured as this year's global citizens.

Kyla works alongside students from diverse backgrounds, teaching EAL [English as an additional language] and mindful creative writing at Sheldon-Williams. Her students brilliantly performed their works at the gala, a tribute to Kyla's efforts to offer students a culture of peace while giving the practical skills to achieve this.

Rhonda has been working with the multicultural community for

over 20 years, serving as the MCOS [Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan] executive director for the past nine. Our community has benefited greatly from Rhonda's skill and dedication.

And Cheryl, who's with us today on her birthday, in the west gallery, Mr. Speaker, is a well-known and well-loved human rights activist who has worked tirelessly to advance human and labour rights for many years, and remains a force committed to improving the lives and working conditions for those at home and abroad.

I invite all members to join me in recognizing these women for their dedication to a better world and reminding us that we are all in this together.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for The Battlefords.

Grand Opening of Saskatchewan Hospital in North Battleford

Mr. Cox: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last Friday saw a landmark achievement in mental health for this province, and that was the grand opening of the new Saskatchewan Hospital North Battleford. For those in need of psychiatric rehabilitation, it is more than a hospital — it is a home. Rooms are spacious and private. Natural lighting is a feature throughout, and the facility itself overlooks the beautiful North Saskatchewan River Valley. Mr. Speaker, all patients from the old Sask Hospital North Battleford have been relocated and settled into the new facility.

Mr. Speaker, mental health is a priority for our government, and that is why we are pleased to support this facility with \$407 million in funding for construction and maintenance to keep it in like-new condition for decades to come.

Mr. Speaker, the new Sask Hospital North Battleford is among the most advanced mental health treatment centres in Canada. It represents the single largest investment in mental health in the history of this province and the cumulative efforts and vision of so many people over the better part of a decade.

Mr. Speaker, while many were involved in this project, I would like to extend a special thanks to the staff at the new Sask Hospital North Battleford. By all accounts, Mr. Speaker, they have done a great job making this transition smooth and comfortable for the patients. I am confident that their compassion and professionalism will have a lasting and positive effect on their lives, their families, and our communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Concerns Over Long-Term Care in Grenfell

Ms. Mowat: — Mr. Speaker, long-term care and the quality of that care is an issue that affects some of the most vulnerable in our province. The Sask Party government continues their agenda of privatization in long-term care, and it is negatively affecting our residents. Saskatchewan people should have confidence that as we age, the government will be there to ensure we are taken

care of. We should not be forced to seek care with credit cards rather than our health cards. We know that privatization of health services reduces access to services and places the quality of care at risk.

I had the opportunity to take part in a town hall in Grenfell with some of my colleagues in January. Many of the citizens present at that town hall have joined us in the legislature today. Even though the people of Grenfell have been fundraising for over 40 years and despite the government's initial assurance that the facility would remain public, this government has released a request for proposals to the private sector, signalling that they have already settled on a private model for their long-term care services going forward.

Mr. Speaker, we owe it to long-term care residents to deliver quality, safe, public care. I would like to thank the organizers of the town hall for their warm welcome and the good people of Grenfell for their determination in asking more from this government in the face of uncertainty.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Lumsden-Morse.

Recognizing Agricultural Safety Week

Mr. Stewart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. March 10th to 16th, 2019 is Agricultural Safety Week. Agricultural Safety Week is an important tool to raise awareness of farm safety in Saskatchewan and across Canada. Agriculture is one of Saskatchewan's largest industries and one of those industries most vital to our economic well-being and way of life.

Every year an average of 13 people lose their lives on Saskatchewan farms. Most serious accidents occur in the farmyard and 75 per cent of farm fatalities involve machinery. This week creates awareness of on-farm safety issues to help reduce these numbers, and we encourage all farm owners, employees, and visitors to make agriculture safety a priority.

To help promote safe farms, our government, primarily through the Ministry of Agriculture, supports organizations such as the Agricultural Health and Safety Network, the Saskatchewan Farm Stress Line, and the Saskatchewan Association of Agricultural Societies and Exhibitions.

Saskatchewan Agricultural Safety Week is held in conjunction with Canadian Agricultural Safety Week, Mr. Speaker, and together as a community and a government, we are committed to eliminating all workplace injuries and illnesses, and the needless suffering they cause.

On behalf of all MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly], Mr. Speaker, I extend the hope that all producers are safe out there this spring and always. Thank you very much.

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

An Evening in Greece Fundraiser Held in Regina

Mr. Steinley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On March 2nd, along with many of my colleagues including our Premier, my wife Larissa and I attended the 25th annual Evening in Greece held at

the Delta Hotel in Regina. Mr. Speaker, I look forward to this event year after year, as I know I'll be greeted with great hospitality and delicious food.

Back in 1994, the Regina chapters of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association and the Daughters of Penelope founded An Evening in Greece, which funded the first elevator at St. Paul's Greek Orthodox Church. Year after year the event grew bigger and better, and it has become one of the premier social fundraisers in Regina. Over the past 24 years this event has raised over \$2.2 million towards local charitable events. This year's fundraising efforts will be donated to the Regina hospital foundation.

Mr. Speaker, world-renowned comedian Angelo Tsarouchas and live music by Poseidon kept the crowd entertained all evening. As always, one of the favourite parts of the evening was joining fellow guests in attendance on the dance floor to break plates and yell, "Opa!" It was a fantastic evening, Mr. Speaker, for an even better cause.

I will now ask that my colleagues please join me in congratulating the AHEPA [American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association] Regina chapter, their Co-Chairs Thomas and Spiro, and their organizing committee on a successful evening and thank them for now 25 years of generosity and service to local charity in Regina. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[14:00]

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Last Mountain-Touchwood.

Celebrating Commonwealth Day

Mr. Hart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the second Monday in March is Commonwealth Day, and this year marks the 70th anniversary of the formation of the Commonwealth, which was founded back in 1959. The Commonwealth is an intergovernmental organization consisting of 52 former British colonies, along with Rwanda and Mozambique. And, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to join with you in welcoming your guests that represent some of the Commonwealth countries that are here with us today.

The Commonwealth is a proud promoter of democracy, the rule of law, economic development, and peace and prosperity. All of the Commonwealth partners have established connections through a shared culture expressed through a literacy heritage, and political and legal structures. Here in Canada and in Saskatchewan, we are proud of the leading role that our country plays in the Commonwealth as a founder, a member, and a mentor.

In recognition of the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the Commonwealth, this year's theme is A Connected Commonwealth, which in its simplest form is what the Commonwealth is all about: fostering strong, lasting connections with countries across the globe to create a harmonious global environment for years to come. I think, Mr. Speaker, that is something we could all support. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Martensville.

An Area of Agreement Between Government and Opposition

Ms. Heppner: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I tend to deliver statements outlining the differences between our government and the NDP [New Democratic Party], but today I'm going to talk about an area of agreement. The NDP leader's first question period started with, and I quote, "What are the issues where the Premier sees us finding common ground?"

Well here's one. In an interview just a few days ago, the NDP leader was asked if he thought Saskatchewan residents were ready for an NDP government. You know what he said? Nope. The headline actually reads, "Saskatchewan NDP leader admits province isn't ready for an NDP government."

Well, Mr. Speaker, we couldn't agree more. But, Mr. Speaker, the NDP leader says that they have a vision for Saskatchewan; just wait for it. We'll get to it, really we will. We know we've had eleven and a half years in opposition, but this time we're really serious about that vision.

Well we agree that Saskatchewan residents will continue to reject the NDP, because we all know their vision includes a carbon tax. Our party highlighted the NDP leader's support for a carbon tax in recent ads. You know what his response was? He claims it isn't true, and then immediately doubles down on what? A carbon tax.

Saskatchewan residents won't support massive increased spending like the NDP leader's proposing. They won't support higher taxes to pay for it. And they will not support a carbon tax. We can't agree more, Mr. Speaker.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Provision of Transportation Services

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and happy Monday to you. It feels a little bit more like a spring session today. There's a bit more sunshine out there.

And we're going to continue our openness in democracy project, bringing forth some questions from the general public for the government. And today's question comes from Cecil Gooliaff of Melfort, Saskatchewan. And Cecil would like to know . . . He's from Melfort, one of the many communities that's been hurt by the shutdown of STC [Saskatchewan Transportation Company], made it harder for farmers in the area. For students, for seniors, made life much more difficult.

What he'd like to know is, what is this government's plan to re-establish access to transport in rural Saskatchewan? And why did they leave \$10 million of federal money dedicated to re-establishing rural transport, why did they leave that money on the table and leave Saskatchewan people stuck on the side of the road?

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

Hon. Mr. Hargrave: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Highways and myself had a nice, lengthy conversation with the federal minister of transportation about this \$10 million that the NDP are talking about. And during that call I did ask the minister for some details, of which he could provide none. I wrote him a letter after that, which we're still waiting a reply from him to see what his response would be. Mr. Speaker, we suggested to the minister, the federal minister, that private entrepreneurs on some First Nations are operating some routes, and if he wanted to help them, that that might be a good idea, Mr. Speaker.

I'll note, to my knowledge, that none of the Western provinces, Mr. Speaker, have taken the minister up on his offer, Mr. Speaker. So, Mr. Speaker, STC was subsidized, Mr. Speaker, over \$17 million a year by taxpayers. At a rate of \$2 million, which would have been about our share of one-time, one-year funding, Mr. Speaker, that would barely cover one month operating, Mr. Speaker.

Perhaps, Mr. Speaker, the members opposite for a change could stand for small operators like those who are providing service and employment opportunities in the transportation industry right here in our province instead of standing with Justin Trudeau and the federal Liberals.

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

Government's Fiscal Management

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thousands of Saskatchewan people left without service. They're offered help to correct that. What do they do? They walk away. They're not interested, Mr. Speaker.

And everything we're hearing, Mr. Speaker, from this side of the aisle, suggests that we're about to see once again games played with our provincial budget: whether it's reporting the provincial pension liabilities the year that it helps the numbers, or not the year that it hurts the numbers; whether it's cramming last-minute expenses into the budget so that it counts against the year before, not this year.

We've seen this over and over again, and we know that it's coming again. And what's disturbing about this, Mr. Speaker, is it's become normal. Saskatchewan people now expect a fudge-it budget from the Saskatchewan Party. They've made this the way that they do things.

So I want to ask the Finance minister today, is she willing to take a different tack? Will she commit to honest and transparent budgeting so that there are no games played this time around? And will she let us know today, will the debt be going up this March 20th or will it actually be a balanced budget?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, there's so much to say to that member's meandering with and displaying his lack of knowledge on budgets. Mr. Speaker, we will not take advice from the NDP on balancing a budget or whether the numbers in the budget are accurate. We'll go by the ruling of the Provincial Auditor.

It was the Provincial Auditor that asked us to make the changes that we made. Had we not made them, that member would have been standing up and criticizing us for that. When we do make them, he stands up and criticizes that, Mr. Speaker. But we will go with the advice of the Provincial Auditor who will audit our books, Mr. Speaker.

We will quite frankly take the advice of the credit rating agencies that have given us, year over year now, AAA credit rating, something that those members when they were government never achieved, Mr. Speaker. We will take that advice over the NDP any day.

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

Equalization Formula

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The question of course was whether the minister would commit to not playing games this time around, but I guess the clear answer to that is no.

Now, Mr. Speaker, when we talk about balance, one of the things we look at is balance along the whole country, looking at equalization. Now a couple of days ago, the Premier doubled down on the incorrectness of stating that the NDP somehow had an unclear position on this. We have had a clear and consistent position that the formula for Canada is unfair for years and years, Mr. Speaker.

Last summer the Sask Party seemed to find religion on this concept as well. They were ready to fight for a fairer formula. And then a couple of days ago I asked here in this House, are they still going to fight for that? What I heard was, no they're happy to be contributors to equalization at this point. So not only does that display and betray a lack of understanding of how equalization works, it's also a very significant flip-flop from only a few months ago.

So my question for the members opposite is, which is it? Are you absolutely fine with the formula, happy to be a contributor? Or are you going to do some work to get it changed and get us a fair deal?

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

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition referenced some advertisements that the government has recently made. The Leader of the Opposition is the leader of the party that produced the wolf-in-sheep's-clothing ad campaign and the phony quote-splicing ad. And now he's whining about what we've had to say in our ads, using his own words.

Mr. Speaker, he supports a carbon tax. He's called our carbon tax legal challenge a pointless crusade. And he has spoken at an anti-pipeline rally behind a podium that said, "No pipelines," "Keep it in the ground." He has made millions upon millions of dollars of spending promises with no plan to pay for it, Mr. Speaker. It's no wonder even the NDP leader himself is now admitting to Saskatchewan residents that Saskatchewan isn't ready for an NDP government.

Mr. Speaker, our Premier is standing up for Saskatchewan. The

NDP leader is out of touch with Saskatchewan. You bet we're going to run ads on that.

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

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's always amusing to hear this government go on and on about what events I may or may not have attended. When you've got the Premier and members of the cabinet who are willing to show up at yellow vest protests, willing to show up at yellow vest protests and support a movement that is against immigration, that has been proposing and proponents of violence against the Prime Minister, Mr. Speaker — out of touch. That's out of touch with our values as Saskatchewan people, Mr. Speaker, and it's wrong.

And the question that wasn't answered was what do they want to do about equalization? We heard no answer and we heard no commitment to action. And I've got to ask what happened. Who got to them? Was it Doug Ford? Was it Andrew Scheer? Is that who's got them now being quiet on equalization, Mr. Speaker?

You know, you've got members across the way who are running for federal seats. Is the Sask Party now just the farm team for the federal Conservatives? And now because it'll ruffle feathers in Ontario and Quebec, they don't want to talk about equalization anymore, Mr. Speaker . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Just looking for some order . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . You haven't been recognized. I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Meili: — Thanks for the recognition, Mr. Speaker. I think the question that is before us now is what happened. Why has the Sask Party walked away from caring about this? Are they simply carrying water for Andrew Scheer, too worried that they'll ruffle feathers for him in Ontario and Quebec, make life more difficult for him? Would they rather sit on the bench than do what they said they would do, which is fight for a fair formula for equalization in Saskatchewan?

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

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition suddenly has discovered some view on equalization. We're not sure what it is; he has steadily skateboarded around that one for months.

Mr. Speaker, he scatters shots with a lot of questions in there, throwing in some stuff about the yellow vests and everything else. But it's a little insulting perhaps, to impugn every single person who attends a rally and suggest they all have extreme views, Mr. Speaker. That doesn't happen in Ontario with the GM [General Motors] protests. No one implies that one or two conspiratorial, kooky posts apply to everyone who shows up.

Did the Leader of the Opposition canvass the views of everyone who attended his keep the oil in the ground rally two years ago? Or what about the Summit of the Americas in 2001 because he was arrested at that one? Wasn't he with the student activist network, Mr. Speaker? Any extreme views there? What does it

take to get arrested at something like that?

Why doesn't the Leader of the Opposition just admit that he's ashamed of the oil and gas sector? And if he's not, why is he so desperate to paint everyone with the same brush because 99 per cent of the people at these rallies are peaceful, reasonable, hard-working people who've simply had enough of being part of a sector that's under attack by the likes of him.

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

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm more than proud of our oil and gas industry and proud of . . . [inaudible] . . . time and again. The question, Mr. Speaker, however, was around equalization, and it's relevant. You know, it's our natural resources that aren't recognized in the current formula that we were willing to take to the Supreme Court to fight for a fair deal. These folks across the way made a lot of noise about this this summer, but they've done absolutely nothing to move the file forward.

The question is, what's the plan? Do you see any plan on that side to get us a fair deal for equalization for Saskatchewan? Because I sure don't.

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

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we've seen, the Leader of the Opposition has been getting a little touchy about what he calls those Republican-style ads — I don't know, Democrats don't do political ads — in which his own words, his own positions or non-positions, such as on equalization, are reflected.

[14:15]

Mr. Speaker, he has no position on Bill C-69, which would have devastating impacts on jobs in this province. He has no position on equalization, but he has a very clear position in favour of the federal carbon tax, which he's now beginning to flip-flop on. Mr. Speaker, he said an intriguing thing on January 9: "We need to make sure the needs of Western Canada are taken care of."

So what's he suggesting when it comes to the energy and resources space? That Leader of the Opposition didn't run for the hills when he saw "No pipelines," "Keep the oil in the ground" placards at that rally just two years ago. Apparently that was just stage decoration. He didn't say "I can't do this" to the 34,000 people employed in the oil and gas sector in this province. That would go some way towards the needs of Western Canada.

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

Mr. Meili: — Mr. Speaker, the question is straightforward, but the position on that side is not. We see a very significant flip-flop on equalization. Which is it? Does this government think we're getting a fine deal, and they're happy to be contributors? Or are they willing to fight for a fair deal? Because I have heard nothing that comes anywhere close to responding to that very clear question.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, the member opposite is well aware that we're on record of wanting changes to equalization. There has been a number of conversations, as well as correspondence, between my office and Morneau's office, Mr. Speaker. He has ignored that and just gone ahead with the formula as is. We have asked for changes on more than one occasion, Mr. Speaker, and then we came forward with the 50/50 plan. That's also been brought forward to the federal government and they chose not to even respond to it, Mr. Speaker.

So that member opposite knows that we're not happy with the equalization formula. He knows it's on record. I can give him copies of the correspondence I've sent, although I don't have the conversations taped. I don't have that, but I do have letters.

And, Mr. Speaker, I don't think that member or any of the members opposite can take one stand on the economy, when their record when they were in government was to kill jobs in every single front by closing hospitals, closing nursing homes, closing schools, and killing jobs. That's their record, Mr. Speaker.

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

Long-Term Care Facilities

Ms. Chartier: — We are joined today by people from the communities of Grenfell and Broadview who are concerned about access to quality, long-term care in Grenfell. It has been nearly seven months since the long-term care centre in Grenfell was shut down because it was riddled with mould and asbestos, and 21 residents had to be moved elsewhere. Sadly since that time, five residents from Grenfell who were pushed into other communities far from home have died. This is in stark contrast to the one resident who passed away in the previous 18 months.

Mr. Speaker, this closure has been traumatic for all involved, residents and staff alike. Community members have been left in the dark as to whether displaced residents will be able to return home and whether the dozens of good-paying jobs will be restored in Grenfell. We know they are meeting with the minister today, Mr. Speaker. Does he finally have the answers they've been waiting for? Will he assure these folks today that long-term care will be returning to Grenfell, publicly funded long-term care?

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

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well that's easy. Absolutely, Mr. Speaker. I've met with members of that community over the last few years a number of times. I've toured the facility. I've spoken to leaders in the community. I've advocated to the former Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region on behalf of the community for the facility, always their number one rural priority, Mr. Speaker. We've invested hundreds of thousands of dollars in that facility to keep the maintenance up, to keep it into a quality condition that would house those clients.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, a number of months ago the regional health authority found extensive mould throughout the facility, so for the safety of the clients there, it was chosen to close the facility and find alternative housing for the interim, Mr. Speaker.

All clients within that facility were given either their first or second choice of interim housing while we come up with a plan to replace the facility, Mr. Speaker.

The RFP [request for proposal] went out February 7th for that facility. It closes March 20th. We're anticipating some really good uptake on that. And whether it comes back as suggesting that we go ahead with the government-funded, traditional build for public health care in that community or whether we get a third party or affiliate that's willing to do that — which is 35 per cent of our houses in the province are that route, Mr. Speaker — we'll be pursuing those options.

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

Ms. Chartier: — The people who have travelled here today want answers. They want these jobs back in their community. If the folks opposite would listen, that would be great, Mr. Speaker. They want these jobs back in their community. And more than anything, they want the residents returned home close to their loved ones. They have been fundraising and organizing for years to make this happen as they watched their care home fall into disrepair. These long-term care beds need to be restored.

In the former RQHR [Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region] health district, there are nearly 200 fewer long-term care beds than there were in 2011 despite population growth. They need a solution that doesn't involve long waits or being displaced from their home community. The minister just got up and said, absolutely they're restoring long-term care in Grenfell. The folks want to know when this is happening, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Mr. Speaker, as I stated, I know the member's statement as read by the member from Fairview earlier said something about privatization, all this other mumbo-jumbo. Mr. Speaker, this is not about privatization. This is about publicly funded health care within that community. Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier, over 35 per cent of our long-term care in this province are delivered by affiliates or third party partners. So, Mr. Speaker, this was done under the NDP and we'll continue to look for options in that regard as well.

Mr. Speaker, we look at the commitment of this government to long-term care. We've continually built new long-term care facilities in this province. Grenfell wasn't on that initial list. It's been under consideration for some time. Because of mould, we're going to have to address it sooner rather than later, Mr. Speaker. That's why the RFP went out only last month. It'll be closing at the end of this month to look at the options that we have for delivering that care, Mr. Speaker.

But when you look at this new-founded commitment to rural Saskatchewan by the New Democratic Party, it just flies in the face of their history, Mr. Speaker. We know within the report that was developed by the town of Grenfell, it specifically says the reason why they are at this point, so I hope she has another question.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Saskatoon

Riversdale.

Ms. Chartier: — Mr. Speaker, this government has ignored the needs of health facilities across the province for years and is now scrambling — scrambling, Mr. Speaker — to find places for the seniors who've been forced out of their homes. Talk to any one of those workers, Mr. Speaker, and they would have told you they knew that the facility was going downhill regularly, Mr. Speaker. They knew there was a problem.

This is a problem that is only set to get worse. The infrastructure deficit in health facilities across this province has ballooned to \$3.3 billion, up 50 per cent in just four years. The tender for the Grenfell facility is closing next week. And community members are expressing to me and to us that they are concerned this government's lack of planning will lead to displaced residents ending up in private care homes or remaining outside of Grenfell. Can the minister assure these folks today that residents will be able to return to Grenfell and live in a publicly funded, publicly run long-term care home that they deserve?

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

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Mr. Speaker, the member wants to talk about commitment. How about 52 hospitals and 19 long-term care facilities closed? Oh, that was them. Twelve hundred long-term care beds.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan Hospital North Battleford just opened. Children's hospital in Saskatoon will be opening. Moose Jaw Hospital, Humboldt Hospital, 14 long-term care facilities, Mr. Speaker, countless primary health clinics, increase in doctors, increase in nurses — this government has continually invested in these areas, Mr. Speaker.

You know what the NDP's record is? In fact the member from Rosemont — I think he might have been the leader at the time — what did he stand up and say in the House? He told us to scrap the panel report on health system restructuring. He said dust off the Fyke Commission report, Mr. Speaker. What did that say? It said, close 50 to 70 more facilities, likely Grenfell. And that's the record that they have. They're telling us to close more facilities. That's what they would do. That's not our record.

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

Ms. Chartier: — News flash to that member opposite. It's his government who's been in power for 11 years, Mr. Speaker, and who has had more money than any government has ever had in the history of this province to make these kinds of investments. Community-based care is a good thing. Less institutional care is a good thing. But ignoring the infrastructure needs of long-term care homes, then using it as a reason to push residents into the private system, is not.

If this government is looking at wholesale changes to the way long-term care is delivered in this province, they need to be transparent and consult with the people of Saskatchewan, not ignore a crumbling health facility for years and use it as an excuse because they're out of options.

Will the minister commit to not changing the model for long-term care in the province without taking it to the people of Saskatchewan first?

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

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Mr. Speaker, from the Grenfell & District Pioneer Home's own report here, I just want to read two little quotes. It would have been in the late '80s: "Extensive planning and discussion by level 4 committee. Notice of intent was submitted to the Saskatchewan government to build a replacement care home in Grenfell." '91 to '07, the NDP never got it done. In fact in here it says in 1993 the NDP closed their hospital.

Mr. Speaker, they want a commitment to the current system of long-term care. Absolutely, Mr. Speaker. We know that over 35 per cent of our care in this province, in long-term care homes, is delivered by affiliates and third party partners, Mr. Speaker, same as under the NDP. So to engage a third party partner, an affiliate, to look at a possibility to delivering health care here, or if the case arises that it makes more sense to have a traditional build under the current system, Mr. Speaker, we'll look at that as well. But we're looking to look at all options to return these beds back to Grenfell as quickly as possible.

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

Development in Wascana Park

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, we learned today that the Provincial Capital Commission has pushed pause on the proposed Brandt build in Wascana until the auditor concludes her investigation. Given the growing number of serious questions surrounding this proposed project, this is a welcome announcement and one that we had asked for.

But it's also a clear indication that something is seriously wrong with the process that this government imposed, a process the Premier and the minister called the "normal course of business" just last week. How can the minister continue to defend this flawed process, and how could he have possibly let it get to this point?

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

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you very much. Thank you to the member for her question. We said last week and we continue to say all processes were followed. The project was tendered. It was tendered by the CNIB [Canadian National Institute for the Blind] national office. Six companies took out information. One company put a proposal forward.

Mr. Speaker, I was informed by the Provincial Capital Commission Board that at their meeting last week they decided to suspend all further consideration relating to the Canadian National Institute for the Blind project due to an abundance of caution, Mr. Speaker, an abundance of caution due to the regular review being provided by the Provincial Auditor.

Mr. Speaker, this shows that the process works. This shows that

this is a rigorous process where people are listened to, where we take into consideration the views of the public. But again we maintain that the processes were followed. The project was tendered. This is a good project. It's good for the CNIB. It's good for the city of Regina. It's good for the province of Saskatchewan.

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, having to put a project on hold because the auditor is getting involved does not mean it's a successful process. With the future home now of CNIB in limbo and with serious questions still unanswered, will the minister do the right thing and state unequivocally that this project should not go ahead as conceived so that CNIB can now move forward with a project that works for them, that works for the people of Saskatchewan, and works for the future of our park?

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

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you very much and I think I'll let the Canadian National Institute for the Blind speak for themselves. In a release today they said:

For more than 60 years, CNIB has been proud to serve Regina's blind and partially sighted community out of Wascana Centre. The park has been, and continues to be, an ideal location . . . to provide . . . [these] vital services.

They go on to say:

We look forward to the outcome of the auditor's review, and to resuming discussions about this [vital] project at the appropriate juncture. In the meantime, we thank our partners and the community for their valued support . . . [and] mission.

Again, Mr. Speaker, this shows that the process has worked. I said right from the beginning that this process has not been a slam dunk for the Canadian National Institute for the Blind. It goes back to 2011; processes were followed by the former Wascana Centre Authority. It became a conforming project under the WCA [Wascana Centre Authority]. Mr. Speaker, we continue to work very closely with the Canadian National Institute for the Blind. We will let the Provincial Capital Commission do their job. We will let the auditor do their job. And at the end of the day, we will have a better project for it.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[14:30]

MESSAGE FROM HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

The Speaker: — Just before orders of the day, I have a message from Her Majesty. If everybody could please stand.

Commonwealth Day has a special significance this year as we mark the 70th anniversary of the London Declaration, when nations of the Commonwealth agreed to move forward together as free and equal members. The vision and

sense of connection that inspired the signatories have stood the test of time, and the Commonwealth continues to grow, adapting to address contemporary needs.

Today, many millions of people around the world are drawn together because of the collective values shared by the Commonwealth. In April last year, I welcomed the leaders of our 53 nations to Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, and we all witnessed how the Commonwealth vision offers hope and inspires us to find ways of protecting our planet, and our people.

We are able to look to the future with greater confidence and optimism as a result of the links that we share, and thanks to the networks of cooperation and mutual support to which we contribute, and on which we draw. With enduring commitment through times of great change, successive generations have demonstrated that whilst the goodwill for which the Commonwealth is renowned may be intangible, its impact is very real.

We experience this as people of all backgrounds continue to find new ways of expressing through action the value of belonging in a connected Commonwealth. I hope and trust that many more will commit to doing so this Commonwealth Day.

Elizabeth R.

Please be seated.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 133

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

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and I rise again to enter into the debate on Bill No. 133, *An Act to amend The Legislative Assembly Act, 2007*. And there are some things I want to make sure I get on the record before we move this on. Of course this is one that has had significant controversy over the setting of the election date into late fall, Monday, October 26th of 2020. Many people had raised the concern around the conflict with the municipalities and the fact that they're going to be having their typical fall election pretty close to that time.

And of course the minister — and I do want to read this into the record — he talked about the consultations that went on between the urban and rural municipalities and the department. And it was

pretty clear that this government was going to have a fall election, come whatever. In fact he said “. . . it was clear they wanted to keep their elections in the fall of 2020.” And so did we. Period.

And so here you have a government that was really bent on fall elections and really not compromising at all, you know, and the minister also said . . . And this is one that we'll ask some questions about: he talks about that he wanted to set a date that didn't cause any problems to the legislative calendar. And so he could only see that October, late October, would be a good date.

Well we know June would not cause any problem for the legislative calendar too. You could finish up your spring session. You could have your budget, and then you could go into an election. And that would actually be a reasonable thing to do because you would have something then to actually have to run on, and so a spring election would not be. Especially if it was held in June like it has been many times in Saskatchewan's history, you could keep the legislative calendar working quite well.

We know that June is a much better date in terms of the weather. Spring seeding is finished. The day is long. People are out and about. October is . . . You know, we're not quite sure what the weather could bring at that time. And so we have some concerns.

And of course the other concern that we did raise is the fact that two members here will be going to run in a federal election and so there will be two ridings that will be being without representation for over a year.

An Hon. Member: — They haven't had much.

Mr. Forbes: — Yes, and they may not notice a change. Would you not notice a change? I don't know. But that the two ridings in both the major cities — in Saskatoon, in Regina — that will be without representation.

In fact I had raised this earlier when I brought forward a private member's bill, that many members on their side who had seen this happen previous were quite alarmed that any, any riding would be without representation for more than six months. That was the typical time period that we had. And this government interestingly has decided not to add that correction. And we'll have questions about why are they letting that slide, particularly when many of their own members who are in the House today felt that was not justified, that every riding deserves to have full representation in the House, particularly when it comes to . . .

You know it is so ironic, it is so ironic, Mr. Speaker, that the minister will talk about his dedication and commitment to the legislative calendar, but we'll have two ridings that will not have anybody here. Maybe they'll . . . Well I'm not sure what their plans are, but they most likely won't be here for the Throne Speech this fall and they won't be here for next spring budget. We'll have two ridings who won't have any representation for those two events. They're major events in the legislative calendar, and I have to say it is kind of wearing thin, this commitment to the legislative calendar but not to legislative representation.

Now what should we be paying attention to, Mr. Speaker? I've got to tell you, I side with legislative representation. So they

could fix that. They could fix that, but they've got this idea, and it's pretty simple, that this is what they're committed to, having a fall election, as problematic as that is. And it's not just problematic in 2020. It will be problematic in 2024. It will be problematic in 2028. It will be problematic in 2032 and on and on.

This is not a simple one-time fix. This is a problem they're putting into legislation. And it's a problem when we say, you know, often we try not to think of unintended . . . We often try to anticipate and think of the consequences, but sometimes there's unanticipated consequences. But here we have a situation we know there are going to be consequences to this. We know there are going to be problems with this. We know there's going to be lower voter turnout. We know these things. This is not good for democracy and yet we're going ahead with it.

Now we've seen this government come back in terms, the following terms where they have to correct mistakes from before. So why not fix it right this time? Why not get a better date? Why not think of and anticipate those problems that we'll have in 2020, '24, 2028, 2032? Why not fix them right now, and in the meantime to also fix the problem making sure that people have representation?

Mr. Speaker, I know there'll be lots of questions in committee and I'm looking forward to being in committee with that, so I'm willing to move this bill to committee right now. Thank you.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the minister that Bill No. 133 be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

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

Hon. Mr. Brkich: — I designate that Bill No. 133, *The Legislative Assembly (Election Dates) Amendment Act, 2018* be committed to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice committee.

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

Bill No. 145

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

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

Ms. Rancourt: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm happy to rise again to add some more comments with regards to Bill No. 145, *The Residential Services Act*. Mr. Speaker, like I said before, this

particular piece of legislation has been very interesting for me due to the fact that Social Services is my critic area and so any changes to legislation with regards to that ministry is very important and I pay due diligence with regards to evaluating it.

We know *The Residential Services Act*, this piece of legislation might be small but it impacts a lot of people in this province. There's many individuals who rely on the services that this government provides with providing residential services. It's a wide variety of individuals who require this service. There's children and individuals leaving dangerous situations and people with special needs that need extra services. And so it's really important that we assure that this piece of legislation is going to protect the individuals in these placements.

And so I plan to really have some lengthy and important questions to be bringing forward at committee. And some of them are going to be with regards to, where will there be access to a list of care facilities that fall under this piece of legislation and the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Social Services? And how could people of the general public be able to access that? And will there be availability for the public to be able to access the licensing requirements or the regulations required for these facilities to operate under so that they have all the information they need when making decisions of placements?

Also there is some changes with regards to the length of time to review licences and some very vague information the minister provided when providing his remarks with regards to this legislation of who could potentially fall in these categories that might not need to do a review of their licence on a yearly basis like it is typical at this time. Or who might, you know, be able to go up to three years or potentially longer with regards to the review? And there's a bit of concern with regards to that, Mr. Speaker. We know things can change after time and we want to ensure that people are listening to the rules and regulations and there needs to be some accountability, right?

So we need to ensure that safety is utmost important, and how is that going to continue to be maintained if there's going to be some changes with regards to the length of time for evaluating these licences. So there's a lot of questions with regards to that, and of course safety always comes into question with regards to safety for residents and safety for employees. Previously I had some experience in being the critic for Workers' Compensation and that workers are getting hurt more and more in a lot of care facilities. And so how are we going to work to ensure that there's more safety for all of the individuals involved with regards to facilities?

So like I said, Mr. Speaker, there's quite a few questions that I'll have for committee. And I'm looking forward to having those discussions with the minister and the officials that will be within the committee. And so with that I cease my remarks with regards to Bill No. 145.

[14:45]

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the minister that Bill No. 145 be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

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

Hon. Mr. Brkich: — I designate that Bill No. 145, *The Residential Services Act, 2018* be committed to the Standing Committee on Human Services committee.

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

Bill No. 147

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

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to rise this afternoon and enter into the debate around Bill No. 147, *The Oil and Gas Conservation Amendment Act*.

This bill makes a few changes that I'd like to speak about. It essentially changes some terms used in the previous legislation and adds some new terms. It also redefines the role and responsibilities of the minister. It sets new rules for inspection and investigation of incidents. It sets out the procedures governing the pooling interests in drainage unit and the drainage areas that are applicable. It changes the procedures governing a pooling order and adds a new clause on the reduction of greenhouse gases. The bill also changes the penalty provisions, expanding the fees to \$50,000 if you're an individual and \$500,000 if you're a corporation for each day of an offence that is taking place.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we know that there are a number of industry operators that are reporting incidents, and that number has significantly declined. And we know that from the last auditor's report. However, we haven't heard any steps by this government around enforcing the reporting of incidents and ensuring that there is compliance in this area, Mr. Speaker. So we can do what we can to create stricter legislation, but when we're not backing it up with the work to ensure that that stricter legislation is being complied with, it really renders the changes being made as null and inefficient.

We're also concerned with whether or not the government has implemented the recommendations that are outlined in the last report from the Provincial Auditor. They have been very slow in terms of implementing the recommendations that are needed. We feel that we need stronger regulations in this area, that we need to ensure that we're upholding the protection of our environment and reflect a strict commitment to the reduction of greenhouse gases emissions while still ensuring that our economy is sustainable and that our economy is thriving, Mr. Speaker.

Now I know the critic for this bill is looking forward to asking questions of the officials about this issue and many others at committee. And to allow our critic to do that work, I am prepared at this time to allow this bill to move on to its next stage and move on to committee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion by the minister that Bill No. 147 be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

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

Hon. Mr. Brkich: — I designate that Bill No. 147, *The Oil and Gas Conservation Amendment Act, 2018* be committed to the Standing Committee on the Economy committee.

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

Bill No. 148

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

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

Ms. Rancourt: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm happy to add my remarks today with regards to the adjourned debates with Bill No. 148. It's *The Pipelines Amendment Act*. Mr. Speaker, this piece of legislation was of particular interest to me due to the fact that pipelines weren't something that we necessarily talked a whole lot about in Prince Albert area for a lot of my life anyway. But we know there was a situation that happened a few years back here now that there was an oil leak and some of that oil went downstream into our river and ended up in the North Battleford, Prince Albert, and Melfort area. And so that really had a severe impact on our water system, and our community reacted to it in a very professional way and actually won some awards with regards to the professionalism and how speedy they were with ensuring that all the residents had good, safe, clean water to continue to use while we were dealing with the crisis of cleaning up the river.

But prior to that incident, I have to say that oil pipelines and such and oil regulations weren't something that was regularly discussed at the coffee table or the dinner table. But since that time, it's really made individuals really aware of the potential consequences of not having proper regulations with regards to pipelines.

So I was really interested in finding out what some of the changes were going to be with regards to this piece of legislation, and so I reviewed the minister's remarks. And my understanding from

what the minister indicated was that pipeline regulation . . . They're doing an enhancement program and they're wanting to improve Sask pipelines regulatory system, so some of these improvements and expansions of the integrated resource information system which they call IRIS.

So in order to expand it, they had to make some changes with regards to this piece of legislation. And so some of the changes that they needed to do was to be able to establish IRIS as a legal online registry. And the other thing they needed to do was to establish a legal process for the minister to acquire historical flowlines and pipelines surveys directly from the Saskatchewan land surveyors so that they could put them onto the new online system that will include geographic information systems of the maps of flowlines and pipelines.

Also she indicated that there'd be housekeeping amendments with regards to changes within this piece of legislation, which is typical. When we review legislation, we want to ensure that it meets the needs of the times and change some of the wording, and if there's been some changes within the industry.

But, Mr. Speaker, this piece of legislation does nothing to address the auditor's concerns that she brought forward with regards to pipeline regulations. So I find it a bit ironic that we're talking about pipeline regulations but everything that the minister indicated in her remarks just talk about this simply being a registry process and making it easier on individuals to register and to be able to see where the flowlines and pipelines are. I think there'll be some really interesting discussions in committee with regards to how, with the changes of these systems, how that's going to actually increase regulations.

And, Mr. Speaker, I wanted to talk a little bit about what the Provincial Auditor did indicate when she did a review, and she said that the government isn't doing enough to effectively regulate oil and gas pipelines. And she said that a lot of the policies and procedures simply aren't doing a good enough job evaluating the existing pipeline operations. So you have to have effective pipeline regulation because it helps to prevent leaks, explosions, and other hazards, and that's exactly what the auditor indicated. She also said that the ministry hasn't developed a risk-based assessment to monitor pipeline construction or the integrity and safety of existing lines.

Now, Mr. Speaker, this was remarks that the auditor stated a while back. I don't see any of these changes within this piece of legislation, but hopefully these are things that the ministry has been considering. She also indicated that . . . The auditor indicated that they need a longer term approach with regards to making sure that pipelines are safe.

They indicate in this article that there's 2,200 licensed pipelines in Saskatchewan, and approximately 80 operators. And the auditor indicated that the government is focusing on updating its licensing records and issuing amendments to pipeline licences as opposed to using that information to actually monitor the pipelines. She's quoted here saying, "They haven't turned their mind to even assessing the results that are in the compliance reports that they have received and to come up with a strategy as to how they're going to make sure that the pipelines in fact are safe."

So also the auditor indicates that the two largest operators, who account for about half of all the pipelines in this province, have not even completed all their forms. And so that's troubling information to read, Mr. Speaker.

And I know that the government gets all of the information from the auditor, and so they have this information and the auditor's concerns and suggestions. And so now that we're taking the time to review these pieces of legislation, now is the time to implement these suggestions from the auditor because it's important that we take her investigation and put that forward into new pieces of legislation.

So, Mr. Speaker, I know the critic with regards to this particular file will do their due diligence with discussions with the industry and stakeholders and will have a lot of questions when this comes forward into committee. But at this time I cease my remarks with regards to Bill 148.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the minister that Bill No. 148 be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

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

Hon. Mr. Brkich: — I designate that Bill No. 148, *The Pipelines Amendment Act, 2018* be committed to the Standing Committee on the Economy committee.

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

Bill No. 163

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 163 — *The Legal Profession Amendment Act, 2018*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to enter into this kind of debate on this kind of bill. I think it looks very interesting. It has a potential for improving services to people who are in need of legal services so I think we can all get behind that. That's the intention here, is to be innovative and look at how we can improve services. And of course, not being a lawyer, I don't know if this is a good one or a bad one, so we're going to have to find out more. But I think we can always try to improve our services.

We saw this in the medical services where we saw . . . You know, the other night I was at an event and I was sitting with a nurse practitioner. And I thanked her because it meant that many more people have access to health care because now we have nurse practitioners.

And so what does this mean when we can remove some of the formality of the legal services that have often proved to be costly and expensive? Because it is. I mean lawyers need to create their overhead, make sure that they . . . not create their overhead, but pay for their overhead and make sure that they're doing okay as well.

And so I just want to review. It's always helpful to review the minister's comments because that gives us a bit of a framework about where we're going with this bill.

[15:00]

And so in terms of the legal professions, that is all based on the implementation, the recommendations of the legal services task force, that task team that was set up in 2017. And the role was to examine whether service providers other than lawyers should be permitted to provide some legal services in Saskatchewan. And they held public consultations throughout the province. They met with various people including judges, lawyers, community organizations, legal associations, government officials, and they had online public surveys that they often do. And they even had public town hall meetings, which is very interesting, very innovative for these folks because they tend never . . . This is one thing that's kind of strange for them to do. And so anyways, congrats on that. That's good.

But you know, I'm wondering, when they met with community organizations, whether they met with John Howard or Elizabeth Fry. Those would be two groups that would jump out at me. Of course CLASSIC [Community Legal Assistance Services for Saskatoon Inner City Inc.] would be another one, in Saskatoon. But these folks are people who are often run astray of law, but I mean . . . And there's others, you know, whether it's dealing with real estate, whether it's community groups who, particularly around consumer affairs, where it seems your only option is to get a lawyer involved and maybe you don't want to go that far down the road. So anyways, we'll see. I know in committee it will be interesting to hear what people have to say about what the feedback was and who the people were.

Some of the things that they're talking about is, amendments will authorize the Law Society to issue limited licences on a case-by-case basis to non-lawyers, and also to allow the government to make regulations setting licensing requirements for these new alternative legal service providers. So, Mr. Speaker, and then there's the whole liability question that has to be dealt with. So he talked about this bill being an important step in what's likely to be a multi-year process of developing requirements for non-lawyer members, in educating the public on new ways to access legal services. You know, they talk about paralegal systems that are in place in British Columbia and Ontario and how we can be leading the way.

I do have to think about the unintended consequences. We saw this government bring forward changes to the human rights process here in Saskatchewan, getting rid of the tribunal system. And they said things would speed up. And yet I do hear concerns about that still to this day, that how do you oversee to make sure people do have access, and that access to the law is very, very important. And if they don't have that access, you know, justice denied is a big, big issue in Canada.

So if there's not a way . . . if people feel like their rights are being limited or their access to having their rights be heard and adjudicated, then this is a problem. So it's just not a matter of being more efficient; it's about a matter of being more effective so that people feel like they've had their day in court. Now what that court looks like can be a different thing. I mean I don't think people are too hung up on the formality of it, but it is making sure that people do have good, solid access and that they're heard and their case is presented fairly and rigorously so that there can be appropriate resolutions to it.

And so with that, Mr. Speaker, I know that we've got a lot of work yet to do today, and so I know that we'll be looking forward to hearing the minister. But I'm also looking forward to hearing other people speak on this. So with that, I would move adjournment now on Bill No. 163, *The Legal Profession Amendment Act, 2018*. Thank you.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill. No. 164

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 164** — *The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2018 (No. 3)* be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Pedersen: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour here to participate in this debate today, fulfilling our important role here of contributing to public discourse on this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, this will come as no great surprise to you that this is a fairly technical, detailed Act that is not of any . . . I expect of no public controversy at all. And, Mr. Speaker, in my mind, that highlights the very important role that our public service plays in this province. This bill talks about a number of amendments to existing legislation on the books that I suspect there are no members of this House that really have any great insight into these bills because they're technical in nature. Potentially the minister has looked at these with a little more detail than the rest of us, but beyond the minister I suspect there's no one in this House who has any great insight into these bills or amendments.

But, Mr. Speaker, that highlights that the public service does have a very important role in our province because thankfully there is somebody who does pay attention to these laws, to these regulations, making sure that they do stay up to date, making sure that they're referring to, as the definitions and terms and other legislation changes, making sure that the legislation that refers to those terms in other pieces gets updated as well.

And so, Mr. Speaker, we are very fortunate that we have an independent public service that's not political. You know, and actually the discourse here today, Mr. Speaker, highlighted that. You know, the member from Walsh Acres got up to recognize, you know, the very important work that the Greek community does in their fundraiser, listed off a bunch of people who were

there in attendance. He forgot to mention the member from Regina Northeast who was there. I'm sure that omission was somewhat political. But that goes to highlight the importance of having a public service that is not political, whose job is just there to do good work for the benefit of the citizens of Saskatchewan, the people who live here, whose important work includes looking at the details of very important policies that are there for the benefit of all of us.

And, Mr. Speaker, you know, I think it vexes a number of members of the public service who, when this government was first elected, they gave this government the benefit of the doubt. I suspect quite a few of them were actually looking forward to a change. But, Mr. Speaker, I think if you . . . if they would tell you — they're very reluctant to share their political leanings given their job — but I suspect that if you could find out their political leanings right now, I think that mindset will have changed. You know, threatening to cut their pay by three and a half per cent tends to do things like that. Interfering with their work in a political nature and disregarding the recommendations of an independent public service tends to have that impact on their viewpoint.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I guess I just can't say it enough that on this side of the House we recognize the value of an independent, objective, and hard-working public service. And we appreciate the efforts that they go to on legislation like this, but also all the other policy that isn't controversial, that isn't public, that doesn't make it to the newspaper. We appreciate their work.

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

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 165

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 165 — *The Workers' Compensation Amendment Act, 2018*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to wade into debate today on Bill No. 165, *The Workers' Compensation Amendment Act, 2018*. I'll tell you, Mr. Speaker, just chat a little bit about what this bill does and then just a few comments about it.

So one of the highlights of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is that there are increased presumptive cancers for first responders, for firefighters actually, Mr. Speaker. Presumptive coverage will be added for Saskatchewan firefighters to include prostate cancer, skin cancer, breast cancer, cervical cancer, ovarian cancer, and multiple myeloma.

This has been an ask of the Saskatchewan Professional Fire Fighters Association for several years now and for a while . . . Actually to the minister's credit, he has added, I believe, one or two cancers that they didn't anticipate in this. So we are actually closer to the top of the pack on these. But the Professional Fire Fighters Association had been asking for several years for these changes, Mr. Speaker, and I'm really glad to see these.

And I'm really happy too that this will have a positive impact for female firefighters, Mr. Speaker — for male firefighters as well — but breast cancer and cervical cancer and ovarian cancer obviously are . . . well, breast cancer applies to men as well, but there are fewer female firefighters in Saskatchewan than men obviously. It's still a very male-dominated profession, but I know that the female firefighters with whom I had an opportunity to speak when they were here and in other conversations were absolutely thrilled to have this finally recognized.

You work in a job that puts you at risk. I think lots of people don't always realize what our first responders do in their day-to-day life. They respond to not just fires — and it's fires, actually, that put them at great risk. We have all kinds of chemicals that burn in . . . It's not like the good old days of like, wood, Mr. Speaker, like basic two-by-fours. The building materials have really, really changed over the years, making it a toxic mix when a firefighter enters a building. And even with their protective gear they sometimes have to pick between protection and heat ventilation, so they still are exposed at times to some of these toxic chemicals.

So that is a positive move for firefighters and to recognize the work that these folks do on a day-to-day basis, putting their lives on the line for us, running into fires and into dangerous situations when the rest of us run out. So I believe it's the least that we can do as a province is, if someone gets sick, we make sure that they are well cared for and can be assured that they have the support that they need in treatment and onward, Mr. Speaker.

There are a few other changes that this bill makes. It makes some amendments to definitions. It changes the composition of the board to include three full-time members and up to four part-time members. It establishes the responsibilities of the Workers' Compensation Board.

It clarifies that dependent spouse benefits are to be indexed to the consumer price index, which again I think is a really positive move. If you put a gendered lens on that, Mr. Speaker, I think that that . . . Again, women often are still continuing to outlive men, and so if you put that gendered lens on and recognize if an individual dies, it's sometimes more often than not the husband, and women, wives, are left with less money than they would have had previously. So I think that is positive as well, Mr. Speaker.

It changes the time period for reviews of the Act and regulations, makes housekeeping amendments to . . . [inaudible] . . . consistent language throughout the Act. It includes consequential amendments to clauses 23(3)(1) and subsection 24(1.1) of *The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

I just want to comment, I think the last time we had *The Workers' Compensation Act* before us was in 2016 actually, when I moved a private member's bill to include PTSD [post-traumatic stress disorder] as a presumptive . . . to make PTSD a presumptive

illness for . . . It wasn't just for first responders, but anybody who'd experienced a traumatic event and had a diagnosis of PTSD.

And then the government took the bill over and, that fall, passed a psychological injury amendment, which I was really pleased with. Although all reports back is it has taken a while to . . . well it took a while to get the policy in place. The bill passed, and a bunch of people felt like they were left behind because the policy and the regulations, or the policy in particular hadn't quite kept up with psychological injuries.

[15:15]

I know Workers' Compensation Board or Workers' Compensation is working really hard to try to address some of the people's negative experiences, but still. Like when you fill out a W1 form, Mr. Speaker, there's a picture of a body and you have to circle what part of you is injured. There's a lot of parts of psychological injury that aren't reflected well in the process yet, Mr. Speaker. We have a long way to go.

And I think it's great; it helps reduce stigma when we recognize that psychological injury is a real injury worth supporting people through. But there are still some barriers and work that Workers' Compensation needs to do to make sure those who call in or report a psychological injury get the support they need.

I had someone with whom I worked in my office who just last . . . I think it was summer of 2017. She filed in August 2017 and it took two months to get an assessment — or six weeks, pardon me, to get an assessment — so waiting without services, off work, and waiting to have her assessment. And then after she had her assessment and it was illustrated that she had a psychological injury, she then was told that she had to . . . Her choice for treatment was wait for treatment in Saskatoon, which used to be the largest health region in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, where you would think that there would be enough proper support for those with psychological injuries. But she was told that she could drive to North Battleford three times a week for treatment sort of for an indefinite period of time until she was well again. And this is a woman with three kids, a one-car family, and it was just . . . How do you possibly make that work?

So I think the resources to support psychological injury hasn't quite kept pace with the demand that is there, Mr. Speaker. But I'm glad to see again the presumptive legislation on occupational diseases for firefighters was addressed this time, but there's still much work to do on the psychological injury piece, Mr. Speaker. Although it is . . . that change in 2016 was positive.

A couple of things to point out here. Workplace fatalities last year reached shocking numbers. And I guess a question to the government, and I know our critic will ask in committee, what the government's plan is to reverse this trend.

We have the president of the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour calling for a comprehensive workers' fatality crisis strategy, and it would be good to find out if the minister is willing to commit to consult with the Federation of Labour and other stakeholders to assess actions urgently needed to reduce and eliminate workplace fatalities in our province, Mr. Speaker.

So we also have occupational diseases, such as exposure to asbestos, which continue to be the leading causes of workplace fatalities. And according to WCB [Workers' Compensation Board]:

It is expected that occupational disease-related deaths will continue as workers in the province continue to be exposed to asbestos, putting them at risk of disease or death decades into the future.

We've got the Saskatchewan Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization who raised awareness about the lack of certification standards for asbestos and abatement removal contractors in Saskatchewan. So what is this government's plan to address these concerns? We have this Act open before us right now. This would have been a good time to think about addressing some of these critical issues that are facing workers here in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

But with that, I know that the critic will have many questions when it gets to committee, Mr. Speaker, and there are many bills which we need to speak to as well. So for the moment I would like to move to adjourn debate.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 149

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Tell that **Bill No. 149 — *The Police (Regional Policing) Amendment Act, 2018*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Pedersen: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's again my honour to participate in this debate. And I'm sure the member from Martensville-Warman will want to look up my comments in *Hansard*, because she always pays a great deal of attention to them and likes to reference them in the future.

Mr. Speaker, this bill of course is about regional policing and enabling regional policing agreements. Mr. Speaker, of course we support the good work of our police forces in this province.

You know, Mr. Speaker, I had many good dealings with the police over the years. I was just speaking with a friend from Cut Knife a few weeks ago who was, he was telling me that back in his youth, he got stopped and it turned out he was over the legal limit of alcohol and so he had to go into the police station and get a breathalyser done. And it turned out he was below the criminal limit for that but he did get his licence suspended. And back there in Cut Knife, the RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police] detachment not only gave him a ride home, they also . . . another member drove his vehicle home so that he ended up at home with his vehicle for the following day when his licence was no longer suspended. And of course that's above and beyond the ordinary obligations of the police force. Of course in rural areas, Mr.

Speaker, the police are often the first responders to accidents and tragedies and so we appreciate them for that.

And you know, I think back to again to my own youth and policing in rural Saskatchewan. The local police force would set up just outside of where the local graduation party was to make sure that anybody leaving the graduation party in a vehicle was sober and wasn't going to be endangering themselves or others. And you know, and then I think more recently, Mr. Speaker, to an incident where my own home was, where I had a break-and-enter in my home while I was there sleeping. And you know, when we realized what had gone on, we called the police, and you know, minutes, within minutes we had police response. And so I've had very good dealings with the police over the years, Mr. Speaker. And so we support legislation to assist them in doing their job better.

Mr. Speaker, regional policing in rural Saskatchewan is probably, as a broad concept, is probably not a bad idea. But, Mr. Speaker, regional police forces are not going to fix the issue of rural crime. When we look at what causes crime, when we look at the problems of crime in rural Saskatchewan right now, Mr. Speaker, they're not caused by, you know, splintered police forces, and regional police forces aren't going to fix them.

Crime is caused by poverty. It's caused by addictions. It's caused by intergenerational trauma. And, Mr. Speaker, unless this government is going to look at the root causes of crime, it's not going to make any headway on the issue of rural crime. Regional police forces won't do it.

So, Mr. Speaker, what we'd like to see from this government is we'd like to see a concerted strategy to address rural poverty, to address rural addictions, to address rural mental health, and to actually take steps to address and fix the divisions that are out there between our indigenous rural communities and non-indigenous communities. That's what's required, Mr. Speaker, and that's what is going to be required to fix the issue of rural crime in Saskatchewan. And so, Mr. Speaker, with that I'm going to move that we adjourn debate on this bill.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 150

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

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased once again to enter debate on a bill here today, Bill No. 150, *The Seizure of Criminal Property Amendment Act, 2018*. Mr. Speaker, I always think it's good to look at the minister's second reading speech. That usually gives you a good sense of at least

where the government says they're coming from. You don't have . . . And then talking to stakeholders provides you something a little bit different sometimes. But the second reading speech is usually a good place to start when looking at a bill, Mr. Speaker.

So this bill, No. 150, *The Seizure of Criminal Property Amendment Act, 2018*, the minister actually points out that the current Act:

. . . sets out a number of instances where it is presumed that property is an instrument of unlawful activity and thus subject to forfeiture." [She points out that] In these instances, an onus is placed on the defendant to demonstrate that the property should not be subject to forfeiture.

She goes on to point out that the proposed amendments would expand this presumption to apply to:

Property that was previously subject to a community safety order under *The Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Act*;

Vehicle owners with a history of impaired suspensions;

Gang or terrorist activity involving prohibited and restricted firearms; and

Matters involving sexual offences, including sexual offences . . . [where the victim is a child]

These changes, the minister argues, align with the approach that are being explored and implemented in other places. She says they'll help ensure that the most harmful and serious forms of criminal activity are properly covered under the civil forfeiture program.

I guess one question that comes to mind, Mr. Speaker, is that, do we know that it was hard to seize property before? Is there any evidence that these legislative changes will deter these crimes, Mr. Speaker? Those are things you always ask: what are the consequences and unintended consequences of a bill, Mr. Speaker?

The proposed changes, the minister points out, will also provide that the respondent or defendant is deemed to waive their rights to property where they refuse or fail to take part in forfeiture proceedings, and as well the director of civil forfeiture will be provided greater flexibility to gather information, including information from persons with the registered interest in the subject property.

Mr. Speaker, there's some interesting things. They're looking . . . So just looking at some of the comments of my colleagues through action lawyers, I know one of them commented that in fact talking to other lawyers that this isn't a particular issue. And actually if you look at the civil forfeiture records shown, they actually show an increase in civil forfeitures, but a significant decrease in the amount collected by the province. In 2016-17, 121 civil forfeitures totalling 1.5 million, and then in 2017-18 there were 141 forfeitures totalling \$882,000, Mr. Speaker. So they're getting more property, but it's bringing in less. So it just makes you question . . . or there'll be some good questions in committee, I know for sure, Mr. Speaker.

Another point I think that's important to think about is this legislation the minister says has been strengthened to ensure that "... property is taken out of the hands of criminals." But is it lacking in terms of initiatives to support victims of crime? And what exactly is the government's plan in this regard?

I know the minister also points to how this will fund programs that promote community safety. This is a particular area of interest for me, Mr. Speaker. When you think about community safety, you go back to 2013, Mr. Speaker, and here in this province, crimes that had trended down for 10 to 15 years — property crime, violent crime, vehicle thefts, things stolen out of vehicles . . . Sorry, I'm not using the technical jargon here, Mr. Speaker. But basically every crime measure here in Saskatchewan had gone down for about 10 to 15 years. And starting in 2013 we start to see them all not just tick up, but dramatically go up, Mr. Speaker. You talk to anybody in law enforcement; they will tell you it is because crystal meth is on our streets, in our communities, in our urban centres, and in our rural centres, Mr. Speaker.

So the minister talks about funding programs that promote community safety here. I think supporting people who have substance use disorders, Mr. Speaker, properly, and making sure that people have good mental health and community supports, would go a long way to making sure other citizens are safe, Mr. Speaker.

People don't . . . Substance use disorders are interesting things. And people really struggle to fill their habit, their need, their very physical need. Addiction is not a moral failing. It's a chronic medical condition, a relapsing medical condition, and needs good support, Mr. Speaker. So I would argue that one way to make sure that we are promoting community safety is making sure that those who have mental health and substance use issues have the proper supports that they need.

[15:30]

Right now detox services are lacking. People have to wait. They have to call in every day, for example, the detox facility in Moose Jaw. So if someone who doesn't have secure housing, who is drug sick, who is trying to access detox services because they know they need them and they're forced to jump through hoop after hoop after hoop just to get to detox, and then between detox and actually getting rehab, it can be eight weeks, Mr. Speaker.

So what do you do to help support people in making sure people have access to medically supported detox as well? There's all kinds of drugs that can . . . We don't deny a diabetic their insulin. Why would we not ensure that those who might benefit from drugs like methadone or Suboxone or naltrexone, for example, why don't we make sure that if it's appropriate, that they have access to those supports while they're waiting for rehab services, Mr. Speaker?

Then you get beyond rehab. When you're looking at a recovery-focused system of care, you have to think about how do you support people in recovery. And that means supporting them in employment, supporting them in step-down housing, Mr. Speaker, all those kinds of things.

We heard today about the opening of the Saskatchewan Hospital

in North Battleford, which is wonderful. It's a beautiful facility. It's a great facility. My colleague and I had the opportunity to tour it just a few weeks ago. But what was supposed to come along with that facility was step-down housing, Mr. Speaker.

I spoke to someone just recently who had a son who spent a year in the Saskatchewan Hospital who had had a crystal meth substance use disorder. That was his substance of choice. And he got the mental health piece stabilized, but the addiction piece they didn't have the necessary support there. And within three weeks of being out of the hospital, he was back and using crystal meth again, Mr. Speaker.

So when I think about the ways that we can promote community safety, it's making sure that people who need health care, which includes support for those who have substance use disorders, get them. So I just would like to put that on the record as well, Mr. Speaker.

I know that the critic, when this bill gets to committee, will have many questions to ask, and we still have many more bills to talk about today. So with that I'd like to move to adjourn debate for Bill No. 150.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 152

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

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

Ms. Rancourt: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's always a pleasure to join with regards to putting my remarks on adjourned debates, and today I'll be speaking to Bill 152, *The Builders' Lien (Prompt Payment) Amendment Act*. Mr. Speaker, as part of my critic portfolio being housing, I have had the opportunity to talk to a lot of organizations that are important in our housing industry within our province. And so it was brought to my attention before this piece of legislation hit the floor of the Assembly that it was important to look at this legislation and make amendments. And so I was waiting for this piece of legislation to come forward so that we could review it and see if it will meet the needs of the stakeholders within our province and what they were looking for.

So I'll talk a little bit about what the minister's remarks were when he brought forward this legislation. He indicated that it was to create a careful balance between the rights and obligations of landowners and the professionals that assist in construction projects. The persons involved in the construction industry can claim and register a lien to secure payment for materials and services provided, but this does not include provisions respecting payment delays.

And so I know there'll be a lot of questions that will need to be asked in committee of what that means and how that will differ from what some of the wording in this legislation is. Because it also indicates that 28 days after receiving the proper invoice, the owner will have 28 days to pay the contractor and failing with providing proper payment will result in incurring interest.

But the minister indicates that there'll be some exceptions but he wasn't quite clear of what that will look like. So again there's a lot of questions with regards to what that means and to make sure that it's really clear for individuals who are accessing these services and the ones that are providing the services so that at least everybody has the right information if a situation does arise.

He also indicated that they're going to establish an adjudication process for disputes and that they will create an adjudication authority. Again I'm not sure what that will look like. This will be designated by the minister and the adjudication authority will train and will ensure that there's qualified adjudicators.

So I'm not quite sure what that system will look like, but he is indicating that the reason why they're going forward with the adjudication process is so that any disputes that occur can be settled in a timely fashion and should be in a short time frame. When he puts that language, "short time frame," I'm not quite sure what, in his mind, a short time frame. He indicates in there that sometimes going into the legal system takes a lengthy time, and we all know that's definitely the case. So will this mean months? Years? We'll see what kind of process and how many people this will impact.

We know that there's a lot of people who are struggling financially, Mr. Speaker, and we've seen through reports that have come forward that bankruptcy has been increasing. And so I don't know if this is one of the reasons why this piece of legislation, and this is becoming so much more important. I understand that individuals who are providing the service, they also need to rely on that they're going to get paid for that service, and they usually have a lot of money that's invested in it. So we've got to ensure that the industry is protected and we also have to assure that the process for the consumers is protected as well. So there is a lot of moving parts with regards to this, changes of this legislation, and like I said, there is a lot of more questions than I've seen of answers with regards to the statement and what was in this legislation. I guess the regulations will probably have a lot more and I don't know if that's been established as of yet.

But I know that the critic that's responsible for this particular piece of legislation will make sure that he contacts the stakeholders and does the proper work that's needed to ensure that this is going to meet the needs of the individuals in the field and also that the consumers will be protected with the changes to the process. And we'll probably ask some questions on who was consulted because the wording from the minister and his remarks indicated that whoever is going to be impacted by this piece of legislation can review it and then contact us with any concerns. Well you would think that you would go and communicate with the stakeholders and make sure that the piece of legislation you're putting forward meets their needs.

So I'm looking forward to seeing what kind of questions will be brought forward in the committee with regards to this piece of

legislation. I would like to see how this is going to unfold and I know I have other colleagues who would like to put their remarks on the record with regards to the changes with this legislation. So with that, Mr. Speaker, I adjourn my remarks on Bill No. 152.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 157

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Harrison that **Bill No. 157** — *The Education Amendment Act, 2018/Loi modificative de 2018 sur l'éducation* be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I am always pleased to rise in the Assembly and have an opportunity to comment on bills before the Assembly. The one I'm speaking to today is *The Education Amendment Act, 2018* and there isn't really a whole lot to say about this bill, Mr. Speaker, because it's almost entirely housekeeping, cleanup of legislative language, things that have been identified by translation services and the Ministry of Justice, and repealing outdated French and English terminology, updating drafting standards, and the like, Mr. Speaker.

There's a few items of note that the minister pointed out in his second reading speech on November 27th, and those deal largely to changes with amending orders, the minister's amending orders. They're just trying to do a new system now. Rather than having an amending order, they will just make all the changes to the establishments of boards of education in the conseil scolaire as well as the alteration of school division and francophone education area boundaries rather than doing it order by order by order, which makes it very difficult to stay on top of it all, like to have one concise place where these were all set forth. And then changes will be made to those rather than amending orders. That will ensure all information is consolidated now into one order. So it seems like a very reasonable proposition.

The next issue is education property tax, and the changes are now going to ensure that the city of Lloydminster is properly reflected there. Changes to the boards of education and the conseil scolaire regarding notification of the suspension or severance of a teacher. Apparently the Saskatchewan Professional Teachers Regulatory Board has . . . There was actually conflict with the legislation that they were under, under *The Registered Teachers Act* and *The Education Act*. So the government is accepting the request of the board, the Saskatchewan Professional Teachers Regulatory Board, to repeal the subsection and ensure that there is no longer conflict in the laws.

And, Mr. Speaker, all I can say about this bill is that I wish the government would pay just as much attention to what's happening in our schools as they are to cleaning up legislative language because, Mr. Speaker, many of our schools are in crisis right now. I know someone who's a teacher aide, and maybe

January, mid-January she was assaulted by a grade 8 student and was told to go back in the classroom the next day. That's the kind of supports that our teachers are getting and our teacher aides are getting.

There are over 800 students scheduled for one school in Saskatoon that does not have the capacity, and the principal told me that there's only two portables available in the entire province of Saskatchewan for them to access. And he doesn't know what they're going to do. And the look in his eyes, Mr. Speaker, when I saw him telling me this problem he's facing was not a good look, Mr. Speaker. So schools are really in crisis in many situations.

And then we hear of schools that, you know, the funding formulas are perhaps not as fair as they could be and that . . . You know, when I look at what's happening in Saskatoon Nutana and when I look at what's happening in the city of Saskatoon in terms of the bulk of the problems facing both our Catholic school board and our public school board, it's almost insurmountable and teachers are becoming very desperate. Friends of mine who teach, and they just keep telling me, Ms. Sproule or Cathy or whatever, they say, you have no idea how bad it is right now. And yet they love the kids and they continue to do their job. So kudos to teachers.

And like I say, when we see this much effort being put into making sure the English and French translations jive, I think we should put that kind of effort into making sure that schools jive, Mr. Speaker. And we'll see what happens. The Minister Responsible for Education keeps telling us, wait until the budget, wait until the budget. But we've already seen the damage they've done in the last few years and the pressures that are put on schools already.

[15:45]

So I don't hold out any great hope, Mr. Speaker, but soon enough — next week — we will know what the story is. But until then, Mr. Speaker, in terms of Bill 157 and these changes to *The Education Act*, I think they're fairly housekeeping in nature and don't require a lot of debate, so I will adjourn the debate on Bill No. 157.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 158

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 158 — *The Youth Justice Administration Act, 2018*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to enter into adjourned debates today on Bill No. 158, *The Youth Justice Administration Act* of 2018. Mr. Speaker,

there's a few things that are being changed here that we're going to be watching quite closely, so it will take a moment to talk about those.

In the minister's second reading speech, he said that this Act “. . . will codify existing regulations, policies, and best practices to provide a more comprehensive piece of legislation to govern our youth custody facilities.” Specifically there are provisions that are being moved from regulations into the legislation and those are, in particular, how searches are performed and who performs them. And also when we're talking about seclusion, there's a whole section about seclusion and how that process works as well.

So when we're looking at the minister's second reading speech, he's arguing that these new pieces that are being put forward into the Act are part of existing practice, that are part of existing regulations that exist. And I think that we are going to have a lot of questions about the powers that are being given in this bill and what the repercussions are of not only moving these policies into the Act, but who's being given power in that process with regards to seclusion and searches.

And it's a very sad state when this is what we're talking about with regards to our youth in this province, Mr. Speaker, and in particular when we're talking about the overrepresentation of Aboriginal youth that are in custody. And we know that in 2016-2017, 92 per cent of males self-identified as Aboriginal; 98 per cent of females of youth that are in custody identified as Aboriginal. So we need to be putting work into solving injustices that exist in our society, looking at root causes of crime, and helping to prevent this overrepresentation from happening in the first place.

This legislation is very focused on supervision and control rather than rehabilitation, reintegration of youth into our communities. And we know that when we talk about recidivism rates and if we end up in a situation where our young people are going into the justice system, they're more likely to go back into the justice system. So trying to prevent that stigma from forming, trying to make sure that the rehabilitation happens on the first offence, is going to lead to a better result for everyone. It leads to a better result for that individual, for the community, for our institutions, and we have less representation as a result. So we have outstanding questions about what the government's strategy is for reducing youth crime.

And we've talked in this Assembly quite a bit about the fact that there isn't a gang prevention strategy in this province, that the government isn't supporting a gang prevention strategy, that that work is being done in the community and is not being supported by the provincial government. And that is an important component of this as well, Mr. Speaker. So what's the plan to help out youth who are in custody? What's the plan to get them on the right foot?

I want to talk about what some of these sections are that are included here. So the old version of the Act is being repealed entirely and a new Act is coming into place here. That's what the government's proposing.

So part 4 — this is a new section — search and seizure. It talks about the difference between a non-intrusive search, a pat-down

search, and a strip search. There are some rules about strip searches generally and what needs to happen before a strip search happens: when it's conducted by a youth worker, what the regulations are around how it should take place; requiring written reports; searches of young persons. And then there's a whole other set of sections here including body cavity search, which is not an image that I'm sure folks want to think about. But it is important we have regulations in this respect. But there are questions about what enshrining this into law will do.

Search and detention of visitors, searches of vehicles, warnings to be posted . . . So there has to be a warning posted that individuals are subject to search. Searches of youth workers or other persons employed in the custody facility, urinalysis and bodily substances, contraband, power to seize — all of these sections are included here. So there are a ton of implications that this has, Mr. Speaker.

Part 5 is also being added to the Act, and it's about seclusion. So it defines meaningful human contact and secluded room time. It's talking about the number of continuous hours that individuals, our young people, will be secluded within the facility. Review by a supervisor, appeal to provincial director, appeal adjudicators — all of these processes that are in place that are related to this.

Needless to say, Mr. Speaker, there are a lot of changes that are being put forward here. As you can see, when we're repealing a whole Act and putting a new one in, there's a number of changes that are being put forward. And there are a number of questions and concerns that we have that we will spend some more time digging into in committee when we are not just debating with ourselves but can actually hear from the minister as well.

I think that there are some serious questions here about what the implications will be, making sure we're taking a rehabilitative approach with our youth, and thinking about what the consequences are of having an Act that is largely punitive, and what relationship our public policy has with our public discourse.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I know that my colleagues will have a lot more to say on this bill and there'll be a lot of questions in committee, but I would move that we adjourn debate on Bill No. 158 today.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 159

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 159 — *The Securities Amendment Act, 2018*** be now read a second time.]

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, to join in on Bill No. 159, *The Securities Amendment Act, 2018*. I guess initially looking at this, I talked to a few of my colleagues about the bill and why this bill was introduced, and I guess it's European

countries have certain authorities when it comes to regulating to protect their investors and those people that are investing in securities. They want to make sure that people are protected and there's certain ways they can do that.

And what I get from the legislation that's being introduced, other jurisdictions in Canada are coming up with regulations, ways to protect, and ways that I guess Saskatchewan securities, Canadian ones, will be able to take part and continue to take part in the European markets. And that's my understanding. I'm not going to try to play that I have a good understanding of it, but I did want to understand a little bit about exactly what it means.

So I know going through that we're going to have legislation that will give the protection, from my understanding, and I don't know who they would have consulted with but obviously the minister and the ministry would have done the work that they needed, hopefully consulted with them. And I guess these, our regulations and legislation that's being passed here, bringing forward, is to tighten up and to make sure that we're in compliance with other jurisdictions to make sure that people are protected. There are certain benchmarks that they use, tools that they will use to make sure that securities are regulated and making sure that they're in compliance with the European regulations and rules.

And I think it goes back to protecting investors, making sure that investors are protected. If your security is saying you're doing a certain thing then I guess you're making sure, from what I can get from it, that, you know, everyone who invests in securities is protected whether it's an investor looking after it. There's some type of a protection and that's what this goes into where it gives that protection. And I think so that we can compete again, as I've said, in the European markets and wherever as other jurisdictions in Canada, the provinces are coming up with this. I think we're just coming into compliance with what they're doing. And I don't know if we're the first province, second, third, fourth, but I understand that somewhere around, in I think January of 2020, they were referring to where they will have to be in compliance with the securities and making sure.

So I don't have a lot to say about . . . I know we can ask questions in committee, Mr. Speaker, our critics, and we can ask the minister, the officials exactly why a better understanding of it if it's needed. And I know, you know, those of us that want to have more questions, we'll have that opportunity to ask for clarification in committee once it goes there.

So at this point, you know, I guess the other thing I was going to say, it's highly technical changes that they were making in there. That's one part of it I noticed. So with that I will say I don't have a lot further comments on this and I'm prepared to adjourn debate on Bill 159, *The Securities Amendment Act, 2018*.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 160

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed

motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 160 — *The Trespass to Property Amendment Act, 2018*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As ever, it's good to take my place in this Assembly and join in on the debates of the day. And on this case, Mr. Speaker, on Bill No. 160, *The Trespass to Property Amendment Act, 2018*.

And I guess I'd say off the top, Mr. Speaker, that on Friday will mark my father's 85th birthday. And you know, certainly happy birthday to dear old dad. And dad of course was born at home on the farm in a stone house that was built in the RM [rural municipality] of Montmartre, and that particular quarter was settled by the McCalls in 1883 and is still farmed by our cousins Barry and Dianne. And the quarter on which my father grew up is around the corner from there, and we have the pride of achieving 100 years on that particular quarter of McCalls being there in 2008.

Mr. Speaker, I say these things off the top because I want to situate how I come to this particular issue. And in terms of something that I had the great privilege of being raised in a family where they were in the, be it the community of Moffat or in the RM of Montmartre, my father and his family, they grew up with a lot of close friends and neighbours from the community of Carry The Kettle.

[16:00]

And they grew up knowing Thomsons and O'Watches and Eashappies and different families like that, Mr. Speaker, and knew them in a time when Carry The Kettle, as with many First Nations throughout the country, were very firmly under the thumb of the Indian agent. And that didn't get in the way of the friendships that they had, the respect that they had, the occasional dealings that they had around the horse that my father rode to school for many years, they'd bought from the Thomsons. And they did that, you know, as some might say, Mr. Speaker, on the kîmôc. They did that between them.

There was no need to involve the Indian agent in this particular deal because, of course, all of these different aspects of the system that were deployed to control the lives of First Nations people and to put up barriers and to put up walls between communities, Mr. Speaker, that was part of the life. And if you wanted to be friends, if you wanted to be community, you really had to work at it. And that's a legacy that we struggle with to this day, Mr. Speaker. And it's a legacy that I see echoing in this piece of legislation that's in front of us here today, where it would seek out different ways to further divide and complicate the relationship between neighbours in this wonderful Saskatchewan of ours.

And, Mr. Speaker, in terms of the context in which this legislation comes forward, that's one that has been well canvassed by members in this Assembly. And the calls that came forward saying that this is something needed comes from a very particular context, Mr. Speaker.

And, Mr. Speaker, it comes forward also in a broader context of a time when we had the calls to action in front of us from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. It comes forward in a broader context where, in Saskatchewan, I would posit that one of the greatest challenges that we have in front of us as a people is the division that comes with racism, the division that comes from this colonial legacy that I'm talking about, the division that comes from neighbours being set against neighbours.

And, Mr. Speaker, I think back to last week and the tremendous speech that was given by my colleague, the member from Athabasca, an indigenous member of this Assembly, who said that watching this debate gives him the message that there isn't a place in this Assembly for indigenous people, that there isn't a way for them to count, Mr. Speaker. And I think that's a shame. I think that's an incredible shame, Mr. Speaker.

And I think the way that legitimate concerns about public safety have been twisted into this particular piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker, where in terms of the dubious effect of this, in terms of the questionnaire that was conducted that was held up as an example of how not to engage the public, Mr. Speaker, by those that know this business very well, but still was offered by the government as some kind of meaningful exercise — they could put a lot of time and energy into that, Mr. Speaker. But when it comes to the rights of the indigenous community that are gainsaid in our Constitution, when it comes time to talk to the First Nations like those of our neighbours back on Carry The Kettle, well that didn't take place.

And when it comes time to try and get the attention of the government, Mr. Speaker — and this is something that I know you know full well — instead of having that meaningful consultation, that meaningful engagement that you'd expect with a treaty partner, you get the Minister of Justice saying flip things like, well they've got my cell phone number. They should just give me a call.

And I'd say, Mr. Speaker, that I think they have been trying to call that minister. And they have been trying to get through to that Premier. And, Mr. Speaker, we still see this rolling forward. We still see this rolling forward in terms of the changing jurisprudence, in terms of the Badger decision, in terms of the Pierone decision, that again was well canvassed by my colleague, the member from Saskatoon Nutana, who spent no small part of her life working on just this kind of law, Mr. Speaker.

And in terms of people, I think about our colleague, the member from Rosemont, who spends more time than I'd imagine pretty much anyone in this Assembly in the great outdoors and is an avid hunter, fisher. And the kind of concerns that member understands are out there in the community in terms of the actual effect of this legislation, in terms of the practice of this legislation, there are a lot of flags go up with this piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker, where it seems that it's more about a public relations exercise that's based in division, that's based in responding to fear instead of working to bring us all together and to strengthening neighbourhoods instead of dividing them.

So, Mr. Speaker, again this is a movie that for those who have been paying attention has been seen before. And what does it say about us as a people if the first place where we want to engage First Nations people is in the courts? And that's where this will

go, Mr. Speaker. And of course there will be a lot of time and energy put into that. And it makes me think of a good announcement that we'd seen last week where the Ministry of Social Services is going to work in co-operation with the Saskatoon Tribal Council. And that, of course, came after it went to court.

Let's learn from these experiences, Mr. Speaker. Let's get to the negotiation instead of wasting a bunch of time, money, and effort facing off in the court of law where, I'd also add, Mr. Speaker, again in terms of Pierone, in terms of Badger decisions, that jurisprudence bears out very strongly in terms of those constitutionally entrenched rights for First Nations communities. And it doesn't take away from the rights of community for safety or, you know, the need there is to fight crime, Mr. Speaker, or to ensure that people feel safe in their own homes.

And again, just last week there was another good announcement that came forward in terms of Rural Crime Watch. And you know who was represented at that occasion, Mr. Speaker? Not just the minister, not just the RCMP, but there was also SARM [Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities] and there was SUMA [Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association] and there was the FSIN [Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations]. You know, it can be done, Mr. Speaker. It's possible.

But in this case, Mr. Speaker, they choose to ignore the multitude of valid criticisms that are levelled, and you wonder why that is. You wonder why that is, Mr. Speaker. Is it because it's a political exercise? Is it a public relations exercise? Or is it about having real effect in terms of making our communities safer?

And, Mr. Speaker, in terms of all the different opinions that are levelled, it's again that my colleague from Athabasca, having served in this Assembly with distinction — I think the longest serving Member of the Legislative Assembly in the history of this province, Mr. Speaker, having served since 1995 — that he would take his feet in this Assembly, Mr. Speaker . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Indigenous member of the Assembly. So thanks for the help to the members opposite. But that he would get to his feet to make the kind of comments he did about, you know, where's the place for indigenous people in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. Where is it in a province where our motto is "from many peoples, strength," *Multis e gentibus vires?* If indigenous people feel like there's no place for them in a province like that, Mr. Speaker, why is that?

And is it because we're not serious as a province about reconciliation? Is it because the government's knee-jerk, default position is to say, see you in court, and then waste a bunch of time there before they get down to negotiation? I think the record speaks for itself, Mr. Speaker, in terms of who's serious about reconciliation and who isn't in this province. And again, to quote my colleague from Athabasca, it's a crying shame. It's an absolute crying shame, Mr. Speaker. We're better than that as a people. We need real action on these issues that face our communities, not public relation exercises that are of dubious impact, Mr. Speaker.

And the record is also fairly clear on the fact that this is a life and death proposition. And should we lose more people, more well-being to this proposition while we play these chase-your-tail games, Mr. Speaker? Or should we do the real things that have

been set out for us to be done? And you know, I think like please, please God, let us do those things that have actual effect, that bring us together as a province, not divide us.

So, Mr. Speaker, there are a lot of problems about this particular piece of legislation. The stated intent, there are a lot of fine things about that, but when you get into the details, Mr. Speaker, where you get into the actual impact, that's where the questions arise and the questions need answers that have been sorely lacking to date.

So, Mr. Speaker, my hope is this: that this is a government that gets serious about that treaty partnership; gets serious about its undertakings, not just to indigenous communities but to the entirety of Saskatchewan, and realize how poorly served we are by these kind of misadventures, Mr. Speaker. That we realize the consequences that are involved in these kind of misplaced exercises, Mr. Speaker, for all of us, and that we do that work of building those communities up, putting the tools in people's hands so that they can do those jobs themselves.

And again you don't need to look very far beyond even just last week, when you can find places where that's possible. And if you ask yourself, you know, if it's possible there, in terms of something like the rural crime watch, to bring people together around a common concern, why is it lacking — so sorely lacking — here, both in the jurisprudence and in terms of the actual political fact of people coming together? Why is that so hard? And if it's that hard, Mr. Speaker, you've got to wonder, maybe they're making it that way. Maybe this is an exercise in the worst kind of politics, which we have seen far too much of in the history of this province.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think this is a government that can do way better than this piece of legislation and needs to do better for all of us. I know that other of my colleagues will have more to say on this issue, Mr. Speaker. But I know that, again I'd commend to members, in particular the speeches from Nutana and the speeches from Athabasca on this particular piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker, because there's a lot to be learned if you'll just take the time.

And not for nothing, Mr. Speaker, like, pick up your phone. Not you per se, but the government should answer the phone. They should engage around that duty to consult and accommodate that is there in the jurisprudence of this land, Mr. Speaker, because we need better than that in this province. With that, Mr. Speaker, I'd move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 160, *The Trespass to Property Amendment Act, 2018*.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 161

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 161** — *The Trespass to Property Consequential Amendments Act, 2018/Loi de 2018 corrélative de la loi intitulée The Trespass to Property*

Amendment Act, 2018 be now read a second time.]

The Speaker: — I recognize the member . . . [inaudible] . . . Sorry. Got your back. I recognize the member for Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Rising on the consequential amendments from *The Trespass to Property Amendment Act*. Again, Mr. Speaker, in terms of French language provisions, in terms of the changes that emanate to other pieces of legislation, this is all pretty straightforward.

But again I'd draw to members' attention that word "consequential." There are consequences to the legislation that we bring forward in this Assembly. It's not just a talking shop here, Mr. Speaker. These things have real effect out through community, out through our province, Mr. Speaker. And either they help us as a people or they hinder and hurt us as a people, Mr. Speaker.

[16:15]

So if this is going to make communities safer, I await the argument to be brought together to demonstrate how that's going to be so, Mr. Speaker. If this is really about building communities, Mr. Speaker, about bringing people together, about not appealing to division and fear, Mr. Speaker, again I've not heard that case made for it. And I guess I'll go on and wait. But, Mr. Speaker, with that I'd move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 161.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 162

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Marit that **Bill No. 162 — *The Irrigation Act, 2018*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to enter debate today on Bill No. 162, *The Irrigation Act, 2018*. I'll just talk a little bit about what this Act does and just . . . Obviously when we're talking about water and access to water here in Saskatchewan, we have to think about industry. We have to think about agriculture. We have to think about recreation, quality of life, Mr. Speaker.

There are days here in Saskatchewan, in parts of Saskatchewan, where there are times where we have too much water. There have been times here in Saskatchewan where there has been drought and we don't have enough water. Obviously we need irrigation and water to make our crops grow and help people thrive and survive, Mr. Speaker.

So this particular bill, Bill No. 162, *The Irrigation Act*, is a

rewrite or a redo, Mr. Speaker, of a bill that hasn't been changed since 1996, I believe. So you'd think obviously many things have changed in that couple decades, more than a couple decades, actually. Agriculture changes; industry changes. We have climate change here in Saskatchewan. Life has very much changed over the years here in terms of major weather events. We need to think about those kinds of things as well.

This bill, Mr. Speaker, seems to be fairly straightforward at face value, but one of our jobs in the opposition is to look at the minister's words, but to also look at the bill itself, take it out to stakeholders — stakeholders would be those who are directly impacted by the bill, who work in particular areas that will be governed by the bill — and find out if the minister's words match what he is saying about the legislation. See if people in the community think there's any unintended consequences, or flag any major concerns.

But again at face value this seems like a pretty straightforward bill. It allows the establishment of irrigation districts. And I have to confess this is coming from a city kid, Mr. Speaker. We all have sort of areas of expertise or strong areas of interest, and of course water is the lifeblood of the world, Mr. Speaker. We would be lost without water, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's very good to see you here today. But this is not my area of particular strength, so I look forward to the critic asking some really important questions, someone who knows the file well and can really dig in. But at face value, it seems like a more than reasonable bill.

What does it do? It allows the establishment of irrigation districts. It describes the structure, the governance, powers, and duties for the formation and operation of these irrigation districts, Mr. Speaker. It updates the language. It adds new terms and changes some definitions. It changed the time period required for the preparation of an annual report. It sets out that irrigation services must get approved by the Water Security Agency, determines the purpose of irrigation works management plans, increases the fines of up to \$100,000, and it sets out the conditions where an irrigation district is liable for personal injury or damage to property.

I know the management of water. I live actually not too far downstream from Gardiner dam. I live on the south side of Saskatoon, Mr. Speaker. And just down Valley Road, had it not been for Gardiner dam, there's a flat plain in there that it always used to flood, Mr. Speaker, I'm told, long before Gardiner dam. And that was one of the reasons that dam was built. And it's meant that there are businesses that can grow and thrive, and people who live out Valley Road. It's actually a really beautiful part of our province actually, Mr. Speaker, with some wonderful businesses.

But yes, this bill. Our critic responsible, when it gets to committee, will have some very good questions that flow from — flow, no pun intended — flow from conversation with affected parties, Mr. Speaker. But with that I don't think I have any further comments to add about Bill No. 162, *The Irrigation Act, 2018*. With that I'd like to move to adjourn debate.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Saskatoon Riversdale has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 162, *The Irrigation Act, 2018*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt

the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 141

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

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

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's my pleasure to enter into adjourned debate on Bill No. 141, which is Clare's Law. I know that there isn't always a great deal of public attention being paid to the bills that are before this Assembly, but I did actually have someone ask me in the last couple of weeks what the status of Clare's Law was and was taking quite a bit of interest in this piece of legislation.

So that's encouraging, Mr. Deputy Speaker. We don't have a terrible amount of engagement sometimes, and sometimes it's hard to get through the bills if you're trying to follow the progress of bills yourself. You know, there's a lot of legal language. Trying to move through them and understand what the changes are that are happening is hard for those of us who have resources and have background in these areas. So for concerned citizens that can be even more difficult. So I just wanted to flag that I did hear about some public interest in this bill and I think that's for good reason.

So this bill is named Clare's Law in honour of Clare Wood, who is a woman who was murdered by her partner and was unaware that he had a violent past. So we can all imagine what it would be like to be in that situation and the importance of including a disclosure or process for disclosure to intimate partners, and that's what this does. If you suspect that someone you love is abusive, there is now . . . what's being put forward is that there'll be a disclosure mechanism from the police to intimate partners who are concerned that their partner may have a record that they're not aware of. It's definitely a step in the right direction. If it saves one life, then it's worth putting forward, Mr. Deputy Speaker. So I think that it's a good step, and we've certainly called for this legislation to come forward.

You know, we know that Saskatchewan has a domestic violence rate that's twice the national average. It's the highest in Canada. We have called for this. We've also been pushing for five paid days off and 10 unpaid days off for victims who are trying to recover from abusive relationships. We'd like to see the government consider supporting that. And you know, the MLA for Regina Douglas Park has been quite outspoken about our domestic violence rates and what we can be doing and the fact that we can be doing so much more.

When we talk about the execution of this, I would say that we are concerned about a few different things about how it's going to come about. So making sure that disclosure is happening uniformly across different detachments, making sure that it's

happening in a timely manner. So if someone requests that information, they're able to access it quickly. I think we can appreciate the fact that time would be of the essence if you started to suspect that your partner was violent. So we want to make sure that it is executed uniformly.

There is also a concern with the fact that this is just one step in terms of an overall bigger picture and, at the end of the day, someone still needs to get hurt before this is going to be impactful. This is having a history of violence. So we know that there has to be something on the record showing that another person was harmed. And that is a concern when we're talking about preventative, when we're talking about dealing with root causes, and we're talking about really making a difference on that domestic violence rate in Saskatchewan. This is simply not enough. We can't just say that we're done and we've fixed everything once we bring this forward.

So there's still a lot of important work that's happening in community. There's a lot of important work that's happening that we need to be investing in. We know that funding for crisis shelters has flatlined. We need to make sure that supports are in place, but there is a lot on the preventative side of things too that can and should be put forward to ensure that we are as safe as possible and that we can get away from this really dubious distinction that I don't think any of us are proud of. And I think that it's unacceptable that Saskatchewan is in this state. So I'm glad to be seeing this legislation being put forward, but at the same time cautious of the fact that there is still so much more work to do that we need to be able to see.

And the other thing too is that it won't help individuals who are already in an abusive relationship. So there is a subsection of the population that will benefit from this law, and for that reason we should bring it forward. But it's not going to be able to solve all of those situations. We need to know what the details look like in terms of execution. And in terms of execution, we should also see a great deal of consultation happening with folks who are in the industry, who see this every day, and who know how to best proceed.

So those are some points of caution that I want to bring forward, in addition to saying that we are supportive of this law. So we want to make sure that it's done right, but definitely some good steps in the right direction, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I know my colleagues will have more to say and that the critic will have questions in committee, but with that I'd like to move that we adjourn debate on Bill No. 141 today.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Saskatoon Fairview has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 141, *The Interpersonal Violence Disclosure Protocol (Clare's Law) Act*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 134

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

second time.]

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

Mr. Vermette: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to join in on Bill No. 134, *The Local Government Election Amendment Act, 2018*. I guess starting out we have apparently fixed election dates in the province, and that was something that was really pushed out there. Unfortunately, that changed. For whatever reason, government made the changes that it wanted to make.

Now we were having the understanding it would be every four years. Government gave themselves previous extra time and now we're going through that process again where, following their rules, we should have had an election I believe in June. We've called for that. We've said June would've been good of 2020. It would bring it back in the six months that they have got before, would've brought it back. We'd have been okay with that. We supported that and we were fine with that, saying it would have been good.

But not only that, what it would have done is we'd have our municipal elections, our school board elections that were happening in October of 2020, that wouldn't have had a problem. Now we see what's happened where the government's saying, well we're going to be two weeks within an election. Now we're going October 26th, 2020 for provincial election, and then we're going school boards, municipal election November 9th. So within two weeks we're going to be having an election again.

So I know there's been some concerns raised that different people were not happy that the government chose to move municipal and school board elections Act, but that's the government's decision to make. And I know there's been some articles in the papers and different ones talking about, was this truly about the voters or was it to take care of the government of the day and the Sask Party government, to do it the way they wanted to do it. So that argument will go back and forth and I know from our side we've said that.

[16:30]

Having said, they've made the change so now we're going to be seeing . . . With this amendment we'll have an election for school board and municipal election every four years. I believe it's the second Wednesday in every four years after the one that they're having November 9th. So every four years it will be.

Having said all that, you know, you talk about a government who should consult and make sure that you've talked to Saskatchewan school boards, boards of education, you've talked to SUMA, SARM, municipalities who were impacted. Make sure you, you know, have that dialogue with them. I don't believe that . . . Obviously that dialogue went through, from what I understand. Maybe government's side, they're going to say that government did its job and did that. Well we'll bicker back and forth and that's fine. At the end of the day, you know, we're going to the polls at the date that the government has chosen, which is the 26th of October, 2020 provincially, and November 9th.

And I think it is going to cause some confusion. And they had an

opportunity. You know, the thing that's frustrating is government had an opportunity to fix it so that it wasn't two weeks apart. They could have done a number of things. If you're going to change it and do some changes, why didn't you . . . And even if you think about June.

And I guess I've heard some people saying, you definitely don't want to do it while you're having seeding going on. So we understand that. If you have it before the summer break with the kids at the end of June, the kids are out before they go on their holiday and the schools are shut down. You could have had an election then. There's opportunities if government really wanted to do it differently. But to set it in two weeks, it just goes to show you how out of touch this government is with the people of this province. Like they can pat themselves on the back. And they do that, every . . . Oh, yes, yes, you know, the polling. And they talk about this and they talk about that, and that's fine. I've always said that at the end of the day we all go back home, we campaign hard, and we hope to get re-elected, those of us that are running again, we'll get re-elected. Those of us that aren't, well that's their choice; they'll decide not to. And then, you know, there are those that have to go through the nominating process and sometimes they don't get renominated because somebody else comes and takes it from them, you know, and you know, secures the nomination and runs in the next election.

So I think this government really could have taken some good lessons and could have sat down and actually have a good dialogue and made this work, and it would have been less problems, less criticism. They could have done that but they chose not to. I just think sometimes it's a little frustrating when you see, even if you make a suggestion as we've seen, you know, they don't always like taking suggestions. But I do know that, you know, looking at some of the opportunities, there could have been a very easy transition. It could have been something that accommodated everyone's concerns, those that were concerned. Maybe some aren't concerned, and that's fine, in the school boards. Maybe some of the municipalities aren't concerned, but I do know that some have raised their concern and at the time said we should move.

So the government moved with . . . made a decision. And I hope at the end of the day, you know, the voters and those people who are not happy send a message to the government saying, no, you should have done this, this. Instead you chose to go against, you know, recommendations from people who have a right, who are elected to represent our municipalities, who are elected to represent our kids in our school.

So having said that, you know, we'll see what happens at the end of the day. I know we'll have more questions in committee, that the government obviously will pass what they want to pass. Doesn't matter what people advise them. And what the good people are doing and saying, here's a solution we find: would you work with us on it? No, we don't have to work. They just do what they want, and that's how they carried this one out from what I can see, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Having said that, I don't have a lot to say, you know, continue. And I know in committee we might have some questions. And I don't know what the answer will be because they just put their, you know, put their foot down and said, this is what we're going to do, and they didn't care who it is. So unfortunately I don't

know why they went heavy handed the way they did with this. They could have worked with everyone, like I said, but chose not to and just do it the way they want to do it.

And sometimes we see a government that does that and, you know, especially this government, actually, been very poor at consulting when it comes to First Nations, Métis . . . Well when it comes to consulting with, you know, the labour force, the working men and women of our province, many, whether it's Métis Nation. I would say, you know, I haven't seen much that they should brag or go around about the lack of duty to consult and accommodate First Nations, Métis, and consult with anyone else, if it's something that, you know, they come. Like sometimes there's legislation, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that is brought forward from organizations, and it makes sense. And we've supported some of that in a positive way.

But I can tell you there's a lot of stuff that this government has done that has not come forward to this Chamber and we haven't debated it in a way that's been very positive. I'll say clearly we have their side, our side, and we'll support . . . Where we think it makes sense for Saskatchewan people, we'll support it. Where we think it don't, we will vote obviously opposed to some of their legislation. This is one piece that maybe we vote against it. We'll see how we decide on our side of the House at the end of the day after we've gone through the debating and talking.

But having said that, I'm prepared to adjourn debate on Bill No. 134, *The Local Government Election Amendment Act, 2018*.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Cumberland has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 134. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 135

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

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

Mr. Vermette: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to join in on Bill 135, *The Local Government Election Consequential Amendments Act, 2018*. There's quite a bit in this legislation and I'm probably going to be about 30 minutes on it.

But I just want to talk a little bit about . . . You know, there's many opportunities that you get to debate bills on this floor, and you know, give your opinion, so I'm prepared to do that about, you know, the legislation that's being introduced here. But it's interesting to see, obviously. I hope this has been brought forward by the boards of education asking governments to amend legislation, to change it, and let's hope that this has been positive. And I'm going to . . . that somebody from the Saskatchewan

school boards, the boards of education, have asked for legislation.

What it actually asks for in here, Mr. Speaker, Bill 135, it's asking that criminal records, that boards of education . . . And I know when we get in committee we'll ask about this, if it's going to give the boards of education, if it's mandatory that boards of education will have to, when you put in your nominating papers to apply to run for a board of education in the province of Saskatchewan, you will have to submit a criminal record check. It refers to it in 90 days and stuff. So I'm not sure if it's mandatory, if the boards of education have the option. And we'll ask some of those questions. Do they have the option to say yes, we will do that, or no? Or if it's going to be clearly no, you must — it's a requirement to submit your nomination paper — you must submit a criminal record check in this due process time, 90 days or whatever it is, and that's what I see that's in here. And that might have been brought forward from boards of education or Saskatchewan school boards. And if it has been, good work on them to bring that forward and of course government is following through on it.

Now there's one piece where you could say, if it has been, then good on government to do that, and it's important that they do that when we come forward. Whether it's a legislation from ourselves to make suggestions, or the good people of this province or organizations, you want a government who's listening to the people, and that's how it's supposed to work. We're supposed to look after the people and look after the students.

So with that I don't have much more to say on that bill, on Bill 135, *The Local Government Election Consequential Amendments Act, 2018*. Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Cumberland has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 135, *The Local Government Election Consequential Amendments Act, 2018*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Hon. Mr. Brkich: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that this House do now adjourn so that we can get ready for committee tonight.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

[The Assembly adjourned at 16:39.]

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Premier
President of the Executive Council
Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs

Hon. Tina Beaudry-Mellor
Minister of Advanced Education
Minister Responsible for the Status of Women
Minister Responsible for Innovation

Hon. Lori Carr
Minister of Highways and Infrastructure

Hon. Ken Cheveldayoff
Minister of Central Services
Minister Responsible for the Provincial
Capital Commission
Minister Responsible for Public Service Commission

Hon. Dustin Duncan
Minister of Environment
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Water
Security Agency
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Power Corporation

Hon. Bronwyn Eyre
Minister of Energy and Resources
Minister Responsible for SaskEnergy Incorporated
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Water Corporation

Hon. Joe Hargrave
Minister of Crown Investments
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Government Insurance
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
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Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Liquor
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Priority Saskatchewan