



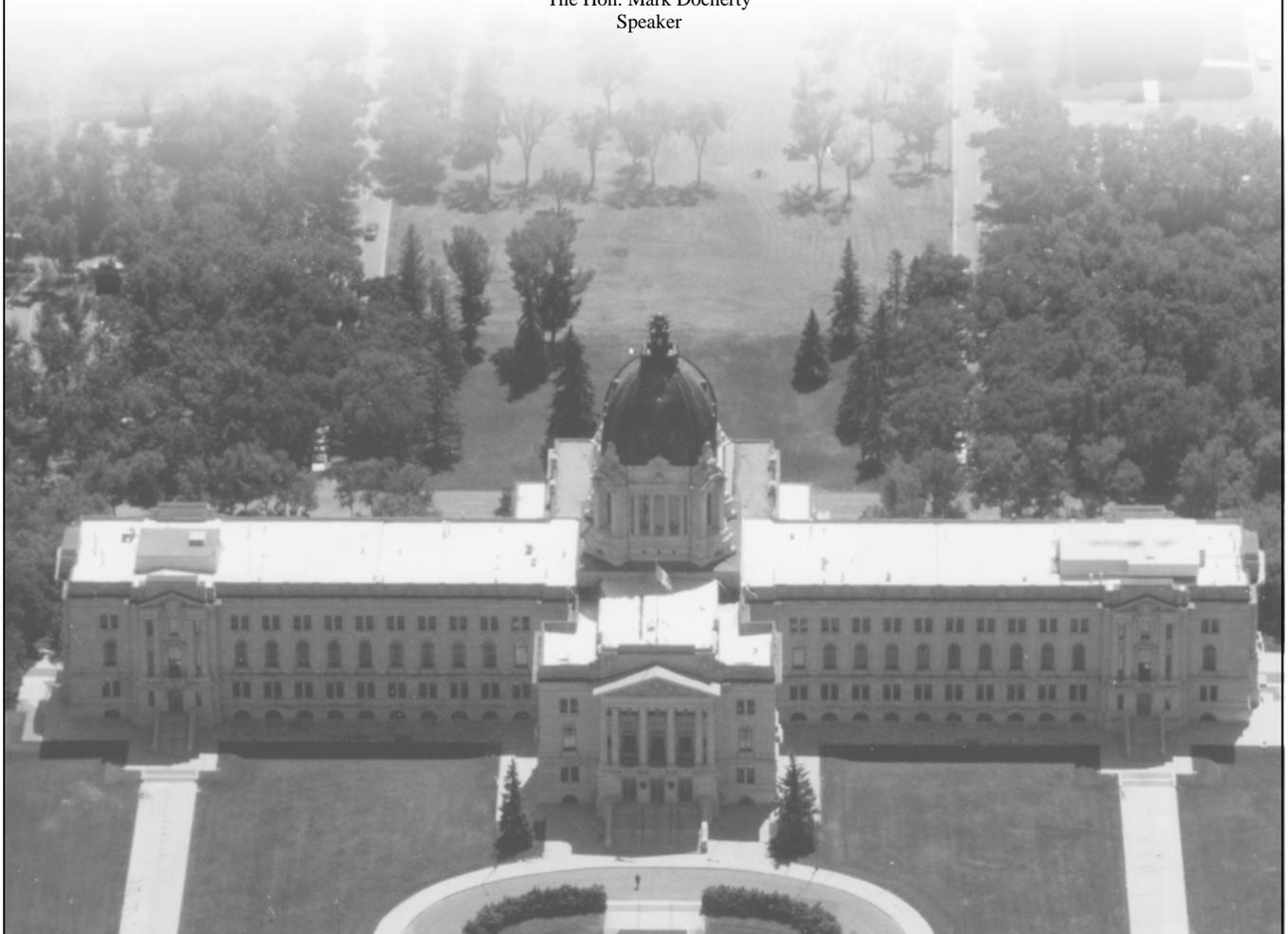
THIRD SESSION - TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

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

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Lawrence , Greg — Moose Jaw Wakamow (SP)	

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

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[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Lloydminster.

Ms. Young: — Mr. Speaker, I request leave for an extended introduction.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member.

Ms. Young: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure to introduce to you and through you and to all members of the Assembly a number of people from the Association of Consulting Engineers Canada-Saskatchewan, seated in your gallery. And I'd ask if they could maybe give a wave as I mention their names: Bryce Hunter, board Chair; Nancy Inglis, Vice-Chair; Darlene Leamon, Bob England, Dave Tratch, Don George, Ryan King, and Sean Kilback. And I apologize if I've missed anyone.

Mr. Speaker, the Association of Consulting Engineering Companies-Saskatchewan, or ACEC-SK, is a non-profit association representing the business interests of the majority of consulting engineering and consulting geoscience firms in Saskatchewan. ACEC-SK represents over 60 private or publicly held companies that provide professional engineering and other services to clients in every sector of the economy locally, provincially, nationally, and internationally.

Mr. Speaker, ACEC-SK member firms employ directly 1,700 individuals representing just as many families. The vast majority of Saskatchewan consulting engineers were raised, educated, own houses, and are now raising families of their own right here in Saskatchewan. They have had the opportunity to gain broad and valuable experience beyond our borders and bring the best of it home.

And, Mr. Speaker, after meeting these folks today, I have no doubt that we do have some of the best and brightest engineers right here in Saskatchewan, working on many projects that benefit our citizens and communities. So I ask all members of this Assembly to please join me in welcoming these representatives to their legislature.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to join with the member opposite and concur with her comments about these fine folks that are in their legislature today. On behalf of the official opposition, I too would like to welcome you.

The Association of Consulting Engineers Saskatchewan that are

here in your gallery today, Mr. Speaker, we had a good meeting with some folks from your organization this morning. And it was really helpful to understand the important role that consulting engineers add to, the value-add that you give to infrastructure projects and the important things that are happening in the growing our economy here in Saskatchewan. So again on behalf of the official opposition, I would like to welcome you all to your Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce a friend that's sitting in the gallery today, in the west gallery, my very good friend Terry Bergan. So anyone that knows anything about highways or IT [information technology] or intelligent highway systems, Mr. Speaker, knows the name Terry Bergan and knows the company International Road Dynamics, a company that's been operating in Saskatoon since 1980, Mr. Speaker. IRD [International Road Dynamics Inc.] is a leading-edge intelligent transportation management products systems company operating internationally.

And in addition to working as a designer and an engineer, Mr. Speaker, the company, he's responsible for moving the company forward — 30 patents, operating in over 37 countries around the world, Mr. Speaker. I would tell you, Mr. Speaker, that it's because of Terry Bergan that IRD has established an international reputation in the field that they operate on.

I was privileged, Mr. Speaker, not only to be Terry's personal lawyer but general counsel for IRD for many years, Mr. Speaker. And through that time Terry has seen the company grow from a small company that began operating in Terry's father's garage to an international company, Mr. Speaker, that now trades on the Toronto Stock Exchange. It's a true Saskatchewan success story, Mr. Speaker.

So, Mr. Speaker, I know Terry's retired now from IRD but he continues to show and demonstrate and provide his expertise to other companies around Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, in terms of helping support our economy. He currently sits and has a steady hand on the board of the Saskatchewan Power Corporation, Mr. Speaker.

So I'd ask all members of the Assembly to welcome my good friend Terry Bergan to his Assembly today.

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with both members in welcoming this group of professionals to their Legislative Assembly, but in particular I'd like to welcome Nancy Inglis to her Legislative Assembly. Not only is she Vice-Chair, but she's a strong advocate for getting more women involved in STEM [science, technology, engineering, and math] and in engineering, her profession, in particular. I want to commend her for that work.

She also spearheaded a pretty incredible conference with young leaders that I know the Minister for the Status of Women and myself had the opportunity to attend a few months back. And

even though it was its first year, it was incredibly successful and I'm looking forward to seeing that conference continue on for many years to come.

So I'd ask again, all members join me in welcoming Nancy to her Legislative Assembly.

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

Ms. Ross: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the west gallery we have a classroom from W.S. Hawrylak School, 29 grade 4 and grade 5 students. Accompanied by their students is Kirk Fiege, their teacher. And then we have parent chaperones. We have Renae Clermont, Tanya Kuski, Cameron Clarkson, Yolanda Maat, and Debbie Schmidt. So each and every one of us, if we could give our young students a wave, and I'll have an opportunity to meet with them later on. So thank you very much for coming and attending the Legislative Assembly today.

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

Hon. Ms. Wilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's with very great pleasure that I'm able to introduce my good friend today. In your gallery is Patty Hughes. Patty is a former president of Saskatchewan Rivers constituency, and she currently works with Transwest. So today she's shooting a video right here — they chose a beautiful day — with Drew Tkatchuk, owner of Narrative Media out of Saskatoon. So please join me in welcoming them both to their Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

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

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I'd like to say a warm welcome to all of our guests here today. But especially it's my pleasure to introduce a group located in the east gallery, Mr. Speaker, a group of 16 grade 8 students from the beautiful and historic Crescents School right in the heart of Regina Lakeview. I had a chance to meet with these young folks just before we came into the Assembly and had a bit of a discussion about their transition into high school and questions they had. So they're here; they'll be observing keenly. And I would invite all members to welcome them to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Hon. Ms. Beaudry-Mellor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd just like to join with the member opposite to give a shout-out and say welcome to Nancy Inglis, as well as the association for engineers.

And also to recognize my friend and former neighbour Tanya Kuski, who is in the gallery with the Hawrylak students and her son. Tanya's family lived down the street from us and I think all of her kids have babysat mine at one point in time. We scared them away eventually and they moved somewhere else. Her husband is well known to many of us on this side of the House. She's an incredible mom and community builder and it's my privilege to have you in the Assembly.

Please join me in welcoming her to the Legislative Assembly today.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition calling for a public inquiry into the GTH [Global Transportation Hub] land deal.

The people who signed this petition would like 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 of dollars flipping land and taxpayers then lost millions of dollars; that instead of shining a very bright light on the issue and calling a public inquiry, the Sask Party government is instead hiding behind excuses around public prosecutions.

Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party government continues to block key witnesses from providing testimony about the land deal. And it is Saskatchewan people who footed the bill for the GTH land deal and deserve nothing less than the truth.

I'll read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Sask Party 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 signing this petition today are from the city of Regina. I so submit.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Kindersley.

Mr. Francis: — Thank you, 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'd like to read the prayer:

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

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by citizens of Tramping Lake and Kindersley. I do so present.

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

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

Commission through the changes brought on by Bill 50, *The Provincial Capital Commission Act*, in 2017. And, Mr. Speaker, the city of Regina and the University of Regina have both expressed an openness to return to a governance model based on equality.

I'd like to read the prayer:

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

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

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Moose Jaw Wakamow.

Curler Nominated for Prism Award

Mr. Lawrence: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in the House today to highlight an incredible constituent of mine who rivals the fame of Mac the Moose, and that's Mrs. Muriel Gower. To her friends she is fondly known as Mickey. Mr. Speaker, what makes Mickey particularly incredible is that, at 99 years young, she's still a competitive curler.

Mickey, who is a well-known figure in our community of Moose Jaw, loves to curl. She has spent decades in and out of various Saskatchewan curling rinks, having thrown her first rock 85 years ago in her hometown of Central Butte. Yes, Mr. Speaker, you heard me correctly — 85 years ago.

Her positive and magnetic personality has made her a beloved member of our community. In fact, Mr. Speaker, Mickey was nominated for a 2019 business women of the year, Moose Jaw Prism Awards in the Role Model category. Mickey, a retired nurse, got her start playing curling when she was in high school and she has been playing ever since, Mr. Speaker. Although she does not think of herself as a role model, I can assure you she most certainly is. Perhaps if Team Saskatchewan needs a spare next year in the Scotties, they can call on her. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Fundraiser Engages Local Musicians

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, just during the December holiday season I attended the eighth annual Band Swap held at the Exchange in the Warehouse District. For one night only, some of our city's best and most promising musicians are mixed into never-before-seen bands. Each lineup performs a set of cover songs for a crowd of Reginans and former Reginans who've returned for the holidays.

[13:45]

Regina Band Swap is a fundraiser that engages local musicians to raise money for two important local groups, Carmichael Outreach and Girls Rock Regina. Many members will know the value of Carmichael Outreach and what they provide to our city, advocating and providing services to people who are experiencing homelessness or who are at risk of experiencing homelessness. Girls Rock Regina is an organization dedicated to the empowerment of female, trans, two-spirit, and non-binary youth and adults through collaborative music creation and performance.

Mr. Speaker, Band Swap isn't just an event. Band Swap demonstrates the commitment of the artistic community to empower the most vulnerable. With the provincial government that has failed to commit to both music education and ending homelessness, efforts like these are especially important. While it takes many hands to pull off such a fantastic event, I would like to especially thank Jenn Bergen, Kathleen Wilson, and Carl Johnson for turning this dream into a successful annual shindig. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Swift Current.

Recovery Team Provides Mental Health Services

Mr. Hindley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last Friday I had the pleasure of joining with representatives from the Saskatchewan Health Authority to celebrate the launch of a new community recovery team in Swift Current. Swift Current is now one of eight Saskatchewan communities that will have access to intensive, mobile supports for people with complex mental health challenges. This seven-person Swift Current team features community health nurses, a social worker, an occupational therapist, an addictions worker, and a team lead as well.

Mr. Speaker, the community recovery teams provide front-line, community-based supports to help patients better manage their symptoms and achieve their individual goals of wellness. This team-based, holistic approach to care will help clients avoid hospitalization and live healthy lives within their own communities. Mr. Speaker, this new approach to mental health services is a step in the right direction. Alongside the Saskatchewan Health Authority, our government remains committed to improving mental health services for all of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, this \$4.2 million investment through the Canada-Saskatchewan bilateral funding agreement is in keeping with our government's 10-year mental health and addictions action plan. I am confident the members of these eight community recovery teams will create more efficient and effective mental health care in their communities, and I am proud of our government's commitments to this project.

And, Mr. Speaker, I know in the case of Swift Current, I know some of these members who are part of the community recovery team are long-time residents of Swift Current and area, and hard-working individuals who I know will do their very best to provide the best possible mental health services to the people of Swift Current and southwest Saskatchewan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Prince Albert

Northcote.

Remembering Chris Siddons

Ms. Rancourt: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to honour and remember Chris Siddons. Chris was a military veteran and in recent years an emergency medical responder. Because of his experiences, Chris suffered from anxiety, depression, and hypervigilance. Chris Siddons was a tireless advocate for more support and preventative measures for those impacted by occupational stress disorder. He spoke openly of his own struggles and was a strong, vocal mental health advocate.

Chris was a founding member of OSI-CAN [Occupational Stress Injury-I Can], a support group for veterans and first responders suffering from operational stress injury caused by exposure to trauma on the job. Chris also worked with local mental health advocates to create a Resiliency and Recovery Ranch just outside of Prince Albert. This facility will provide a place for first responders to go to heal and access mental health support.

On February 28th, Chris died by suicide. The work that Chris has done will continue to benefit first responders. He will not be forgotten and his work will continue. Mr. Speaker, we should not let Chris Siddons's death be in vain. Now is the time to commit to properly funding and providing improved access to mental health services.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members join with me in remembering Chris Siddons, his work, and his eagerness to help first responders, and in extending our deepest sympathy to his family, his colleagues, and his friends.

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

Business Club Participates in 100 Acts of Kindness Campaign

Hon. Ms. Beaudry-Mellor: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased to rise in the House today to recognize a very inspiring group of students from Campbell Collegiate high school. Mr. Speaker, the Campbell Business Club is well known across this city — I've spoken about them here as well — for their education and financial literacy as well as their stewardship in our community. This year they partnered with Creative Options Regina and StratLab to participate in their 100 Acts of Kindness campaign.

One of the big acts of kindness was conducted by both the Business Club and the school's music program. They surprised their music teachers, Russ and Deidre Baird, with a performance and presentation recognizing them for their dedication to their students and the Campbell community. We would all remember that they have performed under these august halls many times.

Other big acts included thanking Sarcan employees for being a positive workforce in the community, the Campbell maintenance staff for keeping their school tidy and clean, and recognizing the bus drivers. To preserve these memories, the club created a wall of kindness, where the acts could be recorded on hearts. I want to thank Jill Labas and Carol Bachynski for teaching our future leaders in the Business Club that good business and giving back can actually go hand in hand.

And on a final note, I would like to give a shout-out to the Campbell Tartans curling team who, at this weekend's provincial bonspiel, took home the gold. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Agency Provides Literacy Supports

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last Thursday I had the opportunity to attend Read Saskatoon annual Lit Up! event. For 40 years Read Saskatoon has provided access to family, adult, and financial literacy supports for adults and families. Last year Read Saskatoon reached 3,000 people with their programs.

Mr. Speaker, on Thursday night Read Saskatoon recognized two very important individuals, Isabel Haining from Vincent Massey School, who received the Literacy Grit Award. Her Read volunteer noticed that Isabel is fearless when it comes to reading and writing. She will tackle any word with confidence, no matter how difficult.

Gordon Kasian was also recognized on Thursday night. In his professional life, Gordon was a pediatrician and started coaching Jon Ramage in May of 2013. Jon's reading has improved, and Gordon says that he will keep tutoring as long as Jon wants to continue.

Mr. Speaker, today more than ever, reading, writing, and numeracy skill development is important for adults and families. Literacy is linked to economic and personal success. The jobs people find, salaries they make, upgrade opportunities, and their ability to participate in their community are all directly related to their literacy skills.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members of this Assembly join me in recognizing the 250 volunteers at Read Saskatoon who put the agency's mission and vision to work. I would also like to wish Read Saskatoon all the best as they celebrate their 40th anniversary this year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Prince Albert Regional Economic Development Alliance

Hon. Mr. Hargrave: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Over the weekend I attended the signing of a new economic alliance in Prince Albert. Mr. Speaker, regional partners came together to officially form the Prince Albert Regional Economic Development Alliance or PREDA. The memorandum of understanding has been formally adopted by communities and organizations who represent the region's first grassroots-driven approach to our community's economic development.

The founding members are made up of representatives from the city of Prince Albert, the rural municipality of Prince Albert, the RM of Buckland, the town of Shellbrook, Muskoday First Nation, and Peter Ballantyne Developments.

Mr. Speaker, this initiative has been 18 months in the making and

will focus on positive business development and tourism. Though Prince Albert has worked towards regional economic development in the past, this new initiative is the first community-driven approach. Mr. Speaker, though economic development growth is a large priority of this new initiative, what is most important is the role it can play in healing relationships between indigenous and non-indigenous people.

I look forward to the positive economic and social impact this initiative will have on my community and look forward to seeing co-operation between regions in this important new venture. Thank you.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Development in Wascana Park

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the minister defended the process that led to the Brandt project in Wascana Park being approved. He said, “This shows that the process works. This shows that this is a rigorous process where people are listened to . . .”

Let’s look at this process, Mr. Speaker. The Sask Party took over the board. They fired the architects. And only after extensive and loud public outcry about the office building going up in Wascana Park did they press pause on this project. How can the Sask Party continue to defend this clearly flawed process?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, that’s an interesting interpretation of the events, Mr. Speaker — a rigorous process that has occurred over the last number of years. Nonetheless, Mr. Speaker, there is a process that is in place. It has been followed by the Wascana Centre Authority, Mr. Speaker, subsequently followed by the Provincial Capital Commission.

We have learned, as was announced this week, Mr. Speaker, that through the normal course of business that the Provincial Auditor is going to be reviewing this project, Mr. Speaker. We in this House are not going to prejudge that work, Mr. Speaker. The Provincial Capital Commission in response to that is exercising, and I quote, Mr. Speaker, “an abundance of caution” to not move forward with approvals at this point of time.

Mr. Speaker, the Provincial Capital Commission and the Canadian National Institute for the Blind are going to look at any recommendations that come from the auditor and her office, and they will respond accordingly at that point, Mr. Speaker. We won’t speculate to outcomes on the floor of this Assembly, Mr. Speaker. We’ll allow the Provincial Auditor to do her work, and we’ll respect that work.

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, that Premier knows full well that the auditor is only going to review whether the process was followed. The auditor will not be reviewing whether the process

itself is flawed, a process that the Sask Party changed midway through this project.

We already know how to start to fix this process, Mr. Speaker, and that is to undo the Sask Party’s takeover of the board and restore the original governance structure. Will the Sask Party now commit to restoring that original board structure so that all parties at the table are equal and some faith can be finally be restored in this process?

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

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you very much for the question. And again, out of an abundance of caution, the Provincial Capital Commission board has pushed pause on the project. They’re wanting to . . . [inaudible] . . . And again, the process is a rigorous one. It’s been a number of years. The Provincial Auditor, and I would suggest, is more than capable of reviewing this project, and we are not going to prejudge the work that she does. I said yesterday and I say today: I think a second set of eyes will make this project stronger.

I’m disappointed for the Canadian National Institute for the Blind that they have to wait even longer to do the good work that they’re doing, but we respect the process. We on this side feel that the process was followed. The project was tendered, and at the end of the day we’ll have a very good project for the people of southern Saskatchewan and the province as a whole. Thank you.

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, it must be nice that the Sask Party can now reuse the lines that they were using when they were hiding behind the auditor on the GTH.

I’m going to ask this question one more time. Will the Sask Party now commit to restoring that original board structure so that all parties at the table can be equal, and some faith can finally be restored in this process?

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

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — The Provincial Capital Commission is reflective, the makeup of the board is reflective of the funds that are put into the organization. And this government has been very committed to the park. We consider it a jewel of the province and we will continue to provide that funding.

As far as the work of the auditor, we’re going to make sure that she has all the information that she needs to do her good work. Again we’re not going to speculate on any hypothetical outcomes. We’re going to let her do her work, and at the end of the day we will see a project I believe that will be of benefit to not only the clients of the CNIB, the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, but all residents of southern Saskatchewan and the province. Thank you.

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, very recently we saw some reports

which were hidden now be made public after a CBC [Canadian Broadcasting Corporation] article detailing the heart of Wascana and the importance of that report. The minister has used that report as an excuse for changing the governance structure. The hidden reports now show that that is not what was necessarily recommended in those reports. What they do show, however, is a lack of funding consistently for this park. So will the government reverse the takeover and commit to properly funding Wascana Park?

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

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you very much for the question. It is again a pleasure to correct the hon. member on the floor of this Assembly.

[14:00]

She talks about funding for the park. Over the last 11 years, the Sask Party government . . . 45 million of the 75 million that has been put into the park has been put forward by this government. Again it shows that we consider this park a jewel for the province. We were putting funding in, and to some difficult financial times on a commitment to balance the budget over three years, we still have record amounts of funding that are going into the 2018-2019 period, Mr. Speaker. \$4,118,000 has gone into the park, and . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order, please. I recognize the minister. Just finish up please. Thanks.

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again it is a 22 per cent increase over the funds that the members opposite have put towards the park. I think our record speaks for itself.

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

Provision of Mental Health Services

Ms. Chartier: — This government says they are committed to improving mental health care in the province, and I believe them. No one wants to see people struggling on lengthy wait-lists, leave the emergency room in their time of need, or even take their own life because they have given up hope. But that's the reality in our province. And while it's a complex problem, there are proven solutions that can make all the difference to people struggling with acute mental health issues.

The mental health assessment unit at RUH [Royal University Hospital] is an example, which despite the generosity of the Dubé family and other donors, hasn't lived up to its promise — so often used to ease capacity pressures in the RUH emergency department, and is not properly staffed because the authority was not given additional money to open it.

It's an easy first step. Will the minister commit to providing the SHA [Saskatoon Health Authority] the funding they asked for to fully staff this unit so it can begin to meet its full potential in supporting people in mental health crisis?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the temporary mental health assessment unit was opened due to a very generous donation from the Dubé family, Les and Irene. We certainly thank them for that.

Mr. Speaker, the member, when she is referring to staffing, Mr. Speaker, it's not unusual during course mid-term in a fiscal year to realign resources, Mr. Speaker, to make sure that individual areas are staffed, Mr. Speaker. That's what happened with the mental health assessment unit.

I would also add, Mr. Speaker, that while the intent all along was to have it as a temporary unit — that's the way it was announced; that's the way the Dubé family understood it to be as well, Mr. Speaker — in an era where it's very important as the member suggested that we increase mental health supports in the province, Mr. Speaker, I have asked the SHA some time ago now, and the ministry, to re-evaluate whether or not that should be closing or whether or not, Mr. Speaker, the facility should remain open. You can expect announcements on that in due course. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The fact is, the former region asked for additional funding for this unit and was denied. They've had to redirect money from its existing budget, which diverts funding from other mental health initiatives.

We are joined here today by those living with mental health issues and with friends and families of those who live with mental health issues who are frustrated the mental health unit hasn't lived up to its full potential and it is closing before it has even had a chance to do so. They'd like an opportunity to tell the minister themselves why this matters.

Last month I asked officials whether this unit would stay open or be moved to the new children's hospital, and they said they were reviewing it. Meanwhile the minister has told people to consult with the architects. Mr. Speaker, the children's hospital and new adult ER [emergency room] are set to open in months, and now the best option is to talk to architects about trying to shoehorn it in somewhere.

To the minister: will there be a separate mental health emergency room at the children's hospital? And if not, will the minister commit today to keeping the existing mental health assessment unit RUH open, properly funding it, and adding a much-needed, short-stay stabilization unit in the available space?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure what the member's speaking of when she says that I told people to speak to architects.

Mr. Speaker, when I met with the folks a couple of months ago — I believe some of the representatives are here; we welcome them to their Assembly — I had suggested that I would arrange a meeting, which I just understood this morning, Mr. Speaker,

still hasn't occurred. I phoned the CEO [chief executive officer] of the Saskatchewan Health Authority to ensure that meeting occurs soon with appropriate officials from the SHA that understand all the logistics of the new emergency unit, Mr. Speaker. And I'll endeavour to ensure that that meeting takes place.

But, Mr. Speaker, as far as the follow-up question that the member had, ensuring that that stays open, Mr. Speaker, it would be inappropriate to pre-empt the budget but I will say this: I think mental health advocates in this province will be very pleased with the budget next week, Mr. Speaker. And specifically to the assessment unit, I think the citizens in the gallery will be very pleased as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Mr. Speaker, the minister usually offers to meet with guests in the gallery and I know these folks would love the opportunity if he would sit down with them afterwards.

This government did not spend all of the dedicated mental health dollars last year, and yet at the same time they refuse to properly support proven solutions that can make a real difference in people's lives. Everyone who has travelled here today is looking for solutions. They know that there are gaps in the system because they couldn't find the support they needed, or when they watched their own loved ones struggle.

The transition of the adult emergency room over to the children's hospital provides a perfect opportunity to improve mental health services. A short-stay stabilization unit at RUH would make a world of difference for people grappling with acute mental health challenges, would ease pressures on the Dubé Centre and our emergency rooms, and most importantly it would provide better care to those suffering with mental health issues, Mr. Speaker.

The budget cannot be called balanced if we're failing to provide adequate mental health care to those in crisis. Again to the minister: will there be a dedicated mental health emergency room at the children's hospital, and if not, will he commit to making sure that the assessment unit stays open and they add a short-stay stabilization unit to that same space, Mr. Speaker?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Mr. Speaker, there was a number of points in that question. To the first one, absolutely, I would be happy to meet with the folks in the gallery, Mr. Speaker, after question period.

Mr. Speaker, as far as the general tone of the question, that somehow we don't take mental health issues seriously, Mr. Speaker, that's just simply not the case. Just on Friday, Mr. Speaker, a number of my colleagues and I were in North Battleford for the ribbon cutting for the single biggest expenditure on mental health in the history of this province — the brand new hospital at North Battleford, Mr. Speaker.

We've also announced a number of different projects in last year's budget, Mr. Speaker: the community recovery teams — there was one recently announced for Saskatoon that we think

will help alleviate the pressures that the member was speaking of, Mr. Speaker — the pilot projects in schools, and the list goes on. Mr. Speaker, as far as the future again of the assessment unit, it's just a few more days, Mr. Speaker, and there'll be good news for the members in the gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Minister's Travel Expenses

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In June of 2016 the current Minister of Finance was in the village of Pinehouse at the opening of a housing project as the Minister of Social Services. Two months later, the Finance minister travelled to Pinehouse, where she stayed at the Smerek Hotel and Suites. Now she didn't pay her bill, and after much cajoling the village of Pinehouse paid her bill. But the question is, who did she believe had paid for her lodgings?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and on my own personal time I've made a number of trips into northern communities and enjoy going to the North and have a number of friends in the North, Mr. Speaker, so I do not apologize for that.

I was invited there by friends. The accommodations, they said they would supply the accommodations, which they did. It's a unique community in that there is no commercial or office-front hotel or motel there where you can book a reservation or where you can go to the office and pay your bill. I asked who I paid for the room — and it was one night; there was some reports that the amount was more than it actually was — and I was told, in the North you're our guest. And I persisted and they did as well. So, Mr. Speaker, when I found out that someone had billed the village and the village paid for it, I immediately got the conflict officer to look at this, as well as I paid the bill.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, the minister claimed to the press that it was a friend of hers, Mr. Conrad Misponas, a village councillor, that she thought had paid for the lodgings. Now the question we have here is, how long have she and Mr. Misponas been friends?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, the questions that are coming here today, the minister has clarified time and time again, Mr. Speaker, to anyone that has asked, that she does have friends throughout the North, and she will travel from time to time to visit those friends throughout northern Saskatchewan and across the province, Mr. Speaker.

At the first opportunity in this instance, when she was made aware that this was not in fact paid by the individual that she had thought it was, she referred this to the Conflict of Interest Commissioner. She took appropriate action that any hon. member in this Assembly would do, Mr. Speaker, and she paid the bill.

Mr. Speaker, this is an honourable action by an hon. member of

this Assembly, Mr. Speaker. All members on this side will stand behind our Minister of Finance in her explanation as to matters of her visiting friends across the province.

The Speaker: — I'm going to rule as per rule 19 that this line of question is out of order. This is strictly private nature and not the administration of government. So change your lines of questions. Thank you.

I recognize the member for Saskatoon Fairview.

Wait Times for Surgery

Ms. Mowat: — Mr. Speaker, this government started their surgical initiative with the goal of having no one wait more than three months for surgery. After the initiative was done, this government wrote a fancy report and walked away from people in need. Since 2015 the number of people waiting more than three months for surgery has increased by nearly 500 per cent.

Why did this government walk away instead of sustaining this initiative? What's the plan to get these numbers under control?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Mr. Speaker, we won't apologize for setting aggressive targets, Mr. Speaker. In many instances in this government we've met those targets; sometimes we haven't, Mr. Speaker. This is a case where we haven't.

The number of surgeries has not declined, Mr. Speaker. The population has increased, and we have an aging demographic, Mr. Speaker, that's exacerbated the problem. But, Mr. Speaker, overall we're going to do better, Mr. Speaker. We're committed to it. We've been recruiting more specialists; we've been doing that very aggressively.

But overall, Mr. Speaker, since 2007 it's still a good news story: patients waiting more than 18 months is down 80 per cent; waiting more than 12 months is down 73 per cent; waiting more than six months is down 51 per cent; and patients waiting more than three months is down 37 per cent. Mr. Speaker, while we have more work to do, it's still a far improvement over where we were a decade ago. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Mr. Speaker, people waiting, often in pain, don't care about government talking points where they move the goalpost back to 2010. They want solutions. And right now there's more than 10,000 of them across this province who have waited for more than three months, not zero. And there are nearly 23,000 across the province on the wait-list.

Meaningful health care reform isn't moving from one shiny thing to another. ER waits, lean, surgical waits — this government seems to like its flavour of the day, but it does little to support the system in need in the long run. What exactly is the plan? The minister has identified some of the problems. What exactly is the plan to stop these numbers from getting worse?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Mr. Speaker, if the member opposite doesn't like us going back a decade ago when they were in government, Mr. Speaker, I'll give them some more recent numbers. Very recent data from October 1st to December 31st, 2018 shows that 79 per cent of patients received surgery or were offered a surgery date within three months of booking; more than 91 per cent within six months, Mr. Speaker.

So again as I had said, we have more work to do. We've been aggressively recruiting specialists. Specialists are up substantially since we were given the privilege of forming government, Mr. Speaker. But we'll continue to focus on surgical initiatives, Mr. Speaker, and we continue to believe that we're on the right track. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Funding for Education

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, last week the minister kindly reminded me that I'm a patient woman and should wait until budget day to see what's in store for kids and teachers in classrooms around this province. Now, Mr. Speaker, I have the luxury of being able to wait, but students in those classrooms don't.

The minister knows very well that early years education investment is essential in a child's development and that early years shape future successes. As a result of this government's cuts, kids have spent more than two years learning in frankly unacceptable learning conditions as teachers and divisions struggle to do more with less. To the minister: can he provide a little clarity for us today? Will this budget make the investments needed in our kids' classrooms, or will kids have to wait until an election year to get the type of investment that they need?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

[14:15]

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, this government has demonstrated its commitment to public education. Just in last year's budget, Mr. Speaker, an increase of \$30 million in funding. I've told the House that over many times. We're going to continue that commitment, Mr. Speaker. I've been out talking to teachers. I've been out talking to educators, with trustees, with parents, Mr. Speaker.

I appreciate the importance of public education. I appreciate the importance of investing in early years — especially investing in early years, Mr. Speaker — and investing in capital. We're going to continue, Mr. Speaker, to listen. We're going to continue to ensure that we support children in classrooms. I'm glad that the member opposite is patient, Mr. Speaker, but she only has to wait till next Wednesday to hear what this government's commitment is, not only with respect to education, Mr. Speaker, but with respect to health care and with respect to all aspects of executive government. It's only a week away.

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

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, try as he might, the people of Saskatchewan are not buying that minister's assertion that a \$30 million partial backfill after their \$54 million cut doesn't amount to anything more than \$78 million taken out of our children's classrooms over the past two years. The minister himself has said that he's received 130 letters in a single day from concerned teachers, and I'm not sure, Mr. Speaker, how much more clearly that the teachers, the students, and the boards of education in this province can make it for that minister.

The minister spoke of a new reality in the classroom but provides talking points instead of recognizing the very real harm that his government's cuts have made to our classrooms. The letters, the calls, and the pleas for help are all seeking assurances from that minister and the Premier that they will keep their word and make education a priority, treating it as the investment that it is.

Will the minister commit today to ensuring that that investment takes place?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, I'm not going to disclose, Mr. Speaker, the terms of the budget. It'll be tabled by my good friend the Minister of Finance next Wednesday, Mr. Speaker. But I can tell the member that . . . And by the way, it's been 360 responses that we got from teachers from around the province, Mr. Speaker, and some are complimentary, Mr. Speaker. But we've been out listening to teachers. We have been out listening to our partners in education, whether that's the SSBA [Saskatchewan School Boards Association], whether that's STF [Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation], LEADS [League of Educational Administrators, Directors and Superintendents], any one of a number of organizations, Mr. Speaker.

And I think this government's commitment to public education is clear. It was clear in last year's budget, Mr. Speaker. And I'm hoping next week when the Minister of Finance stands up that the member opposite will see some value in the work that I've been doing as the Minister of Education, that my colleagues have been doing, in listening to people around this province, especially teachers in the classroom.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to refer to an email that I have, sent from the Smerek Hotel to the minister, the member of Humboldt's office, on November 30th, 2018, 13 days before the story broke and the minister then agreed to pay back the costs of the lodgings. I'd like to quote from this email, Mr. Speaker. This is to the minister's . . .

The Speaker: — I've already made a ruling on this and I'll actually stand corrected. You're on the same path. I'll stand corrected: it's actually rule 20. This is the scope of question, and it has to be of administration of government business, period. So if that's your question . . . connected to government.

I recognize the member for Saskatoon Fairview.

Availability of Ambulance Services

Ms. Mowat: — Mr. Speaker, it's been a year and a half since this

government wrapped up consultations on how to reform our ambulance system. EMS [emergency medical services] consultations reinforced concerns around a dangerous pattern gripping our major centres. Ambulances and paramedics are chronically tied up waiting to off-load patients from our over-capacity emergency rooms. In Saskatoon nearly every day someone calls an ambulance and there are none available. It's a dangerous situation and one that needs a solution immediately.

What's this government's plan to free up ambulances and emergency rooms or add capacity to the ambulance system so those in crisis aren't forced to wait?

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

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Mr. Speaker, we've been working for a number of years with our EMS providers through SEMSA [Saskatchewan Emergency Medical Services Association] and through our public service, Mr. Speaker.

Partly through independent consultations prior to the panel report on health system restructure, but also when we were developing that report, Mr. Speaker, a lot of the input that came to that report was at the direction of myself and my fellow Health minister to the panel to make sure that they consulted directly with EMS providers to see where we could do a better job. And that's where some of the information came back through the auditor, with the contract renegotiations, more facts-based contracts, or whether it's the specific input from the EMS providers that went into the panel report on restructure.

When it comes to some of the issues we have with backlogs, when it comes to some of the issues with ambulances having to wait at the separate emergency rooms, waiting for some of those clients to be seen, or whether it's separate instances like hot-spotting and community paramedicine, that will help alleviate some of these visits to the hospital, Mr. Speaker.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

Mr. Bradshaw: — Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 142, *The Proceedings Against the Crown Act, 2018*, a bilingual bill, without amendment.

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

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

The Speaker: — The member has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 142 and

that the bill be now read a third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The member may proceed to move third reading. I recognize the Government House Leader.

THIRD READINGS

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

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member that Bill No. 142 be now read the third time and passed under its title.

Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Principal Clerk: — Third reading of this bill.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

Mr. Bradshaw: — Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 143, *The Proceedings Against the Crown Consequential Amendments Act, 2018* without amendment.

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

I recognize the Government House Leader.

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

The Speaker: — The member has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 143 and that the bill be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The member may proceed to move third reading. I recognize the Government House Leader.

THIRD READINGS

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

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

The Speaker: — It's been moved by the member that Bill No. 143 be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Principal Clerk: — Third reading of this bill.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

Mr. Bradshaw: — Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 144, *The Real Estate Amendment Act, 2018* without amendment.

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

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

The Speaker: — The member has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 144 and that the bill be now read a third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The member may proceed to move third reading. I recognize the Government House Leader.

THIRD READINGS

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

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

The Speaker: — It's been moved by the member that Bill No. 144 be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the

Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Principal Clerk: — Third reading of this bill.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

Mr. Bradshaw: — Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 151, *The Personal Property Security Amendment Act, 2018* with amendment.

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

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

The Speaker: — The member has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 151 and that the bill and its amendments be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — When shall the amendments be read a first time? I recognize the Government House Leader.

FIRST AND SECOND READINGS OF AMENDMENTS

Bill No. 151 — *The Personal Property Security Amendment Act, 2018*

Hon. Mr. Brkich: — I move that the amendments be now read a first and second time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member that the amendments be now read a first and second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Principal Clerk: — First and second reading of the amendments.

The Speaker: — The minister may proceed to move third reading. I recognize the Government House Leader.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 151 — *The Personal Property Security Amendment Act, 2018*

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member that Bill No. 151 be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Principal Clerk: — Third reading of this bill.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

Mr. Bradshaw: — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 154, *The Intestate Succession Act, 2018*, a bilingual bill without amendment.

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

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

The Speaker: — The member has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 154 and that the bill be now read a third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The member may proceed to move third reading. I recognize the Government House Leader.

THIRD READINGS

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

Hon. Mr. Brkich: — I move that the bill be now read the third

time and passed under its title.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member that Bill No. 154 be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Principal Clerk: — Third reading of this bill.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Lawrence: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to order the answers to questions 44 and 45.

The Speaker: — Ordered 44, 45.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 134

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

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to resume debate on Bill No. 134, an Act to amend the local government election Act. And we are very clear that this is a very foolish path that this government has taken, and we'll be back here in the years following to correct this little fix or this little problem this government has found itself, jamming two elections together with the municipal school board elections on November 9th and the provincial elections just two weeks earlier.

And we know some of the municipalities are not happy about this; particularly the city of Saskatoon says this is clearly not workable. But they have steamrolled ahead, and that would be the language to use. The minister of the day said that they essentially just wanted that date in the fall, that they're going to get another six months of governance out of this. And that means, what the impacts are, of course, we talked about that there'll be two ridings that will be without representation during a budget cycle, during a Throne Speech. They are not moving on that at all.

[14:30]

This is not about the two that are running. This is about this government and making sure that there is adequate representation. It wouldn't matter if it was five on one side or the other. Every riding deserves representation, particularly during the budget and Throne Speech cycle.

And this government . . . Actually it's interesting. Many members on that side of the House actually spoke out against this particular scenario a few years ago, and they know who they are over there. They stood up in the House, they stood up in the House and they even asked questions in committee about that. And so I'm sure we'll . . . And I have used their quotes in the House. So, Mr. Speaker, we are deeply concerned that yet again this is a grand waste of time, that we will be back again revisiting this. And this is just not the right thing to do.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the member that Bill No. 134 be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Principal Clerk: — Second reading of this bill.

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

Hon. Mr. Brkich: — I designate that Bill No. 134, *The Local Government Election Amendment Act, 2018* be committed to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

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

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 Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Centre.

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Again we resume debate on this topic. And I have said what many of us on this side have said many times: this is clearly a foolish path to go down. This is the consequential amendments, so I don't have much more to add.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the member that Bill No. 135 be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Principal Clerk: — Second reading of this bill.

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

Hon. Mr. Brkich: — I designate that Bill No. 135, *The Local Government Election Consequential Amendments Act, 2018* be committed to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

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

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 Riversdale.

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise to enter into the debate on Bill No. 163, *The Legal Profession Amendment Act, 2018*. Mr. Speaker, this bill sets up the creation of something called limited licences. It's still to be determined what work they will be allowed to do. In speaking with my colleagues and folks who know a little bit more about this than I do, Mr. Speaker, I understand it's an important step forward for access to justice, and it's similar to what we do in some states. They will still be regulated and monitored.

One thing to note is access to lawyers is very expensive and not an option for many. I know in my own constituency office I often get calls from people who don't have access to lawyers. They fall out of the threshold of legal aid and have many challenges trying to access lawyers, Mr. Speaker. The practice areas will be heavily restricted, but that's still to be determined, I understand. And it looks like this Act, actually which is a positive thing, Mr. Speaker, is done with much consultation with the Law Society and the bar. And I know my colleague, who is the critic responsible, will ask many good questions in committee.

But with that I'd like to move to adjourn debate for Bill No. 163, *The Legal Profession Amendment Act*. Thank you.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 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 Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm also very pleased to enter into the debate today on Bill No. 164, *The*

Statute Law Amendment Act, 2018. Mr. Speaker, this bill, by nature it's described as a housekeeping amendment bill. And there's a number of different parts of the legislation that are being impacted by this particular bill.

And I'm going to list some of the parts of the Acts that are being impacted by this particular bill: *The Agricultural Implements Act; The Agricultural Leaseholds Act; The Ambulance Act; The Child and Family Services Act; The Coroners Act; The Correctional Services Act; The Crop Payments Act; The Dental Disciplines Act; The Expropriation Procedure Act; The Financial Administration Act; The Funeral and Cremation Services Act; The Income Tax Act, 2000; The Interprovincial Subpoena Act; The League of Educational Administrators, Directors and Superintendents Act, 1991; The Pest Control Products (Saskatchewan) Act; The Planning and Development Act, 2007; The Police Act, 1990; The Power Corporation Act; The Provincial Sales Tax Act; The Public Health Act, 1994; The Public Officials Security Act; The Registered Teachers Act; The Rehabilitation Act; The Research Council Act; The Saskatchewan Assistance Act; The Saskatchewan 4-H Foundation Act; The Saskatchewan Housing Corporation Act; The Saskatchewan Medical Care Insurance Act; The Saskatchewan Telecommunications Act; The SaskTel Pension Implementation Act; The Statistics Act; The Tax Enforcement Act; The Teachers' Dental Plan Act; The Teachers' Life Insurance (Government Contributory) Act; The Teachers Superannuation and Disability Benefits Act; The Time Act; The University of Regina Act; The Veterinary Services Act; The Water Security Agency Act; The White Cane Act; The Crown Corporations Act, 1993; The Municipal Board Act; The Natural Resources Act; The Northern Saskatchewan Economic Development Act; The Power Corporation Act; and The Power Corporation Superannuation Act.*

So, Mr. Speaker, as you can see, there's a number of legislative Acts that are being impacted by this particular bill. And the point I'm trying to make, Mr. Speaker, is that you have to be very, very careful as we examine what the Saskatchewan Party is trying to do on many of the legislative fronts. And I just wanted to point out, each of these Acts that I've made reference to, there's a number of amendments within those Acts that could have some serious repercussions or some serious reaction. As long as you are able to take the time to go through each of those Acts and see what is being implemented by this particular bill, Mr. Speaker, Bill 164, you're not really sure what is being proposed and what is being amended. While the bill is described generally housekeeping in nature, you have to be very careful on this front, Mr. Speaker, because there could be some significant changes in any of the Acts that I've made reference to earlier.

And I'll give you an example. Under the existing agricultural implements Act — it's one of the Acts that I made reference to here — there's a change in explanation where it says:

Section 2 amends clause 2(e) of *The Agricultural Implements Act* to update the definition of "financial institution". The references to banks and credit union are simplified, as both "bank" and "credit union" are already defined by *The Interpretation Act, 1995*.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I would certainly view that as a housekeeping amendment Act, Mr. Speaker, because it's largely based on the

fact that describing all banks as a financial institution, those are par for the course in terms of housekeeping matters, Mr. Speaker.

Now what's really important is that you look at some of the other Acts. If you look at the example under the provisions under *The Ambulance Act*, it talks about:

Proposed section 4 amends section 41 of *The Ambulance Act* by replacing a reference to "department" with "ministry."

Again, Mr. Speaker, one would view that certainly as administrative and housekeeping in nature. But as you look through some of the other bills, Mr. Speaker, there are certain things that you have to be very, very careful as you look at, for example, the proposed changes under *The Registered Teachers Act* where they update the phrase:

"... minister responsible for *The Business Corporations Act*" to read "minister responsible for the administration of *The Business Corporations Act*."

Now, Mr. Speaker, what are the changes being proposed in both of those Acts and what are the implications as a result of that change in definition and certainly that change in interpretation?

So it's very, very important that we look at how some of these Acts are being changed as a result of what is being described as housekeeping in nature. Mr. Speaker, we have to be very, very careful as you look at all the bills being impacted by Bill 64, and this is the reason why we have the legislative process that we're having today, is to look through the Act itself, see what changes are being proposed. And while the vast majority of these changes may be housekeeping in nature, Mr. Speaker, there may be some changes that are significant and it's important we take the time to read through them and ask for advice and certainly ask for different organizations to forward their concerns if they wish.

So on that note, Mr. Speaker, I think it's really important that we continue to pay attention to this particular bill, and I move that we adjourn debate on Bill No. 164, *An Act to amend the Statute Law*.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Athabasca has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 164, *The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2018 (No. 3)*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise into debate on this bill, *The Workers'*

Compensation Amendment Act, 2018. It's one that is fairly packed with some significant changes for people and I think for the working men and women of Saskatchewan, and so it's one that we think deserves attention.

And I know that it was brought forward last December 5th, and it was the day that the annual professional firefighters were here, and they were glad to see that some of the changes that were coming forward were some of the new regulations or new amendments to the Act that deals with various cancers that particularly first responders and firefighters are exposed to and then experience because of their work.

And so at that time it was — it is — a good thing, and we congratulate the government on bringing this part forward. But I do have to say that at the time we also raised the issue about the whole package that is here. So I will take some time and talk a bit about this because *The Workers' Compensation Act* is a very important piece of legislation. In fact it's the only one, Mr. Speaker, as you will recall, when we had a discussion about the development of the employment Act, *The Saskatchewan Employment Act*, where we . . . the government of the day rolled 12 significant Acts, including *The Trade Union Act*, *The Occupational Health and Safety Act*, *The Labour Standards Act*, into one big bill, one big piece of legislation.

The only Act that stood outside that was *The Workers' Compensation Act* because it significantly is important by itself. Now I would argue, and we've seen the results by some of the rulings of the Supreme Court, that in fact *The Trade Union Act* should have stayed by itself. *The Labour Standards Act* should have stayed by itself. And *The Occupational Health and Safety Act* should have stayed by itself. Much more manageable when you have different volumes of labour legislation that you can handle as opposed to the one big omnibus bill that this government put forward. And it's one that because of its nature just causes and continues to cause a lot of problems when you have one big bill now.

[14:45]

People would say, why can't you put it together? Well, Mr. Speaker, it's easy to put together. You put it together in a binder. It's all in the same place, has different chapters just like it should be. You have a trade union Act, you have a workers' compensation Act, you have that kind of thing. I don't know why the minister of the day couldn't wrap his head around that.

But, Mr. Speaker, there are parts of this that we do want have some conversations about. One is changing the composition of the board to include three full-time members and up to four part-time members. You know, it's interesting. What happens here is, you know, the idea . . . And it's funny that this would come from a government that's pro-private, pro-make-sure-you-work. Even today we saw when the consultants were introduced there was some hollering over about them being private, not public. And yet, you know, the challenge that we've heard very often, very often at the board level of Workers' Comp is that the board, even though they're full-time, they don't actually work full time, that they don't do hearings on Friday. Now maybe they do. I'd be very happy to be corrected. Monday mornings they don't often do hearings. You know, you wonder if this full-time board is actually full-time. Are they

accessible to people full time? Do they put in a 32- or a 40-hour work week like everybody else? I'm not sure.

So you can appoint more people, but if more people are going to take it as a part-time or an on-call type of thing, that they don't want to go as fast as it might, we have concerns about that. So, Mr. Speaker, we will see the necessity of this because we have heard concerns about that.

The other thing we've heard concerns about, and this has happened where you had, you know, the general tradition. Now I'm not sure if it's in the legislation, but the tradition has been that the employer side would nominate its nomination to be on the board and labour would nominate its person. And that would be who would be on the board. And that would be fair. It's tended to be how it's worked in the Department of Labour in terms of how you make up these boards where you have equal number of employer reps and an equal number of employee reps.

But that took a real serious turn where the minister of the day decided that he would not accept either of . . . Actually it was really odd because he wouldn't accept either the employer nominee or the employee nominee, and unfortunately I think we missed out on some good, good people there. I knew both of those people that were refused and they both had a lot of experience in terms of worker compensation work and rulings and the application of the Act and its policies, and they were both turned down. And it was really unfortunate that we saw the power of the minister being used in that way, which really for several months caused some hiccups there.

The other one that I have to say and I was . . . If I can, I'll just quote the minister from December 5th, 2018. And I quote:

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

So they're going to now do it every five years. Now you know, *The Workers Compensation Act* has been in place for many decades, many decades, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and it's worked well. It's worked well under the idea that when the committee of review makes its recommendations . . . And again the committee has been selected by the minister, has been set up by nominations from the employer side and the employee side, equal on both sides, with a chairperson who has a lot of experience in both labour law, occupational health and safety law, and workers' compensation law, and the ability to facilitate meetings.

I know the last several . . . And I've been fortunate in fact to actually receive some of these. The last several have been very much done with both sides agreeing, especially on the priority issues. When we have both sides agreeing, and they're the ones who are affected by the outcomes and how they're trying to make a much more efficient system, this becomes . . . You wonder why does it take two or three years after a committee of review meets. And why aren't they simply doing the good check? And I understand the ministry has to do the good check.

They obviously are obligated to make sure the law is appropriate. But to take two or three years to do that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, why does it take two or three years to check out a committee of review report? And we've seen this the last couple of times with this particular minister where it's . . . This is kind of the stuff that is not part of electioneering because these people, these committee members are . . . This is not partisan stuff. This is employer, employee agreeing on the changes that needed to be made, and so I'm not sure if five years is acceptable. It's a long time. It's a long time.

So I think this is really interesting. I don't know who made that recommendation. It will be interesting to find out in committee who actually made that recommendation that the four years be changed to five years. I have a funny feeling that wasn't from the employer side or the employee side. They really like to make sure that it's as current as possible. If there's gaps in legislation or policy, they need to get at it. It's a formality. It's a formal way of resolving the issues.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would say that we will have some questions on this. There are some things that we really do have some questions about. I'm glad to see that there's some amendments to *The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. I know we've had concerns by the Privacy Commissioner that the Workers' Comp folks have been a little too, you know, not sharing files with people, even to themselves, the people who the files are on. And so this is really a really important change. So this is important.

Going forward though, Mr. Speaker, I want to make sure that we also have the opportunity to highlight the number of workplace fatalities that have happened in Saskatchewan. And it's really important that we take some time . . . And will these amendments do anything to change that? That's very important. You know, the president of the SFL [Saskatchewan Federation of Labour] has raised that issue, and we need to make sure that we're on top of that. And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, as you're aware that Evraz has experienced three injuries in the last few weeks, and of course that's alarming to everyone that we have that kind of situation happening.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I adjourn debate on Bill No. 165. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Saskatoon Centre has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 165, *The Workers' Compensation Amendment Act, 2018*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's my honour to rise this afternoon and enter into the debate around Bill No. 149, *The Police (Regional Policing) Amendment Act*. This bill will allow rural municipalities and other municipalities with populations under 500 to join regional police services. It also adds two new terms, one of them being "region," the other one being "regional participant," which helps to clarify the allowances that are in this amendment Act.

It also sets out that the RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police] are not responsible for policing a region that receives regional policing services unless a provincial-municipal agreement, a global policing agreement, a federal-municipal agreement, or a regional police agreement authorizes it. It also establishes that a global agreement between the minister and the RCMP for policing services does not apply in municipalities that have joined a regional police service, and sets out the terms to be included within an order to establish a regional police service.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this bill also establishes that every regional participant is responsible to pay its share of costs for the regional police service and any other service provided by the RCMP or another police service as set out in the agreement. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'm curious to know what change this has. I know there was some regional policing that was already occurring so whether or not this is expanding that scope. I understand there's been a lot of concern lately around rural crime, so we'll be watching this and monitoring this closely to see if the implementation of this legislation does actually impact communities and help communities in a way that they need.

I know when I've spoken with rural communities, one of their concerns is the lack of RCMP presence in particular. RCMP have been understaffed throughout this province. It's a recruitment issue largely, Mr. Deputy Speaker. That's frankly more of a federal issue than ours, but we're definitely feeling provincially the impact of an understaffed RCMP force and what that means for our rural communities.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we hear of communities who are upset because, not only are RCMP slower responding to calls, but are also just not having the presence that they used to have in their community. They're not in the coffee shops. They're not in bakeries, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and a large part of that is because of this understaffing and because of so many RCMP forces being on 24-7 call. Mr. Deputy Speaker, it's creating a very difficult concern within the RCMP.

One thing that this bill doesn't address is the root causes of crime and why we are seeing the crime increases that we have seen — in particular property crime, Mr. Deputy Speaker — one of those being the growing rates of addictions and in particular crystal meth addiction in our province, Mr. Deputy Speaker. So while we see this bill and other bills come forward this session, we still see a government that has done nothing in terms of addressing the crystal meth crisis and has not created, still has not created a crystal meth strategy for this province. And until we see that, we will not see a reduction in crime, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

I know that I do have other colleagues who want to enter into the debate on this bill, so at this point I'm prepared to adjourn debate on Bill No. 149.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Regina Douglas Park has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 149, *The Police (Regional Policing) Amendment Act, 2018*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Ms. Rancourt: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's always a pleasure to join in with the adjourned debates. And today I'm going to put some of my own remarks with regards to Bill No. 150 on the record today.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Bill 150 is *The Seizure of Criminal Property Act*. And so it talks a little bit about civil forfeiture program that takes place within our province. And basically what that is is property and profits are taken from individuals who are charged with a criminal offence, and that property is used to fund victims' programming, policing initiatives, and other programs that promote community safety. Mr. Deputy Speaker, there's always been a lot of questions with regards to this program within the province. And it would be very interesting to find out what other provinces do in these situations as well.

When I was reviewing the minister's remarks, I found them to be quite vague, and I'm sure the critic that will be sitting within committee will ask for her to expand on some of those remarks with regards to some of the details. For example, what is the list of the programming and policing initiatives? And what kind of programs do they believe are promoting community safety? And how much of that money is being put forward to that? And where are they keeping all that information?

[15:00]

Because from some of the things I've been reading with regards to the announcement of this bill, I don't know if that is readily available to the public, if it's published online, or if everyone is able to see what is being taken by police and what kind of property and what the profits are and how that's going forward. We know that the amount that's being forfeited is increasing year after year, but actually the money that's coming forward is decreasing. So those are really important questions to ask, Mr. Deputy Speaker, of why that is in fact the case.

And so also, now that this bill is being reviewed and such, I wonder if any of these programs are for preventing the reoffending behaviour because if . . . I think it would be really important to use this kind of funding to maybe stop future criminal offences from happening. It's important to provide services for victims, but if we could prevent crimes from happening that would be important as well.

So there's a lot of questions, like what kind of property has been seized? And another thing that was brought into question too with reviewing some of the information that was in the media, there was a lawyer, Derek From, that brought a lot of concerns up with regards to this bill coming forward. He said that, "The province doesn't have to prove the property was part of criminal activity and it does not require a conviction before seizing money or property." So he indicates that he feels that some people may be punished that aren't even in fact criminals. So those are really important questions to ask.

I would think that, you know, there would have had to be a . . . The conviction would have had to follow through in order for this to happen but according to some of the information he puts here, it says that they could be seized without even having the conviction followed through. So "Civil forfeiture laws allow the government to take your property from you even if you haven't committed any crime or what the laws call unlawful acts."

And he gives an example of a landlord could have their property seized if a renter was doing something illegal on the premises. So I know this is a bit troubling because if the landlord isn't aware of what's happening, how can we seize their property without them being able to know what's going on and potentially try to stop that?

The changes to this piece of legislation is lowering the standard of proof also. And he indicates here some of the issues of transparency. So:

"There's hundreds of thousands of dollars of property taken every year and no one has any clue where the money goes,"
From said.

The police receive a portion of the profits from their own policing activity. From said that creates an incentive for them to go after someone's property.

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

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

And so if we know that this is potentially an issue, I think we have an obligation to have the due diligence of ensuring that this can't happen. So he also indicates:

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

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it brings me back to my remarks earlier about how is this money being spent, where is it going, and where can we find that information. So a lot of questions to ask. And I know the critic will talk to stakeholders and do their due diligence with establishing questions. I know my colleagues are

very eager to put their remarks on the record with regards to this bill as well, Mr. Deputy Speaker, so with that I'm going to adjourn debate with regards to Bill No. 150. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Prince Albert Northcote has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 150. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's my honour to rise this afternoon and enter into the debate around Bill No. 152, *The Builders' Lien (Prompt Payment) Amendment Act*.

This bill allows for prompt payment, what's described as prompt payment under construction contracts, and changes some definitions and adds new ones, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It also requires that what is considered a proper invoice be given to an owner every month unless the contract provides otherwise. Mr. Deputy Speaker, this bill will establish timelines for the payment of a proper invoice by an owner, which will be within 28 days of receiving the invoice from the contractor. It also establishes some timelines for the payment of a subcontractor by a contractor and between subcontractors as well.

It also establishes an adjudication process for the resolution of some disputes and sets out that the parties will split the adjudicator fees equally. So essentially this legislation is addressing or attempting to address a problem that's been outlined in the construction industry.

I know that there are a lot of stakeholders with a lot of concerns about this legislation, both *The Builders' Lien Act* as it exists now and as well some concerns around these amendment provisions and what that's going to mean for their industry. I know our critic, the member for Regina Rosemont, has been working very hard on this legislation and reaching out to many stakeholders. If there are stakeholders who are listening and wish to put their 2 cents in, their concerns or their support for the legislation, I'd urge them to contact the member for Regina Rosemont as soon as possible.

I also know that there are other members who are interested in entering into this debate. So at this time, I am prepared to adjourn debate on Bill No. 152.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Regina Douglas Park has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 152, *The Builders' Lien (Prompt Payment) Amendment Act, 2018*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Bill No. 158

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's my honour to rise this afternoon and enter into debate around Bill No. 157, *The Education Amendment Act*.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this bill will correct and change the terminology in both the English and the French versions of the Act. It also exempts the city of Lloydminster from paying proceeds of the school tax received to the government, as the city of Lloydminster pays boards of education directly. As we all know, the city of Lloydminster has a very unique situation in that it straddles the border of both Alberta and Saskatchewan.

It also changes the clause on the acquisition of personal property by a board of education or the conseil scolaire to clarify that boards of education and the conseil scolaire have the authority to manage their own personal property. It also changes the clause on the disposal of real and personal property by a board of education on the conseil scolaire.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is a very interesting bill that was moved, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It has several provisions which are quite interesting that I know that our critic is going to be very interested in.

One in particular is the amendment around the boards of education and conseil scolaire providing notification of suspension or severance of a teacher to the Saskatchewan Professional Teachers Regulatory Board, Mr. Deputy Speaker. The board has requested, according to the minister, that subsection 212(3) of the Act be repealed as it's in conflict with some requirements for reporting misconduct to the board, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I know we haven't heard much about that board recently, but I do know there's been some interesting dialogue around the work that they have been doing, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

I know that there are several of my colleagues who are interested in entering into the debate around this bill, so to allow them to do that I am prepared today to move adjournment on Bill No. 157.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Regina Douglas Park has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 157, *The Education Amendment Act, 2018*.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

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

Mr. Vermette: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to join in on Bill No. 158, *The Youth Justice Administration Act, 2018*.

I guess initially looking at the changes, they're taking regulations and putting them into legislation. And I guess that could be a good thing. And I know, you know, the critic will have some opportunities in committee to ask the minister, officials, why the changes and what were they trying to achieve? And maybe was it recommended by staff at facilities when it comes to do with youth? Was it the court system? Was it lawyers? Was it family? Somebody obviously has brought forward doing the changes to the youth.

But before I get into that, talking about that, I know we're going to have an opportunity, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in committee. I just want to look at the numbers. And we have to look at the number of youth, when we look at youth, and some of the stats and the data that they shared. So far we have, I believe, 2016-17: 92 per cent of males, 98 per cent of females that were in youth custody that the system was . . . Whether it's the court, Justice, whatever, the system was dealing with, you know, was Aboriginal — 92 for the males, 98 per cent of females were Aboriginal within the system itself that they're dealing with. And that in itself should be sending a message, when if you look at the population versus . . . Aboriginal versus non-Aboriginal, and to see the numbers so high it makes us wonder. Okay, hello, we have a problem.

Now we can sit there and say, oh it's this person's problem; it's that person's problem; it's the community's problem. I think we as a province, as a community, as families, we have an obligation to the justice system, social services, health. There are so many reasons why. And we need to look into why are young people, Aboriginal young people, why are they, you know, feeling . . . Are they feeling lost? Because we talk about the suicide rates. We talk about losing hope. When you have a group of individuals who live in poverty, and I've said about the North, we're one of the . . . the Cumberland constituency, the Athabasca, we're some of the poorest regions in Canada.

To say yes, some people do what they can. They survive and they do what they can. The parents work and they do what they can. Individuals do whatever they can to survive. And sometimes in our small communities up north, you know, whether it's a larger community or smaller, there still is not the opportunity to advance with the education, to get the local jobs. And any time you have government — and I think about this — any time you have government involved in that you hope, okay.

I know there are good people who work for different ministries, and I know they work for Justice and Health, and they try to work with young people. I've seen that. I have some people that I know personally who work in that field, and they try. They try. They try to work with them, but you have to have the resources. But sometimes, you know, it goes back to the communities too, and

I see some of the First Nations and some of the communities up north.

I want to put out a, you know, a thank you to some of them, because they are doing on-the-land projects, bringing them back to the culture to understand about hunting, trapping, fishing, you know, doing the work, getting out there and seeing what it is to live off the land. And that's some of the land base, and I know individuals who are working hard at that. They're providing the mental health, they're providing the culture, they're taking the families and they're getting the families together, and they're doing some amazing work. But whether that's federal funding . . . And I know some of them are running programs that they get federal funding. The province needs to make sure they're there helping out.

[15:15]

We can turn things around. And if a government really wants to turn things around with our youth . . . And I look at the justice system and we look at what's going on. If there is a will of government, it's amazing. It is truly amazing how you can change things. If you want to work in partnership with First Nations, Métis, municipal governments, whoever, if you really want to change a government's commitment, it isn't by talk. It isn't by apologies and then no other type of supports. It's not consulting. If you are truly, if you truly as a government care about Saskatchewan people, and all of Saskatchewan people, you reach out to First Nations. You reach out to the Métis. You reach out to the families. You reach out to the youth. You find out from them, if you really want to know, what's causing this? What can we do to help? How can we partner? How can we change the system? How can we take young offenders and make them a part of society in a productive way?

Yes, there are many issues. Why they're there, I don't know. I've heard some stories from some people. I've seen young people, they struggle. Is it their fault? Is it the family's fault? Is it the community's fault? Whose fault is it, why these kids are struggling and lost hope? And you know, you talk about all the different areas. Whether it's gangs, they have protection. There are things going on that we don't understand.

But, Mr. Deputy Speaker, if a government really wants to change things . . . And again I go back to this. Whether justice, health, I've talked about the different ministries who can come together. You have a government. If there is a will to change things and say, look, there are some wrongs, we can fix some things. We can partner. I hear about governments always saying, oh we want to partner. Well you have an opportunity here to reach out.

And I'm going to say this to those organizations out there — First Nations, Métis, whatever organization is trying to work with youth and trying to help youth to change their life and turn their life around — reach out to the government. Ask the government for supports. Ask them to partner. Not just with words, you know, and photo ops. We're talking about meaningful partnerships.

And you know, at the end of the day, I'll challenge the government any time to say, if you are serious and you want to help our young people, if you want to change the rate of incarceration of our youth . . . When we look at the average of a population and the numbers, it's appalling. But we also say that

on suicide. We've said that on so many areas. In the food bank, our youth, our kids are using the food bank. It's terrible the number of families and kids that have to rely on the food bank in Saskatchewan, a province as great as Saskatchewan that you have to see the struggles of kids, of families, more and more.

And a government has to take responsibility of its policies, of the taxation it puts on families with the PST [provincial sales tax]. You know, you think about the year, I believe it's 2017-18 year. You see the taxation. It's just about a billion dollars that was added on the tax.

And this government talks about, oh carbon tax, carbon tax. And they want to attack . . . How about the PST tax? A billion dollars, just about, you put on Saskatchewan families, asking them today on things you said you would never do. So maybe you could use some of that money that you've taken away from families, and maybe help deal with the justice system with the youth and find meaningful partnerships with people.

Like I've said, Mr. Deputy Speaker, there are many changes that are going to . . . They'll come out of regulations for this bill and they're going to put into legislation. Well you know what? That's holding people accountable. And that's good. But I hope, I hope the good people of this province, and those that are struggling, hold that government accountable. Because the government of the day has an obligation. It's the right thing to do. If you have any compassion you will reach out. And I encourage those groups that are working hard to deal with the youth and trying to change them: go to the ministries. Go to the Premier. Demand that they help you.

We have seen how Aboriginal people are treated. My colleagues have talked about it. I think the member from Athabasca has said it very well and he has articulated it very well on certain bills that he's talked to, on the trespassing legislation that he shared his thoughts and his words and his concerns. And I keep saying that we can't have it both ways. You cannot have it both ways. The government has to start partnering more with First Nations and Métis, and deal with some of the issues and consult more. They have to. No more can you just say, well we're going to set the rules; we're going to do what we want.

And this is another part of the legislation. I hope, I hope when you have such a high youth population being incarcerated — like I said, males it was 92 per cent; females, I believe, 98 per cent — I hope that this government will say, look, there's a problem. We have to do more than just sit here and talk about the numbers. If there is a will by them . . .

And I challenge those organizations: call on the government. They keep saying they want to work with First Nations, they want to partner up. Well let's hold them accountable.

It isn't that there isn't enough money there. They picked their priorities, Mr. Deputy Speaker. They have picked the priorities that they want. They take care of their friends. We've seen time and time again where they've had money for many things that, I'll tell you, the Saskatchewan people are not happy about. And I know the Saskatchewan people will wake up one day and they'll say, enough is enough. We've been pretty understanding. We've been patient. We've allowed you to look after and manage.

And I've said that before in this House, that this government, this government will be held accountable for the way they treat the youth, the way the Aboriginal people have been treated, the way Saskatchewan residents' tax dollars, Saskatchewan residents' tax dollars . . . And like I said, the 2017-18 budget, just about a billion dollars on used cars, on restaurants, on kids' clothes. The list went on. Just unbelievable that they'd say on the one hand . . . And I've watched how they do. And I've said that today they needed to get a new washer and dryer to get the spin cycle going again, to spin what they want to spin. But I think people in this province are going to get tired of it and they're going to hold the government accountable on their tax dollars . . . [inaudible].

So having said that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, let's see if they're willing to partner and work with the First Nations, the Métis, those groups that with this legislation, Bill 158 that they're talking about. Let's see. And why I refer to it, I think it's important, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to talk about the numbers and how appalling it is to see this type of incarceration of our youth that are Aboriginal, and a government that could reach out and work with them to change the way.

And I've said, I gave some good ideas how some organizations, some groups are changing and trying to get the culture, the hunting, the language. They're trying to bring it back to give hope to the youth that they don't have to, they don't have to get into crime, they don't have to feel the way they are. Are you going to fix everybody? Are you going to help everybody? I don't know. But at least you can say at the end of the day, truly, as a government you've helped.

And I don't mind giving credit when credit is due. There's been some good partnerships. Government . . . I know, a wellness centre. We've seen that. It was federal government that put in a pile of money, I think just about 12 million. The province put in about 2 million. And the band, La Ronge Band, put in about 2 million. So there's a partnership, a meaningful partnership, to help people deal with mental health and addictions. That is good. And that is credit I'll give to the government. I'm not always going to say that it's not. Those are the good things.

But what you have to do, what you have to do to this government, you have to beg them. You have to almost embarrass them before they'll reach out. We had suicide rates with our young people, our youth. And this is why I'm talking about this, because in this bill it talks about our youth, the incarceration. We've seen the hope of the youth lose.

And the pressure that was put on by petitions, by many things that I . . . You know, I did a member's statement here, Mr. Deputy Speaker, talking about what we had to do, the leaders. And I give credit to the leaders, the community members, the families that have impacted, to bring awareness and hold this government to account and almost embarrass them to fix a mess.

And I've seen even the report of the child advocate. So when we see that, there are things that will have to come out of this. And I'm hoping the child advocate's report, you know, they'll come out with some ideas and saying how we can correct things. So this legislation is a start, and I don't know why . . . But we're going to get a chance to ask more questions.

But initially, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I just see the numbers that

really stick out at you like they do when it comes to our suicide rates, when it comes to many of the areas — the food bank use of our Aboriginal kids and kids — and it's appalling. For a province as wealthy as we are, for a province that's supposed to be very proud of accomplishments, "from many peoples, strength," and that story. And I mean, I've watched some of them. They use that and it sounds good. You hope. But again it can't always be about spin.

Sometimes there's a right thing to do and sometimes a government needs to say no, this is going to be a priority. We've had other priorities. Let's move some of this money that we had these priorities, and let's take care of some of the real needs in our province and our kids' and our families' need. And that's what I'm asking with this legislation.

So hopefully the government will commit some — whether it's justice, like I said, health — when it comes to dealing with some of the issues and partnering with First Nations, Métis, and those organizations that will come and ask for a partnership from the federal government, from their own local resources, and then from the provincial government to do meaningful changes. That can happen. You can change lives. You have an opportunity as a government if you want to. If you truly are serious about it, you can do that. And again I said that I would give you credit, but you shouldn't have to be shamed before you start doing and dealing with some of the issues that many communities and youth are facing and challenges and the families.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I don't have a lot more to say on this. Well that's not right. I could say a lot more, but at this point I know my colleagues have more they want to discuss on this bill. And I know in committee, we'll have some questions to ask of the minister and officials.

But again the last thing I want to say is thank all those organizations, individuals, volunteers, who are helping to try to deal with the youth and are trying to bring them back to the culture and trying to make a change and turn their life around with their families. So I give credit to those people who are doing the good work. Don't forget, many of us, many of us appreciate what you're doing. I know it's not easy sometimes. But again I say to them, thank you for that.

And with this bill, I'm prepared to adjourn on Bill 158, *The Youth Justice Administration Act, 2018*. Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Cumberland has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 158. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy 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 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 today on Bill No. 159, *The Securities Amendment Act of 2018*. So in preparation for entering into this debate, I was having a look at the legal definitions of "securities" because I don't come at this from a legal perspective, Mr. Deputy Speaker, which we've talked about before.

But really what we're talking about with this legislation is securities being documents that represent an interest or a right in something else that need to be treated separately from other commercial products that we might purchase. And we know that these laws are set up to help ensure that investors are informed in what they're investing in, that they have an accurate picture of the type of interest they are purchasing and also an accurate picture of the value of that interest.

So this is the purpose behind the existence of this legislation and why we should look carefully at any changes that exist here. Really what we're talking about is protecting peoples' investments, and we know that we need to ensure that we have a good process in place so that those investments are protected.

So some of the changes that are happening in this Act, it's quite technical what the changes are, and very detailed. But we know that it is being proposed to bring us in line with other jurisdictions, and I know that our critic is going to have a lot of questions in committee. But we're largely supportive of the idea of modernizing the Act, making sure that there is harmony between us and other jurisdictions. We know we live in an increasingly global world and that these boundaries that exist around us do not necessarily help in situations like this.

One of the things that this bill does is it introduces the use of the benchmark. So it adds new definitions to a benchmark. And what we're talking about here, if you look at the bill, Mr. Deputy Speaker, there are a number of clauses that have been added. After clause (2) . . . So it's section 2 is being amended. And it introduces a definition for "benchmark" to mean:

. . . a price, estimate, rate, index or value that is:

determined from time to time by reference to an assessment of one or more underlying interests;

made available to the public, either free of charge or on payment; and

used for reference for any purpose . . .

Then it provides (A) through (D) of four different purposes. It also adds definition for a "benchmark administrator," a "benchmark contributor," and a "benchmark user," as well as adding "designated benchmark" and "designated benchmark administrator."

[15:30]

So all of these benchmark definitions are new. And the goal here is to have these . . . to ensure that these benchmarks are used consistently.

So in addition to these changes, this bill allows a person appointed by the commission to conduct an examination of the affairs and records of the designated benchmark administrator or benchmark contributor, allows the staff of a recognized entity to appeal the decision of a panel of that entity to the commission for review. It adds a complaint resolution service as a category of entity that can be designated by the commission.

It sets out the procedures for designating benchmark and benchmark administrators, and it provides for the automatic recognition in Saskatchewan of certain enforcement orders and settlement agreements made by other securities regulatory authorities in Canada. It allows certain categories of prescribed self-regulatory organizations to file their decisions with the Court of Queen's Bench, and it makes housekeeping amendments to maintain consistent language throughout the Act as well.

So we know that this is important legislation. We are going to look through it carefully, and I know the critic is already looking through it carefully to check if there's any change brought about that requires our close attention. We know that due to the importance of the legislation, there are some significant implications for these changes, and we have to make sure that we are being diligent and that we are working to protect the interests of people of this province.

So I know that my colleagues will have a lot more to say on this piece of legislation, Mr. Deputy Speaker. But with that, I would move that we adjourn debate on Bill No. 159, *An Act to amend The Securities Act, 1988*.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Saskatoon Fairview has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 159. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I usually say that it's my pleasure to rise and enter into debate on bills in this Assembly. Mr. Deputy Speaker, this bill today, I have to admit, I feel like I want to be very measured with my words in speaking about this bill, Bill No. 160, *The Trespass to Property Amendment Act*, because I think that there are many places around this discussion that can only lead to division and only lead us further down a road in this province that I think we've gone far enough down, frankly.

I understand that this bill came about after a period of consultation in this province, an online survey that was conducted between I believe August and October of last year. And specific questions were around, should all access by

members of the public to rural property require the express advance permission of the rural landowners, regardless of the activity? And if so, should permission be sought and granted? Without any particular emphasis, Mr. Speaker.

But of course those are the straightforward questions that are being asked with that survey. And this bill, proposed legislation, is perhaps on the surface a straightforward response to that. But I think, given the history of this province and given the history and context around how this bill came about, requires us to be very thoughtful. I think there are some problems that lend themselves well to, you know, a political spin, to perhaps short-term division, and for political gain. I would hope that we all think very carefully about what it is that we want in this province and how we go about creating the future in this province that we want to.

I understand, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and I acknowledge the very real concern about rural crime in this province. When the minister introduced this bill, he noted that it was intended to deal with issues of crime, property damage, and biosecurity. And certainly those are concerns that have been expressed repeatedly at SARM [Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities] by many members and landowners in the province, and is something that we should put full consideration to. That is important.

I remember when we had a conversation with the former chief of police in Saskatoon, and I believe that members of the government had the same presentation around the issue of rural crime. And we looked at the area around Saskatoon which certainly had increased, Saskatoon and area and Prince Albert the same. There was an upward tick around property crime. And in the North Battleford area it really had taken quite an uptick.

And we asked the former chief, now the chief coroner in the province, what he attributed that uptick in crime to the property crime specifically. And at that time he noted the epidemic of crystal meth mixed in with significant mental health issues and somewhat the issues around poverty and unemployment. So any effective legislation that is going to tackle those, that very real issue of crime, ought to reasonably attack and have effective measures to deal with those issues that are driving that crime rate. And that's something that I know our leader talks about and members on this side talk about a lot, you know. Attacking crime needs necessarily to deal with the situations and the circumstances that lead to crime. This is, I think, what is required of us here in this place: to not just have answers, but to have effective means of addressing problems that are very real and very present for all citizens in this province.

Of course that's not the only issue that surrounds and the only concern that surrounds this bill. Many have talked about the concern of property damage. I've heard a lot from those who are concerned about snowmobiles, ATVs [all-terrain vehicle], particularly in cultivated fields going in and creating ruts, and that is a concern. One of the possible amendments that the member from Regina Rosemont has suggested is to have the restriction on vehicles on land but have fewer restrictions on people themselves walking, you can imagine for many different reasons, be it birding or be it taking photographs or simply having a car break down and being out of cellphone range, as we know still happens out there in this province, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and needing to go into a farmyard and ask for help. Or to go onto the

pasture to chase a mountain bluebird or crocuses or something, you know, the delights that we can look forward to this spring.

So there are ways to attack this problem that are thoughtful, that are effective, and that don't cause division. I'm afraid that the way that this has happened has only served to inflame some divisions that we see in the province. Certainly we've seen response from the FSIN [Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations] who feels that they weren't properly consulted and that this might have a particular impact on treaty land hunting rights in the province, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And in response to that we saw the minister suggest, you know rather flippantly frankly, that you know that Chief Cameron had his cellphone number. And I'm not sure that that is the level of respect and consultation that can reasonably be expected to lead us out of this era of tension and concern, not to mention the fact that I think that there have been many reasonable concerns expressed about the effectiveness of this particular bill.

Some other concerns I've just written down. You know I've heard concerns from the Wildlife Federation. There have been some concerns about just how prospective hunters might seek permission. It's not like the days when some of us grew up on the farm, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and every section had a farmhouse. Sometimes you can go for miles and not see anyone. And even certainly for those who live in the city, it's difficult to know who owns the land. But sometimes you go out and you've got people who've lived there all their life who aren't sure who owns that land anymore. Certainly I heard a conversation with a friend of mine who's a photographer about that very same issue just earlier today.

So there's a very, I think, practical issue around how do you seek permission and some practical questions around what constitutes permission. Is it a text? Does it have to be written? Does it have to be verbal? So I think that those are some further questions that we will have in committee. Questions around things like the spread of . . . or biosecurity concerns.

Certainly I know the concerns around clubroot, for example, in particular — very, very concerning for producers in the province. And this is being held out as a way to curb that concern. I'm not sure if people trespassing on land is the most common way that clubroot is spread, nor is it maybe even the biggest risk to the spread of clubroot. I certainly hear of road-building equipment moving from one jurisdiction to another, drilling equipment moving from one jurisdiction to another, so you know, ensuring that that equipment is properly washed off and inspected before moving into an area. Certainly when it's coming out of an area that has clubroot, that is important.

So I mean all of that to say, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is sometimes we put up risks and concerns and we don't always have what we see here in terms of proposed solutions. I think it's our job to question whether they are effective towards actually achieving those goals as stated by the minister. And I think in this case there is a lot of reasonable concern that this is legislation meant at best to allay fears or to have the appearance of doing something to address those fears, and at worst is something that is if not designed, then unintentionally so, has the role of inflaming fears and divisions in the province. And I'm afraid that that is something that is more than possible here.

[15:45]

As legislators I think it is incumbent upon us to show leadership, to not always just respond, but to plot out a vision to show leadership, to govern for all people in the province in a way that ensures a better quality of life for all people in the province. And I'm not sure that that is what is going to be achieved here. I would be happy to be proven wrong, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but I certainly have a whole binder full of concerns that people have expressed along those lines.

And whether it was the intention or not frankly doesn't matter if the perception is that there have been, you know, the leadership of the FSIN for example has been left out of these discussions or disregarded. That is incumbent upon the minister to hear that and to endeavour to do better. But flippant comments about cellphones, I don't think, do anything to improve relations in the province and certainly are not a way to go about expressing, you know, the leadership that is required of us.

I know that there are a number of comments and concerns and questions that my colleagues have. I know I will certainly continue to listen to those concerns as expressed both in my constituency and my home, but I think I will allow them the time to express those concerns and questions when this bill goes to committee. But with that, I will move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 160.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Regina Lakeview has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 160, *The Trespass to Property Amendment Act, 2018*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Now in the spirit of the words of my colleague from Cumberland, credit where it's due. I think it does make sense, this consequential amendment Act. When we do arrive at what is deemed to be reasonable and effective legislation with regard to trespassing, it does make sense that we align the, in this case, *The Wildlife Act*, *The Trespass to Property Act*, and *The Snowmobile Act* to all have similar, or have the same legislation so that it's clear to the people of Saskatchewan what the rules are and that they're uniform across those Acts.

One thing that I meant to say when I was up on the previous bill and I will say now is just around the role of education. We know that we've seen some really good work come out of SGI [Saskatchewan Government Insurance], for example, around

drinking and driving, that has changed behaviour in the province. And I think that there's a role to play towards education in the province. And once, you know, laws are arrived at, hopefully with further consultation, with some changes and amendments, that there is effort put into understanding about treaty hunting rights in the province, about landowners' rights, about the need to post, about where you go to seek permission and what constitutes permission from a landowner in the province.

So all of that in the way of free advice, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but as this is, again, a consequential amendments Act, I don't have a great deal to add to that beyond those comments. So I will move to adjourn debate on Bill 161.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Regina Lakeview has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 161. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's my pleasure to enter into adjourned debate on Bill No. 162, *The Irrigation Act, 2018*. I understand that this bill aims to replace the existing bill entirely and that the existing bill hasn't seen significant revision since 1996. So usually we see bills being completely replaced when there are pretty major upgrades to be made and we can't just do a simple amendment.

So this bill replaces *The Irrigation Act* of 1996. It allows the establishment of irrigation districts. It describes the structure, governance, powers, and duties for the formation and operation of irrigation districts. It also updates the language and adds some new terms and changes some definitions. It changes 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. It determines the purpose of irrigation works management plans, increases the fines up to \$100,000, and it sets out the conditions where an irrigation district is liable for personal injury or damage to property.

We know that it is key for our farmers to have access to water, not too much water, but the right amount of water, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And the minister in his second reading speech identified that two large irrigation industry stakeholders have been consulted, that their feedback was included in the bill, and then it led to some changes. So that's certainly something that we support, however we have questions about who else was consulted in the process and making sure that these changes are going to, considering the fact that we're replacing the existing bill, that these changes will have a positive impact on a number of different stakeholders. So it's always nice when feedback is included in the process, but it's always a question of whose

feedback is included, and is there any feedback that wasn't included.

We can also get behind the notion that we want to reduce red tape where appropriate, and I think that that is something that any person who's dealt with bureaucracy would appreciate. And it's good if it works, but there's also questions about who holds the power in those situations and making sure that it is being used appropriately and that there aren't negative repercussions as a result of those changes.

So we know this is an important piece of legislation and that many of these activities are dependent on our water supply and irrigation. We need to make sure that this proposed regulatory framework properly addresses matters that affect all those who depend on irrigation works.

I know that my colleagues are going to have a lot to say as they look through this bill and that the critic will have a lot to say as well as it goes into committee, but with that I would move that we adjourn debate on Bill No. 162 for today.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Saskatoon Fairview 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 Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 141

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

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

Ms. Rancourt: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It is an honour to be able to join in with regards to my remarks on Bill No. 141, *The Interpersonal Violence Disclosure Protocol (Clare's Law) Act*.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is a piece of legislation that is a risk disclosure protocol. The reason why they indicate that it is referred to Clare's Law is this was also introduced in the United Kingdom and it was with regards to Clare Wood. She was a woman who was murdered by her partner and she was unaware of his violent past. And her family, in particular her father, advocated to have some legislative protocol available so that family members or victims of abuse could find out about the history of their partner's past abusive behaviour.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, this piece of legislation was particularly interesting for me because in my career as a registered social worker I worked with men who had a history of abuse, being abusive towards their partners. And that was work that I really enjoyed and felt a lot of satisfaction in helping these men change their behaviours. And so ensuring that we have programs and services for men to be able to change their abusive behaviours is something that's very important for me.

When I first started working for mental health — actually when I was doing my practicums at first — I was asked to help facilitate a group that was called the New Choices for Men program. And that group was for men who disclosed that they were abusive in their relationships. And some of these people were referred by Justice or they were referred by Social Services or they self-disclosed and referred themselves. So there was a mixture of different referrals for the program. And it was a lengthy program, so it was a big commitment.

The first six weeks was an introductory process where you would learn the process of abuse. And then after the first six weeks you went from that program into what we called the working phase, and that was a 10-month program. And so altogether this was almost a year-long program. And there was continual intake so there was always a mixture of people who were in the program for a period of time and new people. And the group members held each other accountable for their behaviours, which we found was also quite successful.

But also there was a support group at the end that people could voluntarily attend after they were done the working phase and graduated from the program. And they could come at any time. It was always, I believe it was the Wednesday evening, and they could come or go and some people would come a couple times a year. Some people went every week and found that having that continual support really helped them continue to choose healthy behaviours within their relationship.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the stats with regards to this program showed high levels of success. And I know, like even knowing a lot of the people who have went through the program, they were very thankful that we saved them. We saved their families, and their children no longer had to live in a home of fear.

A lot of these men oftentimes don't know different behaviours because this is a learned behaviour at times, when they grew up in environments that this was what relationships looked like to them. And so if you don't know any different, how do you make different decisions? And for a lot of these men as well, that they didn't see how their behaviour was abusive and controlling.

And like I said, we had a variety of different individuals. We had some men that were serving federal time because they did murder their partner. You know, and then we had some men that maybe there was never any charges but their partners indicated that they needed to seek support or else they might consider to end the relationship. And we had some men that were very violent and some men that it was very much verbal and emotional abuse that was their issues.

[16:00]

And so either way, all of it is abuse, you know, and people learn that. And also with our facilitators — we had a variety of facilitators for the group — we always ensured that there was a male facilitator and a female facilitator. And in that process we were demonstrating how to have healthy, proper communication with the opposite sex, how to be respectful and be able to make decisions.

And we sometimes would create a conflict within that group just to demonstrate to the members attending how you resolve

conflict in a healthy manner. And so we had facilitators that came from justice, that came from the education system, teachers. We had facilitators that were social workers or addiction counsellors. So we had psychologists. We had a wide variety of individuals. We had a police officer. And we've also had individuals who graduated from the program, had been successful in demonstrating good healthy relationship skills, and then they came back and became facilitators and mentors. So I think having the variety of facilitators really helped the group members as well, and knowing that you can struggle with your relationship, but it can get better.

And so the reason why I'm telling you all this, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is because there are programs and are ways that we can work on eliminating domestic violence. And we know that in Saskatchewan, domestic violence, we have some of the highest rates of domestic violence right here in our province. And it's not something to be proud of, and we really need to work on that.

But, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the program that I was so heavily involved with and showed a great deal of success was cancelled from this government. They said that we no longer needed that program, and so the community struggled with that. And so I also helped Catholic Family Services develop a program that they could offer for men who want some services in changing their behaviours and their communication styles.

And so Catholic Family Services, we worked together and we built up a program. But you know how it is with non-profits. They're always asking for money and needing to seek funding proposals. And so at times they have money to offer the program; sometimes they don't. And we were only able to have a six-week program through them because it was hard for them to secure funding for anything more long term. So I think that was sad for our community. But it is something that we can re-establish, and like I said, it was successful.

I think, Mr. Deputy Speaker, when I read the information with regards to this Act, this bill coming forward, it is the step in the right direction. It's really important that we identify how, like domestic violence can be fatal. We've had individuals in our province that lost their lives because of domestic violence, and that's very unfortunate.

But some of the challenges with regards to this policy is that . . . And I'm reading from an article in the *Prince Albert Daily Herald*. They did some research with regards to Clare's Law and domestic violence in our country. And it says here: "In Canada, only about 22 per cent of domestic violence cases are reported to police." That's 22 per cent of them, and "Not all of these result in charges or convictions."

And in fact a lot of the men that came to our groups, they had no charges. Or if charges go forward, sometimes they don't end up in conviction. And so that becomes an issue. It also says here that:

It would be helpful if there was a way that they could still release any information about reported offences . . . (even if) no charges were laid or no conviction was made.

And even with talking with law officers and police officers and law enforcement officers, I guess I should say, they indicate

that's one of the frustrations is that they might have gone to a home multiple times. They might have had involvement with certain individuals multiple times, but they can't disclose that because those individuals never had any charges pending. Nothing came forward with it, but they do know that there is a history, you know. And so I don't know if that's something that can be looked into.

When the minister was talking with regards to this piece of legislation, he indicated that this develops "... a statutory framework for Saskatchewan police services to disclose . . . relevant information about someone's violent or abusive past to intimate partners who may be at risk." One of the issues with regards to that is it again puts that burden and that pressure back on the survivors for them to get that information about the prospective abuser. And as we know that survivors are oftentimes really overburdened with their situation and sometimes feel that there's a lot put on their plate.

So I don't know exactly if there's going to be . . . Well it says that you can make an application for disclosure, and this would include the interpersonal violence support workers that could put forward that application. But it'll be really interesting to ask some questions in committee if there's going to be more people that will be able to have that access to that disclosure form and who would be able to get that information. This is a right-to-ask process, a right-to-know process that will help to eliminate the liability and protect police officers with regards to releasing that information.

Also it indicates that there'll be a requirement that disclosed information be kept confidential by all parties. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I don't know how that's going to be maintained or even monitored, that this confidentiality is being kept by all parties. Once that information's out, I think that would be hard to determine if someone breaches that confidentiality.

Again this is definitely a step in the right direction. I'm glad to see that we're putting forward some legislation to protect survivors of domestic violence, and I think we can build on this. I think we can definitely do some more work to help ensure that there's proper procedures for individuals who are willing and wanting to get out of violent relationships.

I think what my colleague had put forward with regards to a bill asking for five paid days off, I think that will definitely help because the survivors of domestic violence that I've worked with, some of the barriers of leaving those relationships is the fact of financial barriers. They want to ensure that they can still continue to pay the bills and provide for their family. And if they need to leave a relationship . . . And oftentimes there is a lot of details that need to be worked out — moving to a different location, working, going to appointments, trying to make sure that your kids are receiving the services that they need — when having to leave a serious relationship like that.

From what I've understood with doing the research, there's other locations that have legislation that indicates that an individual can get five paid days off if they're leaving an abusive relationship. And this is something that is not utilized often. People don't abuse the system. They don't ask for this leave unless it's very necessary. But at times when they do need to use that time off, it's a life-and-death situation. This could save lives,

and so I think it's important that we really look into that.

We're not asking for employers to put an additional five days available. It would come through an individual's sick time that they would have available to them. So I think that's something that would be really important that we consider, especially if the government is really serious about, you know, making some changes with regards to interpersonal violence.

And so like I said, if this piece of legislation can save one person's life, it's very important that we have it. But there will be a lot of questions with regards to how it will roll out and how that information gets distributed. And then I think we can build from this piece of legislation. So I hope to see this come back with some additional points in it.

So with that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I know I have colleagues that will want to put their remarks on the record with regards to this bill. And so I adjourn my remarks and adjourn debate on this bill. Thank you.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 136

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

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'm pleased to rise to speak to this bill here today. The long name is really long so I'm not even going to try it this time around. I know my colleague did in a previous debate speech.

So this, we are told by the minister, is a bill that is intending to simplify I guess some of the processes for certification for the trades. And the minister indicated that it was . . . Everything here has been industry driven and endorsed by the stakeholders. I know that's not entirely true because some concerns have been raised about this bill from some stakeholders. So I think he might want to revisit that when he makes statements like that.

But this was in relation to the Saskatchewan Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Commission, and this is an industry-led commission that the government has that performs four main roles. So they train apprentices, certify apprentices and tradespeople, and then regulate the apprenticeship system of training and promote apprenticeship.

As you can imagine, Mr. Speaker, apprenticeship is a very important part of training because hands-on learning, I think we all know, is certainly more valuable than . . . or as valuable certainly than book learning. Maybe they both have their values

but they're quite different. And I'll never forget, in high school we had our graduation ceremony and Bernie Martineau was the guest speaker at our grad ceremony. And his advice to the grads at the end of the time is, you learn more from the end of a shovel than you do from a book. And I think there's a lot of wisdom in that statement, Mr. Speaker.

So apprenticeship is definitely the hands-on learning that all of our tradespeople need to have before they'll be, you know, fully certified in their profession.

There's three substantive legislative changes that are being proposed here. One is allowing the SATCC [Saskatchewan Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Commission] to designate and certify occupations and subtrades in addition to trades. And this is the one that has raised some concerns with some agencies, Mr. Speaker, and certainly classifying and designating subtrades in addition to trades. And I think the concern that's been raised by the building trades is that designating subtrades and occupations in areas corresponding to the building trades will have a negative effect on both the ability to train apprentices and on the ability of individuals trained in such occupations or subtrades to adapt to changing labour market conditions.

And, Mr. Speaker, this went to the Minister of the Economy back when the bill was being contemplated, and it doesn't appear that these concerns were fully implemented for sure when the bill was drafted. So obviously that's something that we want to be able to ask about in committee and find out why these concerns weren't taken into consideration.

The website of the Saskatchewan Apprenticeship and Trades Certification Commission describes apprenticeship as a demand-driven system, Mr. Speaker. So we're not sure how legislation would enforce a compulsory apprenticeship trade. So that's definitely something that we'll want to ask more questions about in committee as well.

The other parts of the change is that the designation is now going to rely on industry demand. And that was what I was just referring to, is it's hard to . . . If you designate a new subtrade but there isn't a demand in the industry, then you won't allow these people to become certified. That may be short sighted, and certainly we're going to have to ask questions about that.

[16:15]

The second substantive change to the Act will provide the commission the authority to designate trades, subtrades, and occupations for certification only. So this also is a fairly powerful control that SATCC will have on occupations and subtrades. And then there is some other measures for compliance with employers that don't comply with these regulations.

So I think, Mr. Speaker, certainly the trades themselves are the ones that are going to have the most concerns and questions about a bill like this. We were told that there was considerable consultation with the industry. But again, I think those are questions we have to delve into more in the committee stage of the debate on this bill. So based on that, Mr. Speaker, I don't think I have anything further to add. And I would like to move adjournment of the debate on Bill No. 136, *The Apprenticeship*

and *Trade Certification Act, 2018*.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 137

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

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

Ms. Rancourt: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'm happy to put my remarks on Bill No. 137 on the record. It's changes to *The SaskEnergy Act*. Previously I had an opportunity to be the critic for SaskEnergy and so that was a great learning experience and an opportunity to know more about that Crown corporation in our province. It plays a really important role with providing services in our province.

So some of the challenges and successes they've been having, and so it was interesting to read some of the changes that are going to be implemented with regards to this new bill. It's introducing some minor changes but they have large impacts. So they're very important and it'll be some good discussion within committee with regards to some of these changes.

There'll be changes to two sections, section 24 with regards to changes for consent to distribute and transport gas. There's a bit of concerns with some of the language that is requested for the changes in this bill. First of all, what they're wanting to do is simply have an order of council be put forward when looking for individual submissions for the distribution and transportation of gas. And so that's concerning because that loses the level of accountability that we would hope we would get from this government when they just can simply put an order of council to make some really important changes.

It's also interesting to see like if this is going to be wanting to promote some privatization within our Crown corporation. We know this government is not shy with regards to privatizing our Crowns, and they're slowly working at eroding them with privatization. So there's definitely some concerns with regards to that. So I think the changes with section 24 is worrisome because there's no consent or accountability needed. So I would be concerned with the level of transparency that will be there.

Also there'll be changes to section 42. So with the changes within section 42, it's increasing the debt limit to almost twice as much as what the current debt limit is, Mr. Deputy Speaker. So that is a bit concerning right now. The current borrowing limit is \$1.7 billion and they're wanting to change it to 2.5 billion. And we know this is a government that wasted money in the good times and now is cash strapped and looking at all avenues to gather money in. We're concerned that they're looking at our Crowns

as an opportunity to borrow against so that they can hide some of their mismanagement of our finances.

So there is going to be, I could imagine, a lot of questions with regards to that. Are we driving SaskEnergy into a huge debt, you know? And so I think Saskatchewan people better be prepared to see that on their SaskEnergy bills because they will be the ones that'll end up paying for it. If we increase our debt load to twice as much, you can bet that the customers, Saskatchewan residents, are going to be paying for that.

Our debt, Mr. Deputy Speaker, has tripled in the last 10 years — tripled in the last 10 years. And we know our children and our grandchildren will be paying for this for years to come. So it's easy to move it along, move this debt along and pretend it doesn't exist, but this is going to have some significant impact. So like I said, this bill, it may look like it's just some simple, minor changes going forward, but they'll have in the long run some huge impact and could be a way to be privatizing our Crown corporations.

So I know the critic that's responsible for this portfolio now will have lots of questions. I know my colleagues will have a lot more that they'll want to put on the record with regards to discussion with this bill, so with that I'm going to adjourn debate on Bill No. 137. Thank you.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 138

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

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

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's a pleasure to enter into debate today on Bill No. 138, *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Government Relations — Enforcement Measures) Amendment Act, 2018*. This bill gives the authority for the chief inspector to issue compliance orders for amusement rides, boilers, electrical licensing, fire safety, gas licensing, elevators, technical safety, and building codes.

When we're talking about miscellaneous statutes amendments, we're talking about a whole handful of bills that are being amended for a specific purpose. In this case, the bills that we are talking about are: *The Amusement Ride Safety Act*; *The Boiler and Pressure Vessel Act, 1999*; *The Electrical Licensing Act*; *The Fire Safety Act*; *The Passenger and Freight Elevator Act*; *The Uniform Building and Accessibility Standards Act*; and *The Technical Safety Authority of Saskatchewan Act*.

So all of these Acts are in relation to public safety, so I would argue that that makes them quite important. You want to know that government is on your side and looking out for you, so we want to ensure that that intent is held up as we make these amendments.

One of the amendments is a new section in *The Amusement Ride Safety Act* called the “Discipline order.” And basically this gives a government inspector the right to discipline someone who’s operating, for example, an amusement ride or a boiler or elevator, and the ability to impose certain orders. So for example, the inspector can direct that certain training or education needs to be completed. So we’re talking about some important changes that are being made in this bill, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in terms of the implications for public safety and making sure that in this very wide range of public policy that citizens are being protected.

I also understand that there’s discussion about the right of appeal and the obligation of an inspector to act on reasonable and probable grounds. And this is important because if the inspector has the authority to shut business down, there should be reasonable thought that goes into that process.

I know that we’re talking about a number of different changes that are being proposed here, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and I know that my colleagues will have a lot more to add and there’ll be a lot more discussion in committee about this bill. But with that I would move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 138 for today.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Saskatoon Fairview has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 138. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 139

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

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Today I’m rising to speak to Bill No. 139. And this is with regards to foreign workers, the recruitment of foreign workers, and also immigration services.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, foreign workers are some of the most vulnerable workers in the workplace today. And many of them who have come as a nominee are often concerned about being sent back essentially to where they came from. So it’s a time that’s fraught with anxiety I think for many of those foreign workers until they can get their permanent residency card. So it’s very important that those workers are protected and I think that should be paramount when we’re seeing the vulnerability of workers such as our SINP [Saskatchewan immigrant nominee program] workers, Mr. Speaker.

The minister indicated this is actually now under the Ministry of

Labour. It used to be under the Ministry of Immigration, but Labour’s taken it over because they are trying to create parallel systems between the foreign worker work conditions and the occupational health and safety provisions and employment standards that exist for everybody in the province, Mr. Speaker.

So for example, *The Saskatchewan Employment Act* has a number of appeal processes for decisions and protections of employers and employees and what’s happening then is that they are now incorporating in this bill some of those appeal procedures for hearings under *The Foreign Worker Recruitment and Immigration Services Act*.

I’m always interested when we see these bills come forward because it was here in the House just three years ago. So we see a lot of bills come forward on a regular basis, Mr. Speaker. And I don’t know if it’s just they don’t want to make too many changes all at once as they go through the process or they actually didn’t really realize that this change was also required and therefore it’s back in the House again for another amendment. It was just here in 2015. But I’m not sure of the workings and the inner workings of the Ministry of Labour on this one.

I think these are changes that seem to be helpful. There’s a lot of housekeeping amendments as well in this bill, so those are well and fine. But I think, you know, in committee again . . . It’s like this is kind of like a one-sided debate, as you know, Mr. Speaker, because it’s often always the opposition getting up to speak on our own without getting any response or actual debate. I’m not sure why we call it adjourned debates, but that’s the way it is and that’s the process that we have in front of us. But really it is in the work of committee where we’re able to actually have that conversation with the government and find out the thinking behind some of these things, and some of it isn’t immediately obvious, clearly.

And also I would think foreign workers, many in the country and in the province, don’t even know that these changes are being made because by the time it gets to their level, it would be at some sort of appeal stage or where there’s actually decisions being made about their employment.

And so I look forward to the discussion. As the immigration critic, I am also interested in how this will affect immigration services and so I’ll look forward to the discussion in committee.

But at this point, Mr. Speaker, I’ll adjourn debate on Bill No. 139, *An Act to amend The Foreign Worker Recruitment and Immigration Services Act*.

[16:30]

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Saskatoon Nutana has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 139. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 140

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Marit that **Bill No. 140 — *The Animal***

Health Act be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'll be very brief in my comments other than to point out that on Bill 140 when we talk about animal health and the role of the veterinarian industry so to speak, Mr. Speaker, is that it's very, very important from all perspectives, especially from the northern ridings, that we are assured from the North that many of the products we buy from our own backyards — and in Saskatchewan being known as the food basket of the world — and as we look at all the livestock and the important relationship, whether it's poultry or whether it's cattle, Mr. Speaker, or whether it's any kind of animal grown for human consumption, that the public in general have to be assured that these animals are being grown in a very, very germ-free, safe environment. And that's what this bill speaks about.

So it's important to note that because agriculture is so important to our economy that you must have these factors and these aspects of control and monitoring as it pertains to disease. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I think Bill 40 speaks of that assurance. It talks about certainly the animal health and the prevention, control, and ultimately the eradication of disease amongst animals so people out there in the public, including the northern Saskatchewan communities, are assured that the food that they consume is food that is safe from bacteria, that is safe from all kinds of diseases and the transmission of that disease.

So I think, Mr. Speaker, I think Saskatchewan is a very proud province of its history as we look at controlling all the diseases within our own backyards and when it comes to animal safety, and certainly in consumption of those particular animals, Mr. Speaker. So I think that that certainly is something that people all across the country and all across the world are concerned about. And Saskatchewan is very proud to be part of the process to make sure we monitor for the prevalence of disease and we eradicate that disease. This bill speaks of that effort in doing so.

So on that note, Mr. Speaker, there's a lot more to be said about this challenge we have. We've been meeting this challenge on a regular basis. I think our producers are number one in the country. I think we should be very proud of the work that they've done. The farm families have fed the world for years and years and years, Mr. Speaker. And these are some of the support mechanisms that Saskatchewan should do to help that industry along. And, Mr. Speaker, I'm very proud to say that we are doing as best we can. And more, obviously, can be done to make sure we stay ahead of the game.

So on that note I move that we adjourn debate on Bill 140.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Athabasca has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 140, *The Animal Health Act*. 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: — I move that this House do now adjourn.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

[The Assembly adjourned at 16:34.]

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