



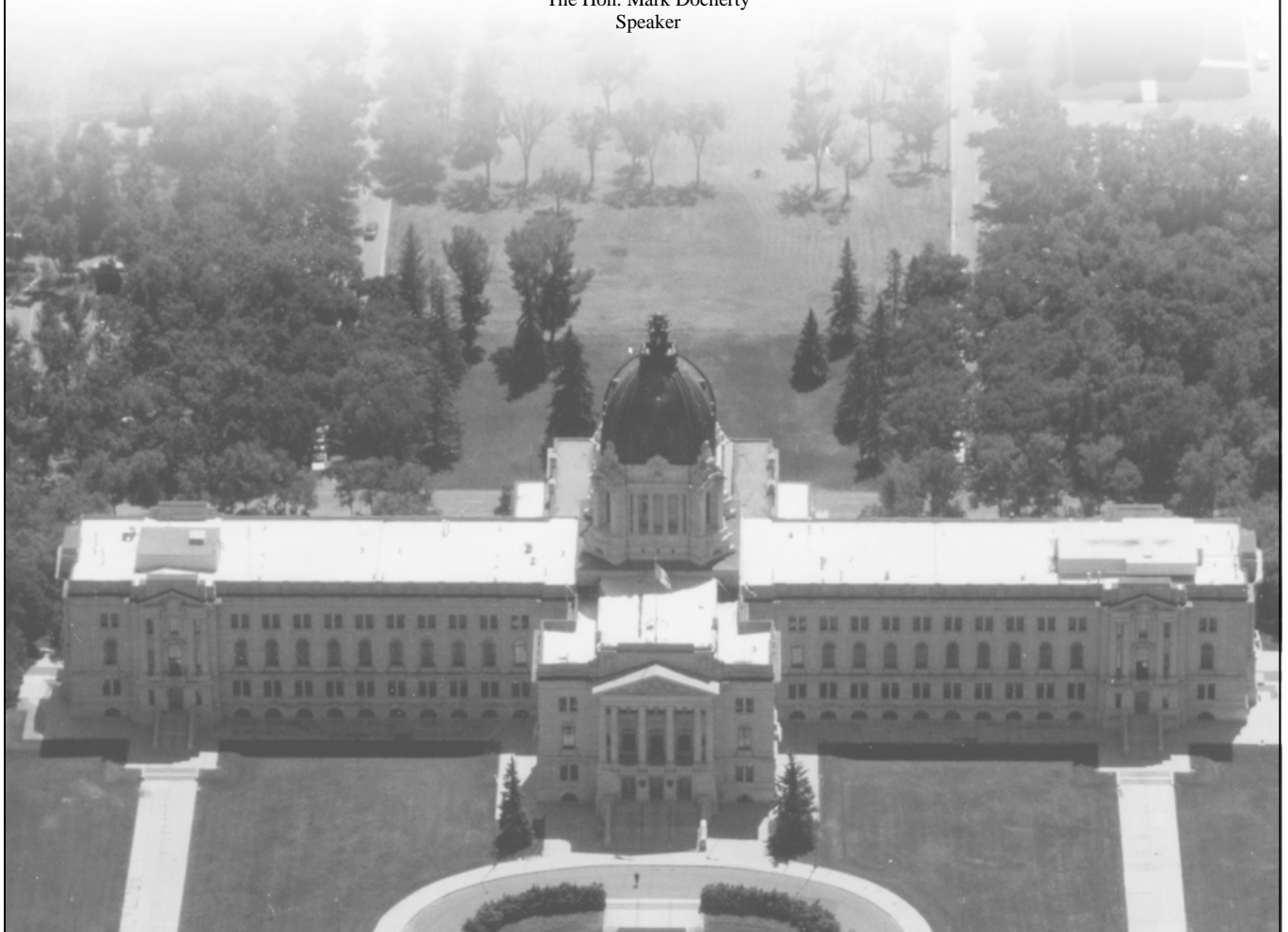
THIRD SESSION - TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

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



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

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

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Lawrence , Greg — Moose Jaw Wakamow (SP)	

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

Clerks-at-the-Table

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[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you and to all members of the Assembly, I'd like to introduce 22 grade 5 students that are seated in your west gallery from W.S. Hawrylak School, accompanied by their teacher Jacqueline Roy. But there's also other teachers in attendance: Sylvie Walker and Cassie Metz. I look forward to meeting you all at the conclusion of question period. I'd like all members to join me in welcoming them to their Assembly.

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

Mr. Pedersen: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd just like to join with the minister in welcoming Madame Roy to the legislature. I had the opportunity a couple years ago to bring some honeybees to her class and teach her class about bees. And if I'm not mistaken, Madame Roy is also a representative of the Regina Public School Teachers' Association and on the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation. I'd like to ask all members to join with me in welcoming her to her Assembly.

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

Mr. Steinley: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And it gives me great pleasure to welcome 15 grade 7 and 8 students from the Elsie Mironuck School, along with their teacher Rachelle Workman. Give us a wave. Thank you all very much for coming out and we're really looking forward to having a discussion after the proceedings today. And I'm hoping that we're all on our best behaviour to show them good behaviour in front of our students. So join me in welcoming them to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly someone seated in the east gallery. I am speaking of one Trevor Davies. I've known Trevor in a political sense back to the early 1990s when he was the chief returning officer for the University of Regina Students' Union election and I was one of his clerks. And I don't know if he had to check my numbers, you know, two times, three times, four times.

He was certainly a neighbour of mine in my home community in North Central as well. And I've gotten to know Trevor very well over the years. He's a proud worker, proud employee with SaskEnergy, does a lot of great work there, and active in his union, active in his community, and is also an officer in the Canadian Forces Reserves. So someone that has served his province and his country in many ways, and we're better for the

work that Trevor Davies does.

So it's good to see Trevor today at his Legislative Assembly and I'd ask all members to join me in welcoming Trevor Davies to his Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I too want to welcome a very special and distinguished guest who has travelled many miles to be with us today. And of course, it's none other than my great friend, Gary Tinker, who has championed many disability rights and has advocated for the disabled community in the North for years and years and years. So I would ask all members of the Assembly to welcome my dear friend to his Legislative Assembly and ask all the members to join me in welcoming Mr. Tinker.

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

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the member from Athabasca in welcoming Gary to his Legislative Assembly. Gary's no stranger to the Assembly, Mr. Speaker. He's been down here many times advocating on behalf of the Métis Nation as well as disabilities in the North, and was just in a side conversation telling me about the work that he's doing with the Métis Nation and Minister Bennett in the federal government to get them recognized in the Sixties Scoop. So I would certainly like to welcome Gary to his Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Pedersen: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce a couple of gentlemen who are seated in your gallery today: Dr. Bob Bors, if you give a wave, and Mr. Rick Sawatzky. They are fruit breeders from the University of Saskatchewan, and I won't go into their accomplishments here at this time because I'll be doing a statement on them shortly, but I'd ask that all members join with me in welcoming them to their Assembly.

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

Ms. Lambert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To and through you I'd like to recognize a good friend of mine and my neighbour, Bill Gowen, in the west gallery. Please join me in welcoming Bill to his Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To join in with the members that have welcomed Gary Tinker to the Assembly, I just want to acknowledge Gary, the good work he's done for people with disabilities, and welcome him here. And I had an opportunity to sit on the Gary Tinker Federation for many years and I was a Chair of the board as well, and worked closely with Gary and many people who advocated for people with disabilities.

As a person with a disability myself, I want to say to Gary, keep championing for our students, for northern people, doing what

you do to advocate. I think it's so important. Sometimes we take people with disabilities for granted and sometimes we have to make sure they're recognized for the great work they do. So I'd just ask everyone to please welcome Gary and the good work he'd do to his Legislative Assembly. And again, Gary, thank you for all you do.

The Speaker: — Just before presenting petitions, I would like to join with the member from Regina Walsh Acres in welcoming Elsie Mironuck School, and in particular Madi Gray. We've been friends for many, many years, and good to see you. And just as a side note, Elsie Mironuck taught me. So many years ago. All right.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

The Speaker: — Sorry. Regina Walsh Acres.

Mr. Steinley: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to rise today to present a petition from citizens who are opposed to the federal government's decision to impose a carbon tax on the province of Saskatchewan. And I'd like the Assembly to use one voice and say they are against the carbon tax, and hopefully the members opposite join us in combatting this carbon tax which the Trudeau Liberals are trying to enforce upon our province. It's coming up on April 1st, Mr. Speaker, so it's no April Fool's joke. This is going to hurt a lot of people across our province.

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 people of our province.

Mr. Speaker, the petition is signed by citizens of Sonningdale and Regina. I do so present.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you I rise to present petitions again today on behalf of concerned citizens, small businesses, communities all across our province as it relates to the Sask Party's imposition of the PST [provincial sales tax] onto construction labour. Quite simply this tax, this measure has harmed our economy, Mr. Speaker.

The Sask Party government saw a slowing economy and slammed on the brakes and brought forward the PST onto construction labour. And of course we've seen the damaging impact of that: permits down across the province, employment down, many hard-working Saskatchewan people out of work, many hard-working people forced outside of Saskatchewan to find employment — a real loss for this province, that we'll need that skilled labour and those people to build the future of our province, Mr. Speaker.

And the prayer reads as follows:

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

immediately reinstate the PST on construction and stop hurting Saskatchewan businesses and families.

These petitions today are signed by concerned residents of Regina and Vanguard. I so submit.

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

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise this afternoon to present a petition to restore public control over Wascana Park.

Those who have signed this petition, Mr. Speaker, wish to draw our attention to a number of points: that Wascana Park is a treasured urban park and conservation area that had been responsibly managed through an equal partnership between the city of Regina, the University of Regina, and the provincial government for more than 50 years; that the government unilaterally gave itself majority control over the board through Bill No. 50, *The Provincial Capital Commission Act*, in 2017; and that the city of Regina and the University of Regina have both expressed an openness to return to a governance model that is based on equality; and that more and more people in Regina and right across this province are becoming concerned with the growing commercialization of Wascana Park, and they want to see it stopped.

Mr. Speaker, I'll read the prayer:

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

Mr. Speaker, those who have signed the petition today reside in Regina. I do so present.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I stand in my place today to present a petition as it pertains to the dialysis unit requested for northwestern Saskatchewan communities.

And the prayer reads as follows, Mr. Speaker:

To cause the provincial government to provide the public funding to set up a satellite unit in northwestern Saskatchewan to provide hemodialysis treatment that is in closer proximity to many patients' homes. This would greatly lessen the burden of out-of-pocket costs for the people from the area who are undergoing kidney dialysis. This would allow northwestern people with kidney failure to live where they want to live and not to have to be forced to move in order to stay alive.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the people that have signed these petitions come from all throughout the province and on this particular page I'm presenting today, the people that have signed the petition are primarily from Buffalo Narrows and La Loche, and I so present.

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition calling for critical supports for survivors of domestic violence. Mr. Speaker, the individuals signing this petition today wish to bring to our attention the following: Saskatchewan has the highest rates of domestic violence amongst all of the provinces in Canada, and employees who are survivors of domestic violence should be able to take a leave of absence from their employment without penalty. Mr. Speaker, this is what we called for in our private member's bill, still sitting before the House today. The government has every opportunity to pass it, yet they have not yet. We're hopeful that they will soon.

There are many other provinces that have similar provisions. For example, Manitoba has five days' paid leave. Ontario has five days' paid leave. Quebec has two days' paid leave. New Brunswick has five days' paid leave. Newfoundland and Labrador have three days' paid leave, and PEI [Prince Edward Island] has three days' paid leave.

Mr. Speaker, this is what's being called for by the stakeholders in this area, those who work on the front lines. Also a large majority of businesses are also supportive of this and are doing work in their own right. It would be a shame for us to not pass provisions that will help everybody in this province because of the voice of the very few, Mr. Speaker. It's time for the Sask Party to step up, do the right thing, and pass this legislation.

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 Legislative Assembly to pass legislation providing critical support for survivors of domestic violence.

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

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

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present a petition calling for a \$15-an-hour minimum wage here in the province of Saskatchewan. The petitioners are well aware that Saskatchewan generally under this government has had the lowest — or the second-lowest, but certainly near the bottom of the heap — minimum wages in the entirety of Canada.

Mr. Speaker, they point out that a minimum wage should not be a poverty wage. They point out that a \$15-an-hour minimum wage will improve health and well-being and lift Saskatchewan workers out of poverty. The petitioners point out that a \$15-an-hour minimum wage will benefit local businesses and support local economies by putting money in workers' pockets to spend in their community. Mr. Speaker:

In the prayer that reads as follows, the petitioners respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Sask Party government to adopt a plan to raise the minimum wage to \$15 an hour for all workers.

Mr. Speaker, this particular petition, one of many, is signed by citizens from the good city of Regina. I so present.

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

[14:45]

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present a petition calling for a public inquiry into the GTH [Global Transportation Hub] land deal. The individuals who have 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 lost those millions of dollars.

Instead of shining a very bright light on the issue and unequivocally calling a public inquiry, the Sask Party government is instead hiding behind excuses around public prosecutions. Mr. Speaker, it's Saskatchewan people who have footed the bill for the GTH land deal. They deserve nothing less than the truth. And we still haven't received testimony from key witnesses in the deal.

So I'd like to read the prayer:

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

Mr. Speaker, the individuals signed this from Regina. I so submit.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Lloydminster.

Brothers Excel During Motocross Season

Ms. Young: — Mr. Speaker, I stand today in the House to congratulate two talented constituents of mine, Ethan and Brendan McKee, on a successful 2018 motocross season. Mr. Speaker, Ethan placed third and Brendan placed first in the 2018 Canadian Kawasaki Motors standings. This feat marked Brendan's third straight year at the top of the national motocross points list and the first time that his little brother joined him on the podium.

Mr. Speaker, the McKee family schedule begins with a winter trip to California in February for training sessions and is followed by a busy competition season which lasts from April to September, taking them all across Saskatchewan and Alberta. Brendan, who is 15, dedicates much of his time mastering his sport and is always one to look out for at some of the nation's biggest races. Ethan, who is 11, has quickly risen to the top as one of the best in his division and has surpassed many athletes who are actually older than him in the standings.

Mr. Speaker, though they may compete against each other, the brothers always have each other's back. Sounds like a couple of other brothers maybe we know, and Olympic athletes. Just last year in the middle of a race, Brendan stopped to help start up Ethan's bike that had stalled, before going on to even win the event.

Mr. Speaker, I now ask all members to join me in recognizing Brendan and Ethan McKee and wish them all the best in the 2019 season.

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

Women's Hall of Fame Inductees

Ms. Rancourt: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On Sunday March 10th it was an honour to attend the Prince Albert Council of Women's annual Women's Hall of Fame induction ceremony, along with the member from Prince Albert Carlton. This year's inductee was Dr. Shelley Storey. Shelley has a long history of community service and a long list of career accomplishments. She is currently the education representative at the Centre of Responsibility, Community Mobilization in Prince Albert.

Mr. Speaker, I had the pleasure of working with Dr. Shelley Storey when she was the principal at Wesmor High School and I was the mental health counsellor. I saw first-hand the dedication and compassion she poured into being a principal and how she cared for her students. The many committees she has sat on and the many organizations she has volunteered for illustrate her commitment to giving back to her community.

This year the council of women also awarded a special Lifetime Achievement Award to Irma Brunson. Irma is a very active volunteer in our community. She was a member of the Watsonaires singing choir for many years. She is a talented musician and vocalist. At the age of 87 she continues to volunteer and to enrich the lives of those around her with her music.

I ask that all members join with me in congratulating these two very deserving women, Dr. Shelley Storey and Irma Brunson. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Moosomin.

Hungarian Dignitaries Visit

Mr. Bonk: — Isten Hozott. These are the words that adorn the gate at the Bekevar Reformatus Templom which means, welcome in God's name. On March 10th I, along with the Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport, joined the Hungarian ambassador, Balint Odor, and the Hungarian deputy state secretary, Csaba Latorcai, and we attended a special service at the historic Bekevar Church.

The church was built in 1911 by Hungarian immigrants who settled the Bekevar district, which is between Kipling and Moose Mountain park. Mr. Speaker, Bekevar was one of the very first Hungarian settlements in all of Canada. The Bekevar Church was designated a municipal heritage property and is a one-tenth scale replica of the iconic Presbyterian church which stands in Debrecen, Hungary.

The Bekevar Church holds a special significance to Canadian Hungarians as well as to the Hungarian government. And as such, the deputy state secretary announced the Hungarian government will be making a financial contribution to the Bekevar Heritage Foundation for the upkeep and maintenance of the church to preserve it for future generations.

After the service, we were treated to a delicious Hungarian dinner. Mr. Speaker, the Bekevar Church is a central piece to the Hungarian community in the area, around Saskatchewan, and indeed all of Canada. I now ask all members to please join me in thanking the Hungarian ambassador and the state secretary for their visit and to thank them for their commitment to the Hungarian community in Saskatchewan. Kosenem sapen.

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

Fruit Breeders Win Prestigious Award

Mr. Pedersen: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to congratulate Dr. Bob Bors and Mr. Rick Sawatzky, fruit breeders at the University of Saskatchewan. They have won the prestigious A.P. Stevenson Commemorative Award for their development of varieties of sour cherries and haskaps, which are also known as blue honeysuckle. Bob and Rick's management of the fruit development program at the University of Saskatchewan resulted in the introduction of two apple cultivars, five sour cherry cultivars, and 10 haskap cultivars.

Their work is largely responsible for the wide introduction of these fruits to commercial fruit growers and the nursery trades. Businesses like Over the Hill Orchards at Lumsden, Living Sky Winery at Perdue, and Prairie Bee Meadery at Caron have benefited from their work. The excellent wine, mead, and jellies that you may have tasted from this fruit were the result of more than 50 years of breeding and selection work at the university.

Although they are humble about their contribution, the love they have for their work is evident to all that they have worked with. Bob and Rick's work developed a diverse collection of over a dozen far north fruit crops and gave birth to a whole new industry. Their achievements highlight the importance of publicly funded plant research and breeding, something which is under attack right now.

This award has been won only 22 times in 83 years, and it is reserved for the most conspicuous achievements in practical horticulture. So, Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members join with me in congratulating Dr. Bors and Mr. Rick Sawatzky.

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

Community Recovery Team to Serve Prince Albert

Hon. Mr. Hargrave: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last Friday my colleague from Melfort joined representatives of the Saskatchewan Health Authority to announce the creation of the community recovery team in Prince Albert. Mr. Speaker, Prince Albert is one of eight Saskatchewan communities that now have access to mobile intensive supports for people with complex mental health challenges.

The seven-person team includes a team lead, a social worker, an addictions counsellor, an occupational therapist, and three community mental health nurses. Mr. Speaker, this group of health care professionals works on the front lines to help people better manage their symptoms and achieve their individual goals for wellness in the community.

Mr. Speaker, our government is committed to creating a more efficient and caring health system for people with mental health issues. To show this commitment, we have invested more than \$4 million in funding to form these eight community recovery teams. This investment will strengthen our province's mental health services and also support the recommendations in our mental health and addictions plan. With the help of these eight community recovery teams, we will achieve better, more efficient, and more caring services for people with mental health issues.

Mr. Speaker, I now ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the creation of the community recovery team in Prince Albert. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Kindersley.

Volunteer Starts Pathway to Wellness

Mr. Francis: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand in my place today to acknowledge the work of a local volunteer. Joanne Kosolofski identified a need in her community and took action to address it. At the time of her husband's recovery from a heart attack, an exercise therapy program was recommended, and so Joanne went to work to get an exercise therapist to come to Kindersley. Mr. Speaker, before long the Pathway to Wellness program was born.

In 2013 talks were initiated with the town of Kindersley and now former Heartland Health Region. Soon after the partnership came together. The health authority provided and continues to provide the therapist. The town provides a space, including the walking track in the arena and the dedicated wellness room, which officially opened in November of 2016. Joanne literally ran with it from there, Mr. Speaker.

This program is now offered two to three times a week and provides services to more than 50 active members and has an email list of over 300. This includes seniors, people living with chronic conditions, as well as special needs programs for kids.

Mr. Speaker, this partnership is strong and continues to grow, thanks to the initiative and determination of one volunteer. The Pathway to Wellness unofficial motto is "Small steps equals big success." Thank you to Joanne and everyone involved at Pathway to Wellness for the great work you do to improve our community and the lives of its residents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Carrot River Valley.

Provincial Snowmobile Festival

Mr. Bradshaw: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on February 22nd and 23rd, the Provincial Snowmobile Festival was held at Hudson Bay. I joined the Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport as well as the Minister of Rural and Remote Health to take in the exciting activities at this event.

This festival is the largest in Saskatchewan and rotates around the province yearly. The 2019 slogan was Take a Ride on the Wild Side, which unfortunately the Minister of Rural and Remote Health took literally and promptly ran a sled off the trail.

Mr. Speaker, sledding in northeast Saskatchewan is a huge draw, not only for Saskatchewan but to sledders across Canada. With close to 1000 kilometres of groomed trails through the Pasquia Hills and 15 warm-up shacks between Hudson Bay and Carrot River, this is the destination for winter fun. The local club, the Hudson Bay snow riders, did an excellent job of hosting this year's event. The weekend included guided trail rides, meet-and-greet socials, great meals, and a banquet to end the event on Saturday evening.

Mr. Speaker, the snow conditions and trails were perfect for the 280 registered riders. I'd like to thank the Hudson Bay Trail Riders, the Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association, sponsors, and volunteers for putting on a fantastic weekend. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I'd like to welcome all the students to the gallery. I hope you're going to enjoy what is presented, and everybody's going to be just awesome.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Support for Agriculture Industry

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The way this Premier would speak, the way he talks, you'd imagine that there would be no fight he wouldn't want to get into more than a fight between farmers in Saskatchewan and the federal government. But when it comes to the question of seed saving, we have not had an answer yet. The federal government has introduced legislation to allow trailing royalties and end-point royalties. The federal government wants that, but farmers don't.

My question for the Premier is, whose side is he on? Farmers or the feds?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member opposite for a question very, very relevant to the economy. Now really what I have said, the industry that is the spinal cord of the economy in this province, Mr. Speaker, and has been for many years . . . And, Mr. Speaker, you'll find a government — I think in fairness many governments over the course of the last decades — that will always be on the side of our producers, our agricultural producers, here in the province of Saskatchewan.

That's no different with conversations we're working through with our agricultural community here today, Mr. Speaker. As the Minister of Agriculture mentioned the other day, stated in this House that we're continuing some of the consultations that we are in process of, Mr. Speaker, with farmers across the province. When we are finished with those consultations, we'll come to a decision on their behalf, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the best interests of all of the people in communities here in the province of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, and we'll be voicing that at that time.

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

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Sometimes no answer is an answer. Sometimes it's very clear if this government won't say who they're standing up for, who they're really going to be working on behalf of. And when it comes to this file, farmers have made it 100 per cent clear. Why won't the Premier do the same? Why is he deciding not to stand with farmers who have made it very clear they're against this action? Why won't he step up on their side?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

[14:00]

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, we're actually in the due course of the consultations with our agricultural groups of which I would say we have a strong relationship with across the province of Saskatchewan here, Mr. Speaker.

With respect to standing up for the people of this province, in particular in the agriculture industry, Mr. Speaker, I think this government has been very clear. We do that on each and every opportunity that we have. Mr. Speaker, we will continue to stand up, not only for the agriculture industry, but all of the industries, the wealth-creating industries that we have here in the province of Saskatchewan, thereby standing up for the opportunities of the people in this province to participate in our vibrant and expanding economy, Mr. Speaker.

You're going to see just how this government is standing up for the people of the province in the investment that we'll be putting forward, as the Minister of Finance is going to take her position, Mr. Speaker, and deliver the right balance, a balanced budget on behalf of the people of this province.

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

Equalization Formula

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Another question for which we haven't had an answer is around equalization. Now for many, many years the NDP [New Democratic Party] has been very clear. We recognize that we're not getting a fair deal when it comes to equalization at a national level. And for one shining moment this summer, we heard some noise from the Sask Party that they recognized that as well and that they might actually try to take some action. But then they went quiet, and when we asked if they were willing to pursue further action, they have shown no indication that that's the case. In fact the Premier stood up and said he was proud to be a contributor to equalization now.

So my question is, what happened? What changed? Who got to the Premier? Was it Andrew Scheer? Was it Doug Ford? We know he likes to campaign for conservatives around the country. The question is, would he go so far as to actually back away from working for a fair formula for Saskatchewan just because it would help the federal Conservatives?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, with respect to standing up for the people of the province of Saskatchewan, the Finance minister has raised this on every opportunity that she has had a conversation with the federal Finance minister. Mr. Speaker, as

the Leader of the Opposition, the opposition members know we came forward with a better program in our view with respect to start the discussion, to have a discussion around what we believe is a flawed formula here in the nation, Mr. Speaker, our equalization formula. I don't think it ever came . . . I don't think it was ever intended, Mr. Speaker, that we see one province relying so heavily on that formula, Mr. Speaker, to not only provide services in that province, but in many ways to provide them even at a lower cost than they are in other areas of the nation, Mr. Speaker.

So we are a proud contributor to equalization. We are proud to share the wealth of this province with other Canadians, Mr. Speaker. We don't agree with the formula. We put forward . . . We are the only province that has put forward a solution, Mr. Speaker, and we'll continue to communicate that to the federal government and all of the nation of Canada, Mr. Speaker, in the days, weeks, and months ahead.

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

United Nations Compact on Migration

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again the question remains, why simply communicate about it and not be willing to actually take the fight? We've seen this gone to the courts before, or ready to go to the courts before. The Sask Party promised to do that and they backed away. We're seeing the same pattern.

Another question came up yesterday for which we didn't get an answer, Mr. Speaker, and it was around the UN [United Nations] compact on migration. This is a non-binding agreement between over 100 countries, which is about having a set of shared principles on treating migrants and refugees with dignity and respect.

It's a pretty benign and positive document, Mr. Speaker. But we've seen a lot of drama around this, a lot of rhetoric, for example, from the federal leader who has called it a threat to our sovereignty and said that it was foreign entities being able to have control over our public policy. We've seen this as a central tenet of yellow vest protests and present at all protests for the yellow vests, this obsession with the UN compact on migration. It's a very benign document.

My question for the Premier today is, we didn't hear an answer yesterday; can we today? Do you recognize what this document really is, or do you share the position of Andrew Scheer and the yellow vests when it comes to the UN compact?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Trade.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Of course the document in question was agreed to by the national government to sign. By their own admission it has no legally binding impact. What I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, with regard to the position of our province on immigration is that we are very supportive. And that shows . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Really? So the member for Nutana, heckling from her seat about the record of this government on immigration. Mr. Speaker, we have seen 108,000 . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Allow the minister to answer the question. I recognize the minister.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Mr. Speaker, the record of this government on immigration couldn't be clearer — 108,000 newcomers from outside of the borders of this province have come to Saskatchewan in the course of the last decade from all around the world, 190 countries.

You know, just last week, Mr. Speaker, I had the great honour of representing our province abroad in the Philippines for a couple of days. And I had the opportunity to meet with a migration group in the Philippines who were just so very much thankful for the efforts that we have made to work with our Filipino community in this province, the largest source country by far for new migrants to the province. Nearly 40,000 newcomers who have been incredibly successful and made great contributions to our province, Mr. Speaker, something that we are very proud of. We're going to continue to work on as we go forward.

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

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Those were pleasant remarks from the minister, but nowhere near the question that was asked. The question was around the UN compact on migration. And we realize it can be uncomfortable to answer questions like this, but it's a mark of leadership to be willing to give the right answer and say the right thing even if it makes some of your supporters uncomfortable.

So once again, for the Premier: does he agree or disagree with Mr. Scheer and the yellow vests when it comes to the UN compact on migration?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Trade.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Of course this is a federal decision to move forward with the agreement. I understand that it has no legally binding impact on national immigration policies.

Our focus as a province, Mr. Speaker, is on our shared areas of jurisdiction with the national government as it relates to immigration. And that primarily has to do with our Saskatchewan immigrant nominee program, Mr. Speaker, of which we have seen incredible growth because we have advocated and have been very, very diligent in ensuring standards in our immigrant nominee program, resulting in the fact that we now have 5,750 nominations per year.

We just actually got the letter last week from the national Minister of Immigration that we would be getting an increase again, Mr. Speaker, because of the fact that we have had such a successful program. Mr. Speaker, when they were in government in . . . Mr. Speaker, when they were in government, they were processing under the nominee program 25 applications a year, Mr. Speaker. Twenty-five applications a year. We have grown the program . . .

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

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a very simple

question. He's right; it's a federal matter, but it's part of the national discourse and it matters to Saskatchewan. It matters which side this government is going to show that they are on, Mr. Speaker. And is it the side of right or wrong?

What is the answer, yes or no, to that UN compact on migration? Does this government share the opinion of Andrew Scheer and the yellow vests? Or will they stand for something that is a decent, wise approach to the international discussion?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Trade.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Mr. Speaker, our record on immigration speaks for itself. We have welcomed 108,000 newcomers, nearly 10 per cent of the population. In the last 10 years, Mr. Speaker, growth, a rate of growth we have not seen in this province since the 1920s or '30s. Why, Mr. Speaker, have we seen that degree of growth? Because of international in-migration, because we have advocated and worked hard to get more immigrants into this province every single year.

Mr. Speaker, their record when they were in government, they were processing 25 applications a year. We're processing over 500 per month and, Mr. Speaker, we are seeing great success. Seventy-six per cent of recent immigrants in this province are employed — one of the highest levels of employment in the entire country, because we're working with these groups, Mr. Speaker.

We have a program that is incredibly successful. Our record speaks for itself with regard to immigration, Mr. Speaker. We are more in support of it than any other province in the country.

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

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, I had a lot of differences with the previous premier. We'd have had a lot of debates, but I knew him to be able to stand up and show leadership when it was demanded. The former premier would not have stood for this. Will today's Premier stand up and give us a clear answer? Yes or no on this compact?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Trade.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — You know, Mr. Speaker, our record on immigration speaks for itself. Mr. Speaker, we have seen an increase of 108,000 migrants from outside of the country who have been welcomed. Mr. Speaker, we're very fortunate in this country right now. We have a bipartisan consensus in favour of immigration because of the fact that we don't have opposition parties, until today, trying to throw up wedges on migration, Mr. Speaker.

We have seen nearly . . . Mr. Speaker, an increase of huge, huge numbers of newcomers to this province from outside of Canada. The members opposite, Mr. Speaker, heckling from their seats, heckling from their seats. The record on this side of the House speaks for itself with regard to our commitment to migration.

Mr. Speaker, we have seen a record very much different than theirs. The fact that we have advocated for, have seen increases. Our nominee program has seen increases every year, including this year, and we're very proud of that.

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

[14:15]

Tax Increases and Personal Debt

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, when hate and hurt like this is real, you need to be able to pick a side, Mr. Speaker.

People in our province are hurting because of this government's damaging choices and mismanagement. And they're falling behind on their bills, bills that keep going up while wages fall flat and with far too many facing unemployment. Mortgage arrears are through the roof, the highest in Canada.

Last week we talked about those that can't even pay their property taxes, but it's just as bad for utility bills. Between SaskEnergy and SaskTel, outstanding bills are up 86 per cent since 2007, \$16 million more in these outstanding bills in these two Crowns alone. How can the Sask Party pretend that their budget is balanced when so many people can't even afford their bills?

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

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I know that SaskPower works with all their customers to ensure that in the event that a client, a customer falls behind on their bills, that there is a plan put in place to help that customer to get up to date in terms of their bills, Mr. Speaker. And so if the member opposite has specific examples, I'd be happy to meet with him afterwards and we would make sure that SaskPower is working with those individual clients.

Mr. Speaker, what I can say and what doesn't help in the situation is, particularly in a year where we were projecting a zero per cent rate increase for SaskPower, to now have the federal carbon tax imposed upon SaskPower customers and SaskEnergy customers, Mr. Speaker, when it will make no difference in terms of the emissions, Mr. Speaker, and when it will make no difference on the fact that SaskPower is already committed to a 40 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, Mr. Speaker.

So, Mr. Speaker, again I would offer to my friend opposite, if he has specific cases, I'd be happy to work with him on those.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — The total value of outstanding bills at SaskEnergy is up 121 per cent since 2007. Cellphone bills at SaskTel are up 120 per cent, land line bills 40 per cent. And at SaskPower, there's more than \$24 million in outstanding power bills. The arrears go up and up just as the rate hikes go up and up.

For a decade the Sask Party has saddled our Crowns with bad debt through the GTH scandal, through the costly carbon capture scheme, through equity stripping and more, and of course playing with the books every chance they get. Will tomorrow's budget contain any relief for ratepayers who are falling further and further behind under the Sask Party's mismanagement of our Crowns and our economy? Or will there just be more bad debt and rate hikes for Saskatchewan people?

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

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Again, Mr. Speaker, the plan with respect to SaskPower this year was to have zero per cent in terms of rate increases, Mr. Speaker. Unfortunately we are now going to have to flow through to the customers more than a 2 per cent increase just to pay for the carbon tax, Mr. Speaker.

I would say the good news, while we are challenging this in court — despite the fact that the NDP position is that that was a pointless crusade, Mr. Speaker — is that SaskPower will set aside those dollars in the event that we are successful in that court challenge and we will rebate those dollars back.

Mr. Speaker, with respect to SaskTel, I'm told by the minister that the spike in arrears this year is because large account holders, including another phone carrier, didn't pay their bill on time, Mr. Speaker, and that the percentage of accounts in arrears is stable with 90 per cent of accounts paid on time, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, certainly I will look into it. I'm sure the Minister for SaskEnergy will look as well into that ministry, Mr. Speaker.

One thing also to keep in mind is from when the member opposite . . . the time frame that he's talking about, there's thousands more people living in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. So it's important to look at whether or not the percentage of clients are in arrears, Mr. Speaker, versus the overall number.

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

Funding for Health Care

Ms. Mowat: — Mr. Speaker, we are joined today by Brooke Ofstie. Brooke has travelled from Saskatoon to join us because she is frustrated with the inadequate care that her 81-year-old grandmother received at St. Paul's Hospital in Saskatoon.

Three weeks ago, Brooke's grandmother Andrea broke her pelvis and was taken to St. Paul's Hospital. Shortly after treatment, she was sent home in the sole care of her 88-year-old husband. They were sent home with no care plan and no additional supports.

To the minister: do you think it's reasonable that an 81-year-old with a broken pelvis is sent home with no care plan, with her elderly spouse as a primary caregiver? This isn't about hard-working care providers; this is a systems problem. Is this what patients in our health system should expect?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome Brooke to her Legislative Assembly. I don't know the specifics of the case that is involved here today, Mr. Speaker, but I'd be happy to meet with her after question period if she so wishes.

Mr. Speaker, obviously I can't comment when I don't know the details on it. I just know, Mr. Speaker, we take situations like this very seriously. We try to use them as learning experiences, Mr. Speaker. If there's something we can do to improve the process, we'll certainly do that, Mr. Speaker. We've put a huge amount

of resources into health care since we were given the privilege of forming government. Mr. Speaker, health care spending overall is up about 60 per cent since we've formed government. We recognize there's more work to do.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Brooke emailed the Health minister at the same time she emailed me. It was about three weeks ago, so I'll have him check his correspondence for that. I'm happy to hear that she's going to get a meeting with him, but it shouldn't be the case that folks have to travel to Regina in order to hear back from the Health minister.

Mr. Speaker, three days later, once Brooke saw her grandmother's deteriorating condition, she had her brought back to St. Paul's by ambulance. Unfortunately the quality of care was no better on the ward. Brooke witnessed first-hand how understaffed and underfunded her grandmother's unit was. She said she watched staff struggle to do their best, but there simply weren't enough of them.

Brooke brushed her grandmother's teeth after it had been seven days and demanded that she needed to be given a shower after three days without one. She was supposed to be receiving physio every day, but received none. Staff were too busy to get her to the washroom or to use a commode, and she was forced to use bedpans and even wet herself, waiting for overburdened staff.

These are troubling gaps in care for vulnerable people relying on our hospitals. What does the minister have to say to families like Brooke's, who are devastated by this poor quality of care?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Mr. Speaker, there was a number of items in that question. Mr. Speaker, I'll address the first one first. I make every effort, along with my colleague, the Minister of Rural and Remote Health, to meet with people who request. Sometimes just the volume of requests, Mr. Speaker, we can't deal with them all, so often we'll refer them to ministry or SHA [Saskatchewan Health Authority] officials to attempt to deal with that. When there's concerns, Mr. Speaker, there's processes put in place to deal with that. For example, there's quality care coordinators that often can assist people who are having difficulty in the health care system.

Mr. Speaker, we take these issues very seriously. We recognize at times there's wait-lists to get into facilities. We've taken steps in last year's budget, Mr. Speaker. For example, the accountable care teams have shown a great deal of success in shortening wait times for people to get in. Mr. Speaker, you'll see more in tomorrow's budget.

Again we take these issues very, very seriously, and again I'd be happy to meet with Brooke after question period, if she chooses.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's great to hear that investments have gone up, but what matters is the end result at

the end of the day. And what are the results? Story after story of patients lacking care.

These aren't new stories. Year after year, patients, their families, and health care workers have been sounding the alarm with grave concerns about persistent short staffing. This year alone patients have been coming forward to the media, to our office, and I'm sure to the minister as well to share stories of devastatingly low staffing levels.

How many horror stories does the minister need to hear before he'll do something? Listening isn't enough. Will tomorrow's budget allocate additional funding to the front lines to improve quality of care for people like Brooke's family?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I understand that the opposition's job is to criticize, Mr. Speaker, but we need to be factual.

They constantly say understaffing. Yet, Mr. Speaker, if you look at the record there's 900 more doctors in the province in the last decade; there's 3,700 more nurses; there's more long-term care aides. Mr. Speaker, we recognize that sometimes issues happen with people. We certainly try to deal with them. We have staff in place, as I mentioned, the quality care coordinators who do an excellent job, Mr. Speaker.

Frankly when the member stands and criticizes — blanket — the care in health care across the province, I think . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . I didn't say that, did I? Mr. Speaker, the member from Nutana constantly chatters from her seat. At least she's facing me, unlike she did the House Deputy Leader, Mr. Speaker.

But, Mr. Speaker, it does a disservice to the great workers that we have in health care across this province, the dedicated medical professionals, Mr. Speaker. By and large, outstanding care is provided. When there are instances where somebody slips through the crack, Mr. Speaker, we make every effort to rectify that.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Mr. Speaker, if the minister wants to focus on the facts, I am happy to do that. That is what we are doing on this side of the House. The facts are, these staff are overburdened, and being overburdened is the same as being understaffed.

I'll ask again, because the minister didn't provide this information. Will tomorrow's budget allocate additional funding to the front lines to improve quality of care on the front lines?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Mr. Speaker, again in order to deal with these things, we've undertaken a number of new initiatives. The accountable care teams, there's accountable care units that we launched, Mr. Speaker. We've had great success with those. And I would just reiterate, Mr. Speaker, how important this government feels health care is.

Mr. Speaker, 900 more doctors, as I said; 3,700 more nurses; hundreds more long-term care workers. Mr. Speaker, we know we've got more work to do . . . We're working hard to get that done, Mr. Speaker. And frankly, Mr. Speaker, we'll gladly stand on our record versus the record of the previous government.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

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

Standing Committee on the Economy

Ms. Young: — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on the Economy to report Bill No. 147, *The Oil and Gas Conservation Amendment Act, 2018* without amendment.

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

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole, Mr. Speaker, on this bill and that the bill will now be read for the third time.

The Speaker: — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 147 and that the bill be now read a third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 147 — *The Oil and Gas Conservation Amendment Act, 2018*

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — I move that the bill now be read for the third time, Mr. Speaker, and passed under its title.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 147 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 the Economy.

Standing Committee on the Economy

Ms. Young: — Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on the Economy to report Bill No. 148, *The Pipelines Amendment Act, 2018* without amendment.

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

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

The Speaker: — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 148 and that the bill be now read a third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 148 — *The Pipelines Amendment Act, 2018*

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Mr. Speaker, I move that the bill now be read for the third time and passed under its title.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 148 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 Deputy Whip.

Ms. Lambert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to order the answers to questions 48 and 49.

The Speaker: — Ordered 48, 49. I recognize the Deputy Whip.

Ms. Lambert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the answer to question 50.

The Speaker: — Tabled answer 50. I recognize the Government Deputy Whip.

Ms. Lambert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to order the answers to questions 51 through 53.

The Speaker: — Ordered, 51, 52, 53.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 159

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

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to rise this afternoon and enter into the debate around Bill No. 159, *The Securities Amendment Act*. Mr. Speaker, this bill makes a variety of changes, some of which I'll talk about but most of which I'll actually talk about at committee, which I'm looking forward to doing in the near future.

This bill introduces the use of benchmarks and adds new definitions regarding the use and administration of benchmarks. It also adds designated benchmark administrators and benchmark contributors to the list of persons or companies required to provide information or records at the order of the director.

Further it allows a person appointed by the commission to conduct an examination of the affairs and records of a designated benchmark administrator or a benchmark contributor. It allows the staff of a recognized entity to appeal the decision of a panel of that entity to the commission for review, which is something that I understand some of the stakeholders were looking for.

Mr. Speaker, it adds a complaint resolution service as a category of entity that can be designated by the commission and sets out the procedures for designating benchmark and benchmark administrators.

It also provides for the automatic recognition in Saskatchewan of certain enforcement orders and settlement agreements made by other securities regulatory authorities in Canada. And from what I understand, Mr. Speaker, that was a bit of a difficulty in this industry in the past, that our securities regulators would issue orders . . . It was difficult to enforce them, in particular, if the individual that they were trying to enforce an order against left the profession. They really had no right of recourse, which made it very difficult for them as a securities entity, a securities regulator, to be able to . . . If they can't have any teeth in the work that they're doing, it's very difficult in terms of protecting the public, which is what we want to ensure is happening in this industry, that the public is properly protected.

I know financial literacy is a challenge for many people, frankly, myself included in some aspects. So ensuring that there are these bodies that are able to oversee the work of those who work in this industry and are able to do so in a way that has teeth is important for the community at large, Mr. Speaker.

I'm really looking forward to having the opportunity to meet at

committee with the minister to ask him several questions in particular. Also looking forward to, as always, asking questions of the great, brilliant officials that I know work within the Ministry of Justice. Always a pleasure to see them at committee. I'm looking forward to it, and to facilitate that opportunity, I am prepared to allow this bill to move on to committee.

[14:30]

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion by the minister that Bill No. 159 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. 159, *The Securities Amendment Act, 2018* be committed to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice committee.

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

Bill No. 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 Regina Douglas Park.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to rise this afternoon and enter into the debate around Bill No. 163, *The Legal Profession Amendment Act*. Mr. Speaker, this is a really interesting bill. Largely what it does . . . There are some changes that are happening in this legislation, but one of the biggest portions of this legislation is around the provisions that set up the creation of limited licences, which is going to allow for, at some point, those who aren't lawyers to take some of the legal work, some advocacy work, and do that. It's going to set up a regulatory framework for that to be regulated and overseen, Mr. Speaker.

I know that this bill is the result of a long time, a lengthy consultation process between the Law Society, the Government of Saskatchewan, and the bar, Mr. Speaker. There has been quite a bit of outreach done, I think some consultation that I may have even been a part of back in my previous life prior to being elected, which shows that this has been quite extensive. If not, I've been following it quite closely, Mr. Speaker.

It's part of something that we're seeing happen in other jurisdictions, especially in a context of working towards better access to justice and the legal system, Mr. Speaker, which is something I'm very passionate about. There are massive gaps in our legal system in terms of who can afford to obtain legal services and who can't, that create both problems that flow, not

just legal problems but out of that results many other problems that exacerbate in a person's life. But also it slows down the justice system and actually ends up costing us more money, Mr. Speaker.

So I do know that there's still a lot of work to be done in terms of limited licensees and what that's going to look like. The regulations and the framework, this really disallows for it, but there's still going to be a lot of work to be done in terms of what areas are to . . . like who is going to be allowed to be a limited licensee and what sort of work they're going to be allowed to do.

But I'm looking forward to watching this process continue. As a member of the bar and as someone who's passionate about access to justice in the legal system, I know there's a lot of good people behind this work and I applaud them for continuing to plod on and advocating for better access to justice in our legal system.

I will have several questions for the minister and the officials at committee about this bill, so at this time I'm prepared now to allow this bill to move forward to committee.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion by the minister that Bill No. 163 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. 163, *The Legal Profession 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. 164

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

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to rise this afternoon and enter into the debate around Bill No. 164, *The Statute Law Amendment Act*. This bill largely just introduces many housekeeping amendments to a numerous amount of Acts. I will not be listing them all, Mr. Speaker.

Because this is largely housekeeping, I don't have much more to add to the debate around this. I will be asking some questions about this at committee. It's quite common for us to have at least one, if not several, housekeeping bills each session and this is one of them this session. So to facilitate this bill moving forward and allowing me the opportunity to ask questions of the minister, I'm

prepared today to allow this bill to move forward to committee.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion by the minister that Bill No. 164 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. 164, *The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2018 (No. 3)* 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. 165

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

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

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And it is my pleasure to rise this afternoon and enter into debate on Bill No. 165, being *The Workers' Compensation Amendment Act, 2018*.

Mr. Speaker, I know that as I suspect is the case with many MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly] in their constituency office, it is not infrequent that constituents come to our office with concerns around Workers' Compensation. And this is a very important piece of legislation to get right and ensure that it's updated. Often when workers find themselves in a situation where they've been injured on the job, either acutely or because of long-term exposure, they rely very heavily on this Act, on these benefits. And they really need to get fair compensation so that they might be able to maintain their health and maintain paying their bills and a standard of living.

Of course these are hard-fought battles by workers to get assurances in place such as Workers' Compensation, Mr. Speaker, and I think it is always important that we remain vigilant to ensure that the benefits and the Act meet the needs of today. And I do note that on seconding reading when the minister entered remarks, there was some indication that that was the intention of this bill, to modernize or to update the Act to address some changing circumstances and hopefully to employ some best practice.

I think I'd be remiss, Mr. Speaker, if I were not to give a shout-out or some due to the Saskatchewan Professional Fire Fighters, members of the IAFF [International Association of Fire Fighters] for their persistent and effective lobbying on behalf of their members for the recognition of presumptive coverage in this bill, the expansion of presumptive coverage for Saskatchewan

firefighters to include such ailments as prostate cancer, skin cancer, breast cancer, cervical cancer, ovarian cancer, and multiple myeloma.

Mr. Speaker, of course from that list it might stand out that, in addition to addressing and expanding the list of presumptive cancers, this legislation is also catching up to a fairly recent reality — a very slow change within the professional firefighting world but a significant one at that — and that is the introduction of more women into the profession.

I think I also would be remiss if I didn't give a shout of recognition to Marianne Boychuk, who very recently became the first officer, professional female officer in Saskatchewan. And I remember many moons ago at Connaught School on the playground, Marianne was a parent — our children went to school together — and she would come to school with her uniform on. And to see everyone on the playground light up, but particularly little girls on the playground, to see her . . . I think we're all very proud of her and certainly continue to be proud of her and all of her accomplishments and the way that she has paved the way for women who come after her. I believe she was the first professional firefighter in Regina. You might imagine that was a long time ago, but it was only in 1995, Mr. Speaker, which doesn't seem like that long ago.

But here we are. Obviously that updates the need for changes in legislation, as I've noted, to include things such as cervical cancer and ovarian cancer in the list of presumptive coverage.

I'd also be remiss if I didn't note the good work of my colleague from Saskatoon Riversdale in bringing these efforts forward, Mr. Speaker. And it really is sometimes a slow process to see the changes that are needed, but it always is gratifying when they do come into being. And it's important that we thank those and encourage those who have worked so hard to ensure that these changes are made so that we better the coverage for workers in the province.

And we certainly do need to see some changes, I would suggest and many would suggest, Mr. Speaker, with regard to protections for workers in this province. Unfortunately, recently we've seen, I believe it's a 78 per cent increase in the number of worker fatalities in the province. This has many alarmed. And it has the new president of the SFL [Saskatchewan Federation of Labour] calling on a task force or some dedicated resources and thought into how we might reduce those numbers — hopefully, Mr. Speaker, to reduce them to zero. But certainly a 78 per cent increase in a year is completely unacceptable and no person should leave for work in the morning without knowing that they, you know, would reasonably be expected to come home to their families at the end of the day, Mr. Speaker. So while there is some good work that is happening with the introduction of this bill, I would suggest that we have far to go. And hopefully some resources will be dedicated to that.

There are some substantive changes with Bill 165 and also some housekeeping measures that I'll just outline. There's some definition changes. A fairly significant change is a change to the composition of the board to include three full-time members and up to four part-time members. That's an increase from the previous three members, I believe, Mr. Speaker.

As I've noted, it expands the list of occupational diseases covered by the presumption for firefighters, clarifies that dependent spouses' benefits are to be indexed to the consumer price index. The minister indicated in second reading that there was simply an oversight when the last amendments were tabled, so this indexes those benefits for spouses, which is important as, of course, over the years those benefits would degrade without some level of indexing.

There are changes that are proposed for the time period for reviews of the Act and some language housekeeping changes, also an inclusion of amendments to clause 23(3)(1) and subsection (24)(1.1) of *The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, Mr. Speaker. This is intended to enable workers to gain access to their claim while ensuring their information is protected. And certainly that's a balance that we hear frustrations about, lack of access to files. I'm sure that the critic will have some questions in committee about how that balance is struck and why that recommendation was brought forward and how this might reasonably address those concerns that have been brought forward by those who are seeking or receiving benefits.

[14:45]

Again, Mr. Speaker, just in closing before I move to adjourn, very important changes that we see here. We still have far to go, and thanks to all of those who have pushed for these changes. May they continue to be vigilant in ensuring safety for all workers in our province. With that I move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 165.

The Speaker: — The member for Regina Lakeview has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 165. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 157

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

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As always, it's a pleasure to enter into debate here in the House, and today it's on Bill No. 157, *The Education Amendment Act, 2018*.

As far as bills that come before us and bills around education, this is a relatively benign bill, Mr. Speaker. Benign might not be the right word, but it isn't earth shaking, when you look at all the things that are going on in the world of education today. With the case around school boards, the Catholic school board and public education, there's some pretty significant debate going on around education here today and a significant court case as well, Mr. Speaker.

There's some significant things happening in education as well around funding of education, and both school boards, teachers, families, parents expressing their concern about what's gone on here in education over the years, how classrooms are getting bigger and needs of students are growing, and the resources aren't keeping pace. We have a lack of English as an additional language education, a lack of educational supports in terms of all the additional staff you need to support — folks like psychologists and occupational therapists, all those kinds of folks, but also a shortage of educational assistants — who help fulfill the plans that those additional specialists make, Mr. Speaker.

Mental health in the classroom is a huge issue, Mr. Speaker. Teachers have for all intents and purposes become social workers. I won't use the word "social worker" because it is a registered term and you need to be a registered social worker, but doing some of the work that social workers do, Mr. Speaker.

And education really, I know, is key to what our future looks like here in Saskatchewan. I'm a big believer that it starts from pre-K [pre-kindergarten], actually early learning, even kids in child care, Mr. Speaker, making sure kids have a good opportunity to be in safe and enriched environments when their parents have to go to work or school, right up through pre-K, right up to grade 12, Mr. Speaker. There are many people here in Saskatchewan who don't think the government is doing what they need to do on that file.

This is a government who's chosen to cut a great deal out of education. Admittedly they've given a small portion back, but when you cut 50, say for example, and say, oh here's \$20 back, it's still not a good deal for you, Mr. Speaker, just if that ever happens to you personally in the future.

But with respect to number Bill 157, as I said, it is a relatively tame piece of legislation. And I know when the critic gets it to committee there are always important questions that happen there. But what this bill does — it's always good to look to the minister's second reading speeches — one of the things this bill does, that there's a number of housekeeping amendments that have been identified both by translation services and the Ministry of Justice. So those amendments have been made to repeal outdated French and English terminology and update drafting standards throughout the Act as required.

This bill also deals with inclusion of personal property for boards of education and the conseil scolaire. Personal property is currently defined in legislation to include goods such as furniture and equipment or an instrument, money, or intangible items such as stocks or bonds. And the minister points out that this definition has led to non-capital requests having to be sent to the ministry for approval. He points out that personal property reflects the standard operations of boards of education and shouldn't be subject to ministry approval. So there's an amendment to that effect, clarifying that boards of education and the conseil scolaire have authority to manage their own personal property, Mr. Speaker.

One of the other amendments, it deals with the boards of education and conseil scolaire providing notification of the suspension or severance of a teacher to the Saskatchewan Professional Teachers Regulatory Board. The minister points out

that this regulatory board has requested that subsection 212(3) of the Act be repealed for the reason that it's in conflict with requirements for reporting misconduct to that organization which are identified in section 35 of *The Registered Teachers Act*. The minister says they've accepted that request, and that's why this amendment is here.

Again, when we get to committee it's always good to double-check why amendments have come forward, who's brought them forward, if the ministry has consulted with the appropriate bodies or not. And so just again that'll be something the critic will double-check to ensure that that was in fact the case.

Another amendment, Mr. Speaker, in Bill No. 157 is about the education property tax. So the minister pointed out that previously this year "The Ministry of Government Relations brought *The Education Property Tax Act* and regulations into force." They came into force this last year, Mr. Speaker. And he points out that there's an amendment to the Act now "... to clarify that, in this case, 'the minister' refers to the minister responsible for the administration of *The Education Property Tax Act*."

It's important to note that sometimes when ... I know the drafters of the legislation in this House always do their best to get things right, but sometimes things get missed, Mr. Speaker, so this is a good amendment. It's important. I know that there's been many bills — sometimes it's in the drafting but sometimes it's in the consultation, Mr. Speaker — that the minister has not engaged in thorough consultation with all the necessary people, people who are impacted by the bill, and that's when unintended consequences happen. You have to know ... So it's always important to know where the bill is coming from, who's requested it, and what the hope is to change it. But in this particular case it sounds like it was a simple drafting error, Mr. Speaker, that got missed.

This also amends the city of ... So just for some background, "The city of Lloydminster is being exempted from the application of section 10 of *The Education Property Tax Act*." And apparently "this provision [the minister says] was added to clarify that the city of Lloydminster is paying boards of education directly," instead of to our GRF [General Revenue Fund].

And finally, the other amendment, the last amendment, Mr. Speaker, deals with the minister's amending orders. So at the moment, Mr. Speaker:

Both the Act and the regulations provide requirements for the establishment of boards of education and the conseil scolaire as well as the alteration of school division and francophone education area boundaries, which [the minister points out] are ... set by minister's order and posted in *The Saskatchewan Gazette*.

He goes on to point out that the "boards of education and the conseil scolaire submit these amendments to the ministry on an ongoing basis." So part of this Act before us makes a change "so that all minister's orders will now be repealed and replaced, rather than amended, [in order] to ensure all information is consolidated into one order."

Mr. Speaker, the minister points out that this should make things simpler, Mr. Speaker, and, “ensure information is clear and accessible for all boards of education, the conseil scolaire, and the public.”

I know again when the critic gets this to committee, there will be questions asked. It does at face value seem like a pretty straightforward bill, but it’s always interesting to get into committee and to find out what happens or what the bill was really all about, Mr. Speaker. But with that I think I would like to move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 157.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 158

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

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

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Good to take my place and join debate this afternoon on Bill No. 158, *The Youth Justice Administration Act, 2018*. Now, Mr. Speaker, there are a number of provisions contained in this particular piece of legislation that do just what the title of the bill sets out for this piece of legislation, and that is administer the youth justice system. And we’ll get into those not shortly, Mr. Speaker.

But again this is kind of a forest-and-trees number, Mr. Speaker, in terms of . . . This particular piece of legislation comes forward against a backdrop where yet again this year, Mr. Speaker, we have yet another report from the Children’s Advocate in this province. And not just the current Children’s Advocate has been filing reports like this, Mr. Speaker, but certainly his predecessor as well, going back a number of years and as regards over the life of this government, Mr. Speaker.

But I have in my hand an article dealing with the latest Children’s Advocate report. It’s from the *Saskatoon StarPhoenix*, byline Erin Petrow. And the title reads, “Provincial government needs to work proactively to reduce Indigenous youth incarceration rates, says child advocate.” And to that, Mr. Speaker, we say amen. We say êkosi. We say, you know, get it done. Because the situation in Saskatchewan — and again the Speaker knows this all too well from the different of the ports of call in his professional life — but in terms, 92 per cent of male youths and 98 per cent of female youths admitted into custody in Saskatchewan are indigenous.

And, Mr. Speaker, in terms of, you know, you can have a fine piece of administrative legislation come forward to better codify how you’re going to be able to appeal the decision of the administration in a facility to transfer you or, you know, what the sort of, the provisions are around isolation or all of those very

important things. On a very micro level, Mr. Speaker, that’s all fine and good and that’s what this piece of legislation does.

But it takes place against this backdrop where we have, you know, north of 90 per cent in the case of males and 98 per cent of female youths in custody are indigenous. And on so many different fronts, Mr. Speaker, you need to . . . Like you know, is there an urgency around us getting reconciliation right and responding to the calls of action that are now, you know, heading toward being years old? Is there an urgent need for more things like the agreement that we’d seen on Friday and which we applaud, Mr. Speaker, in terms of the agreement that’s been arrived at between the Saskatoon Tribal Council and the Ministry of Social Services? I would say so.

So again there’s, you know, there’s some fine things to be said about this administrative piece of legislation, but the larger backdrop, Mr. Speaker, is one of how we are failing yet another generation of indigenous youth in this province. And when you’re failing youth, that’s a price that we will all go on to pay as society for years and years and years to come. That’s like a legacy piece, Mr. Speaker.

So in terms of the urgency of the work around reconciliation and the way that it’s borne out in report after report from people like the Children’s Advocate, Mr. Speaker, in terms of how we need to do a better job as a society and how it’s one more symptom of the failing on the part of this government when it comes to taking reconciliation seriously and not taking up that road map that was laid out for us by Justice Sinclair and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the calls to action, I mean, Mr. Speaker, I don’t know what more you need in terms of a wake-up call, in terms of waniskâ, you know, wake up, Mr. Speaker. Because it’s the kids that we’re failing.

And then we’re going to go on to wonder, well, you know, well how on earth is it that we’ve got this burgeoning crime problem, Mr. Speaker, or how the gangs are back in the ascent or how that feeds hand in glove with crystal meth, Mr. Speaker. We’ll sit there and scratch our heads and say, oh, well how did this all happen?

[15:00]

You know, Mr. Speaker, there’s . . . We’ve got enough on the record and we’ve got enough certainly in terms of the road maps forward, but what that takes is leadership, Mr. Speaker. What that takes is a decision on the part of government to live up to these calls of action, to take them on. And until we do that as a province, Mr. Speaker, we’re going to keep, you know . . . And again it’s a fine piece of legislation, but it’s the equivalent of fiddling with the deck chairs on the *Titanic*, Mr. Speaker, unless you’re going to get that course ahead right.

So, Mr. Speaker, it’s with some frustration that I come to a debate like this because, you know, this is life and death for my neighbours. This is a family affair for me. And when we see this kind of fiddling while all of these other problems are burning around this province, Mr. Speaker, it’s cause for frustration.

So, Mr. Speaker, again it’s a fine piece of legislation. It deals with the administration of our youth criminal justice system and again, you know, that’s fine. That’s fine. But until we get that big

picture right, until we get that big road map well engaged, Mr. Speaker, until we take up the calls of action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, then we're going to come back to another piece of legislation like this where the backdrop is one of crisis and of, you know, an abject waste of human potential that ought not go on in a place as beautiful and as generous and as well to do as Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

So for me this is a reminder of just how much further we have to go as a community, as a province, Mr. Speaker. But for the piece of legislation itself, for Bill No. 158, *The Youth Justice Administration Act, 2018*, I'm sure that there'll be more to be said on it, but that's how this piece of legislation strikes me, Mr. Speaker. So with that I'd move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 158.

The Speaker: — The member 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 Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 160

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

The Speaker: — Who's on their feet? I recognize the member for Regina Northeast.

Mr. Pedersen: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to join in this debate on this important bill. Mr. Speaker, as you might know, I grew up on a farm in rural Saskatchewan and so my comments on this particular piece of legislation are largely shaped by that background and upbringing. And, Mr. Speaker, the farm in which I grew up on was at the end of the road. We were almost 20 miles from town there. We were kind of out in the middle of nowhere. There was no farms past ours. Behind us was nothing but river, hills, bush, and pasture.

And so when somebody came down our road or down our lane, you know, they didn't generally just happen there by accident unless they were completely lost. But despite that, Mr. Speaker, we didn't have concerns about people. Typically when people came down our lane or our road, you were curious what brought them there, but not fearful.

Mr. Speaker, I'm sad to say that I think that sense has changed in rural Saskatchewan in some places. And I think, Mr. Speaker, that that concern is sometimes fuelled or aggravated by a lack of communication between some of our communities and people in rural Saskatchewan.

But getting back to this bill, Mr. Speaker, what is lacking in this particular bill is just a heap of common sense. That's what's missing. And you know, my first impression when I heard that we were adding this tweak to the existing trespass legislation in our province, Mr. Speaker, was that, what for? Trespass is always illegal. It's been illegal for thousands of years.

Trespass is, I believe, our oldest and ancient form of cause of action, and it has a fairly unique characteristic that trespass is one of the few causes of action in law where you can get legal redress even if you can't prove that you have been hurt or suffered any loss as a result of the trespass. You can still win a lawsuit for trespass even if it hasn't hurt you in the slightest.

And so if trespass has always been illegal, or at least in the last two millennia, then the question is, what do we need this legislation for? What is this bill about? And, Mr. Speaker, I think it would be safe to say that what this bill is about is nothing more, pure and simple, than dog whistle politics, Mr. Speaker. That's what this bill is about. This bill unfortunately has an ugly undertone of racial politics about it.

And it's sad, Mr. Speaker, because a little over a year ago we had the Gerald Stanley trial in this province. And that was a trial, unfortunately, that took on a whole other life than about what the narrow legal issues in that trial were about. And you know, anybody following social media on whatever platform you looked, it was just filled with a whole lot of ugliness, nasty assumptions, and incorrect statements on many sides. And that's unfortunate, Mr. Speaker, because it's our government's job to actually heal those divisions, heal our communities, not to further divide communities and not to play wedge politics.

Mr. Speaker, this bill has had a number of so-called justifications trotted out as to why it's required, but this bill won't solve those. So one of those possible justifications that has been trotted out as a reason why this bill is required is the problem of clubroot in our canola fields. And clubroot is a legitimate problem in Saskatchewan. It's in its early stages as far as we know. It's been identified in some fields, predominately in the northwest part of the province where I grew up.

Now like I said, Mr. Speaker, clubroot is a legitimate concern. It will potentially cause the loss of hundreds of millions of dollars out of our provincial economy to canola farmers. But the problem, Mr. Speaker, and why this bill doesn't make any difference to clubroot, is that deer and elk and moose, well they don't follow the legislation. They traipse through the land that's infected by clubroot and they walk onto the land that's not infected and they spread those fungus spores on their own. They don't follow the legislation and they're not going to.

And, Mr. Speaker, if we wanted to address the very serious problem of clubroot by legislation or regulations, you know, the government might make a law saying that you couldn't continuously grow canola year after year instead of rotating your crops, you know. But that isn't a solution that's been proposed by the government.

Another way that we could attack the clubroot problem is we could perhaps quarantine or post land that has been infected by clubroot spores, where it's been found so that people knew that they had to take additional precautions around that land. But that also hasn't been a solution that this government has seen fit to impose.

So another problem that this bill is supposedly supposed to address is rural crime but, Mr. Speaker, we know that that's a complete fallacy. This bill does not address root causes. If you want to make a difference to rural crime, you have to address root

causes. You have to address things like poverty and addictions. That's what you have to address, and this bill doesn't do that. Mr. Speaker, if you want to address rural crime, you have to look at things like healing divisions amongst communities and engendering trust between peoples who are fearful of each other, and this bill doesn't do that.

Mr. Speaker, to highlight why this bill will not do anything to fix rural crime, let's run through a hypothetical example. Let's say you happen to be out on a farm like my family's farm, 20 minutes from town, and there's maybe a burglary or an assault in progress. So you call 911; you call the police. Well maybe the closest officer who can respond is on the other side of town, and perhaps they have to finish up on that call before they can come. So maybe it's 45 minutes or an hour before they can get to your farm. That's a long time when you want an immediate response from the police. I get that. When you happen to be the victim of a crime or in the middle of something, it doesn't matter whether you're waiting 10 minutes or a hundred minutes, it's too long. You want the police there immediately.

And so what I would like to know, Mr. Speaker, is, if the police are now having to deal with an extra 10, an extra 50, maybe an extra 300 calls, nuisance calls about trespassing, if that's going to be added to their workload, how is that going to improve the police response time in rural Saskatchewan? Boggles my mind. You know, let's have the police responding to serious calls and not trespassing calls. And that's what will actually improve response time in rural Saskatchewan when it comes to rural crime.

Mr. Speaker, trespass isn't a uniquely rural issue and neither is crime. I think it was five years ago, Mr. Speaker, I woke up one morning, my wife at the time and I woke up, 5 o'clock in the morning, and we discovered that there was a burglary in process in our house where my family was sleeping. And thankfully, Mr. Speaker, the perpetrators immediately fled the scene, and we called the police. And fortunately, on that particular occasion, we did get a relatively quick police response. But, Mr. Speaker, if those perpetrators had not actually fled, if they had stayed in the house, the five minutes that we were waiting for the police would have been an eternity. That would have been far too long. And so it's not about where you live. It's about when you're a victim of a crime, you need almost instantaneous response.

Police don't prevent crime; police respond to crime. Just like firefighters don't prevent fires, they respond to fires. And EMTs [emergency medical technician] don't prevent heart attacks; they respond to heart attacks. That's why they're called first responders. They respond. Sure, they do some education work. They do some advocacy work in the community to try to educate people about how to help themselves in situations. But at the end of the day, they don't actually prevent these problems. They respond to them.

Mr. Speaker, this bill does not address the very legitimate concerns of hunters in our province. How are hunters supposed to get permission — RM [rural municipality] maps? RM maps have the land locations and the names of the registered owners on their maps, but most RM maps don't have phone numbers. And guess what? Now in the last 20 years, Mr. Speaker, the RM maps have fundamentally changed. Now when you look at an RM map, it's filled with numbered companies or even named

companies. And you wouldn't have any idea because those numbered companies and corporations, they're not listed in the phone book. And that's assuming that people even have land lines anymore, because lots of people don't have land lines.

Even if you happened to look up in the corporate registry to see who the owner of that corporation was, you still wouldn't have a phone number, Mr. Speaker. You wouldn't have an email address. You at best would have a mailing address. But half the time, the address for those corporations is actually the address of a law firm. So, Mr. Speaker, how are you supposed to get a hold of the corporation that owns that land to get hunting permission?

[15:15]

And that begs another question. The reality is that probably most farmers in our province now are not actually farming the land that they own, or I should say what they're farming is majority rented land. So most farmers now are farming more rented land than the land that they own, and it's actually the tenant who has the right to control access to that land for hunting purposes. So how, by looking at an RM map, is a hunter supposed to figure out who the tenant is, who's actually farming that land? This is quite a problem, Mr. Speaker.

Now what I didn't see happen when the government introduced this bill, there was no provision in the bill making it mandatory for a landowner, either an owner or an occupant of land, to provide contact information for how a hunter or somebody who wanted to be a respectful user of the land . . . There's no way for them to actually . . . There's no registry. There's no directory. There's no means that the government made available to those hunters or birdwatchers to find out who the owner or occupant of the land is. The government could have said, if you're the owner or occupant of a land, you have to provide a phone number or an email address.

And I do note that at least the Premier has recognized that this is a problem, because he announced at the SARM [Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities] convention that they want to fund the development of some sort of app that would make it easier for people to find out who to contact and how to contact those people for permission. But that's a long ways away. You would think that this could have been done in advance of introducing the bill instead of waiting for the SARM convention six months after the bill was introduced to announce this as an idea.

Mr. Speaker, this bill doesn't address the concerns of snowmobilers or people who want to go quadding or riding horseback or looking for native plants or birdwatching or cross-country skiing. Mr. Speaker, there's lots of people who would be legitimate, respectful, lawful users of land and this bill doesn't address their concerns.

Mr. Speaker, this bill doesn't address the concerns of indigenous hunters who have treaty rights. Mr. Speaker, it would have been quite easy. It would've been quite simple, one tiny little sentence. All they would have had to say was, nothing in this Act interferes with treaty rights. That's all it would've taken — one tiny, little sentence. But that is conspicuously absent.

So the response from the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian

Nations is that this bill is very disrespectful and the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian . . . sorry, FSIN [Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations] has also signalled that they're concerned with the lack of clarity in this bill and that this bill will result in litigation. And it's not going to be just FSIN and treaty hunters that will be litigating this bill. There'll be other legitimate users who are facing charges under this bill that will result in litigation because it's impractical, unworkable, and unclear.

When I think about all the times, Mr. Speaker, that I know of friends or relatives, or even myself, who have gone on somebody else's land without their direct knowledge and consent — and that's what makes it trespass — I can think of hundreds of examples without the slightest bit of exaggeration. And what is common about all of those instances, or almost all those incidences, is they were respectful, courteous uses of the land. They might have been looking for . . . just looking for some sort of wildlife, perhaps flora. They might have been hunting. They might have been cross-country skiing. Might have been bird watching. Might have been horseback riding. They closed the gates. They were respectful in how they used the land because they weren't hurting it in any way.

I also know of some trespasses that have been deeply disrespectful and where it wasn't welcomed by the landowner. I know that on several occasions, Mr. Speaker, on our farm we had hunters who hadn't asked permission and were hunting on our land. And that wasn't a problem because it was trespassing, Mr. Speaker. It was a concern because they were hunting within 500 metres of our home, which is illegal. But they couldn't see that it was within 500 metres of our residence because of the trees and bush that were interfering with the sightlines. But it's still unwelcome to have somebody hunting that close to your home.

So I understand the concern about trespassing and disrespectful use of the land, but this bill does nothing to fix that because, Mr. Speaker, in the end the problem is it's an issue of respect, and respect can't be legislated. It can only be educated, Mr. Speaker. And I note with some irony that this is a government that cut education funding.

So, Mr. Speaker, with that I would like to move that we adjourn debate on this bill and I thank you for the opportunity to participate in this debate.

The Speaker: — The member has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 160. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 161

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

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

Mr. Pedersen: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, again, for the opportunity to participate in this debate. I'm sure it won't come as any great surprise to you, Mr. Speaker, that I'm not going to repeat all of the comments that I just made regarding the bill that we just debated.

Mr. Speaker, I will note that what this bill does is it makes it . . . This bill actually adds an offence to a hunter who hasn't got permission of the landowner. Basically the result of this is that a hunter who hasn't gotten permission, if they get caught they will lose their ability to get a hunting licence, and I think also a fishing licence or a trapping licence as well, if they get caught and convicted under *The Wildlife Act* for not having the consent of the landowner. Mr. Speaker, seems a little bit heavy-handed.

But I'm not going to comment further on this because of my extensive comments on the previous bill. So, Mr. Speaker, with that I will move that we adjourn debate on this bill.

The Speaker: — The member for Regina Northeast 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 Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 162

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

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

Ms. Rancourt: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure today to join in with the adjourned debates, and today I have an opportunity to put some remarks down with regards to Bill No. 162, *The Irrigation Act*.

Mr. Speaker, this piece of legislation is very important regarding the agriculture industry and other activities that are dependent on the water supply and irrigation. So we've got to make sure that the regulations and the framework has properly addressed that industry and it's done right. My understanding, Mr. Speaker, is that this piece of legislation replaces *The Irrigation Act, 1996*. And since 1996 there hasn't been a whole lot of revisions with regards to the Act. So I think, like I've said before with other pieces of legislation, it's really important that we regularly review them and ensure that they're modern and they reflect the current industry and its relevance. So from knowing that this piece of legislation hasn't been reviewed much in the past 20-some years, I think it's really important that this is brought forward at this point.

Mr. Speaker, we know that the irrigation sector has a lot of potential to contribute to the overall agricultural sector and how important the agriculture sector is with regards to the prosperity of our province. So again this industry is very important, and we need to ensure that there is access to water for farmers so that they could protect their yield and allow for diversity into a higher value of crops.

So now that we have this different forms of technology and we have different ways of allowing for this, I think it's really important that we invest in that. So we also know that the irrigation sector will also support communities and that will attract different agribusinesses and other investments. So there's a lot of potential with regards to this industry, Mr. Speaker.

Some of the issues that have been brought forward though already, Mr. Speaker, with regards to this piece of legislation is we want to ensure that irrigation infrastructure, the bill isn't necessarily pushed forward to the farmers. And so that's something that will be looked into and we regularly consult with stakeholders. And so we'll be paying attention to that.

Also, Mr. Speaker, I think it's really important . . . We always talk about the importance of being open and transparent, and within this piece of legislation, it allows for the establishment of irrigation districts. And we know that irrigation districts have been forced to agree to non-disclosure clauses within their funding and transfer agreements. So that's a bit concerning, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's concerning because these irrigation districts necessarily can't compare their contracts with other districts because of the confidentiality clause. And so if we want to have an open and transparent process, I think it would be very important for the minister to look into this issue. And I'm sure there will be a lot of discussion within committee with regards to that.

Other things that kind of relate to this piece of legislation is it describes the structure and governance and powers and duties for the formation and operation of the irrigation districts. It also changes the time period required for the preparation of the annual report. I believe it was 90 days prior and now it's 120 days. So I don't know if that change is due to potentially the industry asking for more time, but again it's interesting to see that that time period was extended.

It also sets out the irrigation services must be approved by the Water Security Agency, which we know they play an important role within our province. And it determines the purpose of irrigation works management plans, so it's good to have that outlined and indicated there.

The fines with regards to irrigation have been increased up to \$100,000, which is a substantial amount of money, and hopefully that will deter people from not listening to the outlined regulations.

And it also sets out the conditions where an irrigation district is liable for personal injury or damage to property. So I'm sure again there'll be a lot of questions with regards to the details of that.

And so I know our critic on our side here will be doing a lot of consulting with different stakeholders and industries, and when this bill comes to committee there'll be a lot of questions and discussion with regards to the changes.

And I know I have other colleagues who can't wait to put their remarks on the record with regards to changes with this piece of legislation, Mr. Deputy Speaker. So with that I adjourn debate on Bill No. 162.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Prince Albert Northcote has moved to adjourn debate on Bill 162, *The Irrigation Act, 2018*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

[15:30]

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 Regina Northeast.

Mr. Pedersen: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's my honour today to participate in this debate. Mr. Speaker, this bill is sometimes called Clare's Law in honour of a woman who unfortunately was killed as a result of domestic violence. And what this bill does is allows the police to give a person information about someone who might be prone to domestic abuse to that person's partner. In other words it allows the police to give information about a potential abusive partner to someone who's at risk of that abuse.

The biggest problem with this, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is that this legislation basically puts the onus upon the partner of the potential abuser to seek out that information. So it requires that person to have a bit of a crystal ball, you know, and seek out that information. And that's a bit of a problem. The problem with relationships is, you know, when you get into them, of course, usually everything's good for the first little bit. So you know, I don't know if this is going to be about, you know, getting a criminal record search and a police search to find out whether you should go into the relationship. It doesn't seem to make that much sense. But at the end of the day, Mr. Speaker, if this bill saves one life, it'll be worth it. And so it is a step in the right direction. And for that, you know, we're appreciative.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a related topic, domestic violence is a cultural problem not just in Saskatchewan but across North America and I think even broader in the world than that. Unfortunately while I think we as a species are making some progress in how we deal with interpersonal conflict, we've got a long ways to go. And sadly when it comes to domestic violence and domestic conflict, the sad statistic is that the overwhelming majority of the violence committed has the woman or the female partner being at the receiving end of that. And that's a problem, Mr. Speaker, that we have to address, that we have to fix. It's not acceptable. I know that in this province and in this country we've made some progress on that, but we still have a long ways to go.

One of the things that we have been pushing for, Mr. Deputy Speaker — and there's a private member's bill before this Assembly on this very point — is asking the government to make it a labour standard and a condition of employment that someone who is dealing with a situation of domestic violence, that they'd

be able to get five paid days of leave from their employer to deal with that situation. Now we already have 10 unpaid days that this government has implemented and for that, Mr. Speaker, we are appreciative. That's an important step. But, Mr. Speaker, it's not far enough, and we can do better.

And this province in some respects has been a leader. We'd like it to be a leader in this respect as well, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Now we won't be completely on five paid days should the government adopt this private member's bill, Mr. Speaker, because Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, and New Brunswick have already adopted that provision in their legislation, giving people in situations of domestic violence the ability to get five paid days of leave. And so in that respect, Mr. Speaker, we wouldn't be leading. We'd actually be at the lower end of the pack.

But this is an important step. It's something that this government could do to improve the lives of people in situations of domestic violence. And so while we think that Clare's Law is an important step in the right direction, while we are hopeful that it might save some lives and will thereby be worthwhile, I would also ask the members opposite — hopeful that the member from Kindersley and the member from Melville-Saltcoats would agree with me on this — that this is an important measure that this Assembly could take to improve the lives of people experiencing domestic violence.

So with that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'm going to wrap up my comments. I'm going to move that we adjourn debate on this bill and thank you for the opportunity to participate.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Regina Northeast 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 Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to join in on Bill No. 136, *The Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Act*. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I guess I want to make a few comments about this. And I mean I have a grandson who's just actually finished. He's going into carpentry. He's in his fourth year. He's actually in school. We wish him well. He'll be a hopefully apprentice and he'll go through and be a journeyman carpenter.

So there's different trades out there: electrician, plumbers — we have many of them — mechanics, you know. In the family I have different ones that have taken those, you know, gone to school, worked in the industry and do well and take care of their families. And it's some of the good trades that many of our families in

Saskatchewan are fortunate to have.

Sometimes we have to make sure we've consulted with the industry, those professionals, those organizations that have good knowledge of the good things that are happening and maybe sometimes the concerns. And if they are raising flags, we should pay attention in government. When you're changing legislation, should make sure you've consulted with those individuals. And I know there might have been some individuals who are wondering exactly . . . You're replacing, you're taking a bill, you're just replacing it and you'll have a new bill.

Now what we're wondering is what will come into play? Will it just be certain trades where it was a plumber, electrician, mechanics, carpentry, and the list goes on, as plumbing . . . There's many of the different ones. So I don't know what exactly the changes are going to come in and what new ones . . . And how will that affect the other trades? And will it affect any of the other trades? Like I don't know.

I know there's questions that we have. And I know we've been reaching out and will continue to reach out to the industry, to those individuals, finding out is this legislation going to interfere, cause them any concern or issue. And that's what we're going to do. We're going to do our job and do a little bit of consulting, a little research and checking out with those people in the industry and who are providing a great job and who do great work out there, whether it's mechanics. Like I said, the list goes on. There's so many opportunities. And it's a good program that's been there and we'll hope it will continue to be there.

So we're not sure exactly, you know, why the changes are coming in. Who requested it? But maybe it's a good thing. But at the end of the day, let's make sure that you've checked with those individuals who will be impacted. And how is this going to protect the trades? Is it going to be a heck of a benefit for them? Is it going to be some challenges on the industry? Is it going to make less opportunity? I don't know and I'm not going to claim to have the answers. But I know my colleagues in committee will ask the minister, the officials, asking who did you consult with? Who did you get the information . . . And why are we going down and why are we changing this?

And sometimes we have the opportunity to put in a few questions as MLAs, but I know the critics do a lot of the work and the background information and get an opportunity in committee to ask the minister and the officials exactly why was this brought in. And sometimes maybe changes come because of the work that's done on organization.

So really at this point, I don't have a lot more comments about it. We'll wait and see. I know we have some interest in this bill and I know individuals that have benefited. We'll find out exactly where we've got to go with this. And at this point, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am prepared to adjourn on Bill 136.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Cumberland has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 136, *The Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Act, 2018*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 137

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

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

Mr. McCall: — Thanks very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Always good to join debate with you in the chair. Good to see you here. And always proud to take my place during debate in this Assembly.

Now Bill No. 137, *The SaskEnergy (Miscellaneous) Amendment Act, 2018* brings to mind a couple of things. But the first one would be, when you look over the minister's second reading speech and see, the need to change oh, the means by which different programs are authorized by the board of SaskEnergy and the different sort of procedural things that go into that. And you know, she goes on at some length about that under the section 24 amendments. And again it's brought forward in the name of efficiency. And you know, that's always a good time to check your wallet with this government, because certainly Bill 40 and how they needed a definition of privatization in *The Interpretation Act*.

And I'll give them marks for creativity, Mr. Speaker, but in terms of being honest and forthright in the conduct of the people's business, I don't know if the marks were all that hot in that regard. So anytime they talk about how they're going to streamline a process, Mr. Speaker, or instead of what would have taken a number of order in councils to be considered previously, and they're going to roll that all into one, Mr. Speaker, I get a little nervous because of course you pay attention to the history of this government. And, you know, it brings to mind the old saying, when you're a hammer, everything looks like a nail.

And they may have gotten tuned in by the people of Saskatchewan when it came to trying to float the notion that selling off 49 per cent of the Crowns was not privatization somehow. But you know, they got tuned in on that and waved the white flag and retreated, but they don't learn their lesson for long, Mr. Speaker. So in terms of different moves that they make on the Crowns, we're always interested to see what sort of changes they make to the governance of the Crowns and the proper conduct of business there. So we'll be looking to see how that works out.

But then of course, you know, that's the front end of the bill, front end of the minister's remarks, and then of course she gets into the second main measure in the bill, in section 24 dealing with the different gas distribution and transportation franchise, and then section 42 which is of course the expansion of SaskEnergy's debt limit. And, Mr. Speaker, the debt limit is now being raised from \$1.7 billion to \$2.5 billion. And you know, it sort of comes in at the end and I think in journalism they call it burying the lede. I'd defer to my colleague from Saskatoon Riversdale in that regard but that one sort of looks like burying the lede, Mr. Speaker. And in terms of, you know, well why would they do

that, Mr. Speaker? It could be because tomorrow we're going to have a balanced budget so called, and the shoes have already been lined up to communicate that.

And here they are, Mr. Speaker. They're applauding. They can't wait for that debt limit in SaskEnergy to get raised, you know, because that's how they're going to do it, Mr. Speaker. It's not about the debt limit hasn't been increased for a number of years. It's not about the fact that you've got, record low natural gas prices, historically low natural gas prices. It's the fact that this government keeps coming after the Crowns in terms of their dividend. And, Mr. Speaker, that's certainly one thing that has kept the Crowns relatively safe from the privatization chopping block, Mr. Speaker, in terms of the career of this government because this government loves it — a nice, big Crown dividend.

[15:45]

And, Mr. Speaker, you know, it wasn't big enough so what are they doing here? Well in the case of SaskEnergy, they're raising the debt limit by \$800 million, from \$1.7 billion to \$2.5 billion, Mr. Speaker. Like you know, it's not a mystery, Mr. Speaker. They can sort of edge their way around it and say, oh well it's not about the money and it's about improving the governance of the corporation for ease of administration or some such gobbledygook.

You know, it brings to mind the old H.L. Mencken saying, Mr. Speaker, where it was, "When someone says it's not about the money, it's about the money." And in this case, Mr. Speaker, there's about 800 million reasons why we look at this and say, well isn't it interesting that we're coming to the budget tomorrow. Isn't this interesting that this is the latest Crown to have its debt limit increased, Mr. Speaker? And again it's because this government loves, loves, loves getting a big old dividend out of the Crowns.

And then they'll do it against the backdrop of, in the case of SaskEnergy, records, historic low natural gas prices, Mr. Speaker. They'll do it against the backdrop of, you know, the continued hard work of the men and women that work for SaskEnergy, Mr. Speaker. They do it against the backdrop of the good leadership that we have in that corporation, Mr. Speaker, that is well recognized throughout the sector for the excellence that they bring to bear. And it's historically been like that, Mr. Speaker.

But again, when it comes to the Crowns, there's one thing that this particular government can't get enough of and it's that big, juicy Crown dividend. And we see it in this legislation, Mr. Speaker, where again they're increasing the debt limit from \$1.7 billion, Mr. Speaker, to \$2.5 billion so that they can get that big, juicy dividend and then tomorrow say that, you know, well the budget is balanced. We're fiscal geniuses, Mr. Speaker. We're the disciplined people.

And you know, net debt, let's not talk about that, Mr. Speaker. We'll try to avoid people having a good, hard look at what's happening with the net-debt situation in this province and the fact that it's never been higher, and again is aided and abetted by measures such as this particular piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker. But again it'll be a round of the emperor's new clothes and it's like aren't they wonderful. Aren't they lovely. And you know,

anybody that's not sort of clapping along, you know, they must be sour or something, Mr. Speaker.

But I would submit that it's something different. They see what this is about and they see that net debt going up. They see the debt limits in individual Crowns being raised on a steady basis by this government, Mr. Speaker, and they say, well how does this all work? Well how this works is that they're racking up debt in a historic way for the people of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

So they can huff and puff all they like tomorrow, Mr. Speaker, about a balanced budget, but when you look at the net debt and the bill that's going to be passed on not just to the next generation but for generations after that, Mr. Speaker, that's where people should be paying attention. But we'll see how that all works out.

And again, Mr. Speaker, in terms of . . . I am very much reminded when they say it's not about the this or the that, you know, I always remember a great saying from Mencken, "When someone says it's not about the money [guess what, Mr. Speaker], it's about the money."

So I know other of my colleagues will have some very insightful things to say on this particular piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker. I know that they are not fooled by the panegyrics of this government when it comes to, you know, watch the birdie. Here's the balanced budget but oh, don't worry about the net debt getting racked up. They're not fooled by this, Mr. Speaker. But with that I would adjourn debate on Bill No. 137, *The SaskEnergy (Miscellaneous) Amendment Act, 2018*.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 137. 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 Prince Albert Northcote.

Ms. Rancourt: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's a honour to stand today to add my remarks with regards to adjourned debates, and this particular bill that I'll be speaking about is Bill No. 138, *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Government Relations — Enforcement Measures) Amendment Act*.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the intention of the amendments to this Act is to amend eight public and technical safety statutes. So we know that this is really important because those public safety laws are really important within our province to ensure that safety within staffing and people who utilize these services. So it's very important that we review this piece of legislation.

It's really important to ensure that we have safe operation of buildings and the equipment in the province. So the amendments to these Acts, that is their full intentions. So four of these Acts that are amended are administered by Government Relations. So that is *The Electrical Licensing Act, The Gas Licensing Act, The Fire Safety Act, and The Uniform Building and Accessibility Standards Act*.

And the other four Acts that are amended within this piece of legislation relate to the Technical Safety Authority of Saskatchewan and its role in administering Saskatchewan's safety program for boilers and pressure vessel equipment, elevating devices, and amusement rides in the province. So this involves quite a few other pieces of legislation. So again like I said before, it's extremely important.

I'm going to talk a little bit about some of the aspects, and it applies to all of these pieces of legislation. So we know that enforcement measures are limited and different from one Act to the other and:

This limits the ability of the ministry and the Technical Safety Authority of Saskatchewan to deal with non-compliance and contraventions of the codes and standards in the Acts they are responsible for enforcing.

So one piece of . . . sections that need to be looked at is the penalty in many sections should be "discipline order," changing that language. And there should be a due process for the new discipline orders.

When we're looking at having proper enforcement measures, it's really important that we look at the aspects of having the right to appeal and then obligation of inspectors to act on reasonable and probable grounds because we know that it's in fact the inspectors that have the power to shut down a business. So we have to ensure that they have everything that they need to be able to act when they have reasonable and probable grounds, but we also need to ensure that there is a right of appeal for businesses.

So first this will make existing enforcement measures consistent across all statutes in terms of the authority and wording and penalty amounts and procedures. Also it looks like with the minister's remarks there is going to be a significant change with regards to the fine amount. So it's substantial enough that I think it could potentially be deterrents for individuals, and they won't want to have the potential of having to pay that fine. So I'm sure there'll be some discussion with regards to the changes of that, how many agencies have received fines within the last so many years and how much has the government received with regards to businesses being fined for not having the proper compliance.

So the second piece here is more effective enforcement measures in place. So just like I talked to you before but with regards to enforcement, it would be in regards to administrative penalties, discipline orders, and public notices. So in some ways this provides more flexibility and responsive approaches in dealing with the non-compliance and the safety issues. So these measures are balanced with procedural fairness and the rights of representation and appeal. So I believe that is the purpose of making some of these amendments, is with regards to ensuring that there is proper compliance and that if there isn't proper compliance, that the inspectors have options with enforcement.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I know this is going to be something that our critic will be reviewing and talking to stakeholders and making their due diligence with regards to having the proper information available when needed to go to committee. And I'm sure it will be a lot of good discussion within committee when the minister and his officials are available to answer these questions.

So with that, I have other colleagues who will want to put their remarks on the record with regards to this bill, so I'm going to adjourn Bill No. 138. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 138 — *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Government Relations — Enforcement Measures) Amendment Act, 2018*. 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 Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I want to offer our perspective, my perspective certainly as a member of the Assembly on Bill No. 139, *The Foreign Worker Recruitment and Immigration Services Amendment Act, 2018*.

Now, Mr. Speaker, as the Minister of Labour introduced this legislation, he spoke about the need to protect a number of foreign workers coming to work in our communities, in our province, and certainly within our business community overall. And, Mr. Speaker, what's really important here is that we're talking about making sure that there's a number of people that are actively recruiting some of these foreign workers. I understand from some of the figures that we've been given, we're looking at something like 400 active recruiters that actually go out and look for some of the workers and try and place some of these workers within the businesses that they're involved with, Mr. Speaker.

So it's not something that we should ever try to diminish the importance of some of the players, so to speak, in this particular industry because, Mr. Speaker, there's no question in our mind that when you look at some of these figures, there are 400 active recruiters and well over 33,000 employees who are registered for this particular program. So as you look at the number of recruiters, the number of potential employees — 33,000 — it is very important that we get this legislation right.

So from Saskatchewan's perspective, Mr. Speaker, it protects foreign workers. It certainly offers a number of measures to make sure that there aren't any unscrupulous recruiters that are doing something illegal or doing something to exploit some of the workers that we're trying to support here, Mr. Speaker. So it's

important that we pay attention to what is being done. And that's one of the reasons why we in the Assembly have the opportunity to go through these bills and certainly look at what the process is all about.

Now, Mr. Speaker, as I've indicated time and time again, we often hear some of the challenges around the world as it pertains to tolerance. And several days ago there was an incident in which we had many, many people that were killed. And, Mr. Speaker, over the last several hours we've been talking and thinking about those families and the safety of all families all throughout the world. And it's a very difficult and challenging world at times. And, Mr. Speaker, this is something that we have to be cognizant of, and that this type of activity should be certainly . . . We take the time to pay our respects and to pay homage to those people that lost their lives and support the families that have lost people in some of these horrific incidents.

So I think, Mr. Speaker, these strong feelings are out there amongst a certain particular group. It's not something that we obviously support, but certainly if you look at the immigration file, the yellow vest movement, the intolerance that is happening, we must do all we can to make sure that foreign workers that are recruited to come work in Saskatchewan are afforded the protection and peace and ability to work.

[16:00]

Now, Mr. Speaker, I should also point out to the people that may be listening that it's been all stripes of governments, Mr. Speaker. The Liberals have certainly done it in Ottawa. The conservative governments, the Saskatchewan Party, one and the same, they are bringing in a lot of foreign workers on a regular basis to Saskatchewan. And yet at the same time we see members that attend yellow vest, or not . . . rallies that have some yellow vest factors within them. And it begins to confuse me, Mr. Speaker, as to why on one hand we're trying to attract and retain and protect some of the foreign workers, and yet this is the same government that has, it appears, some tolerance towards the yellow vest message of being anti-immigration.

So on one hand we have large corporations that are taking advantage of the foreign workers, Mr. Speaker. We see a lot of the foreign workers working in many of our large corporations and businesses, and the fast food industry is one particular example, Mr. Speaker.

So while we have the foreign workers coming in to work in the country and in our province, and yet you have this fringe element on the outside that is really trying to argue against, certainly against immigration overall. And then you have the government sitting on their hands and trying to figure out how they solve this mess without taking any strong leadership position.

So it becomes confusing to us, from our perspective. On one hand we're talking about legislation to protect workers. On the other hand we want to be a welcoming province to make sure we continue building for the future. And yet there's no strong position from the current government to root out and stamp out the intolerance that sometimes these movements that we catch wind of in the province, like the yellow vest movement, Mr. Speaker. We need to make sure that that intolerance is stamped out and not accepted in any way, shape, or form.

So while we have bills of this sort that are before us as legislators in this Assembly, we should not be having activity outside the Assembly that sends a totally different message. And that's the part that really confuses and certainly hurts Saskatchewan overall.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would point out that there are many other people that have comments about *The Saskatchewan Employment Act* as it pertains to the foreign worker recruitment and immigration services amendment which is housed within that particular Act, Mr. Speaker. So I will certainly defer to them. But again the message that is being presented sometimes by members of the opposite party as it pertains to immigration policies overall, and then you have a bill of this sort coming forward, is very, very confusing, Mr. Speaker. And I wish to provide clear leadership so the people of Saskatchewan know that as we build our economy, all people are welcome and all people are protected and that we especially, that we make a pact to provide that respect to all people, which include the immigrant community, which include the disabled community, which include the indigenous community, Mr. Speaker, and the list goes on and on and on.

So on that note I move that we adjourn the debate on Bill 139, *The Foreign Worker Recruitment and Immigration Services Amendment Act, 2018*.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Athabasca 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 Prince Albert Northcote.

Ms. Rancourt: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's an honour to stand here today to add my remarks with regards to adjourned debates, and at this time I'm going to speak a little bit with regards to Bill No. 140, *The Animal Health Act*.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, changes with this piece of legislation . . . Well it's a new piece of legislation because it replaces *The Diseases of Animals Act*, which I believe had only seen minor revision since 1966 and was the second-oldest piece of animal health legislation in Canada. I'm not quite sure what the oldest piece of legislation is. That would be interesting to find out on where that is. But I can't imagine the amount of changes from 1966 to now, and with regards to the diseases, what animals have access to, or how we change the way we deal with animals as well.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'm going to talk about some of the changes with regards to this piece of legislation. So the fines were capped at \$500. And back in 1966, \$500 was a significant amount, but I

don't think it's very reflective of the fines that we hand out now and isn't much of a deterrent for the majority of people. So this is going to be increased to \$25,000. So it'll be capped at \$25,000 and I think that is a substantial amount of money and will provide a deterrent for individuals to ensure that they're complying with this piece of legislation.

It also is going to have ongoing fines. So if you don't listen to what the requirements are, these fines could be ongoing. It involves imprisonment and that could be from six months to a year. So it's substantial consequences if individuals don't listen to this piece of legislation, which I feel is important because when it comes to animals, we know that they have very little control over how their environments are. And humans have a lot of control over that, so we've got to protect animals because they have little opportunity to protect themselves. So we have a responsibility to ensure that they're safe as well.

And with talking about that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, this really kind of makes me think about some of the lack of legislation we have with regards to shelters and the rules with regards to shelters and who can have them and what they're responsible for. And there's been people who have come into my office with concerns with regards to that. Because we've seen in the media, not too long ago and within the last few years, of some places that weren't treating animals as well as they should have. Or maybe had too many in possession, which causes some potential of having diseases, if a disease happens, have it spread, and people who aren't properly taking care of these animals and needing to have better pieces of legislation that will enforce that.

I'm hoping some of the changes within this Act will help with regards to that. I don't know if it goes far enough along to make sure that we have what we need within this province to ensure that animals are being taken care of, but those will be discussions that'll be had at committee. And I know the critic will do their due diligence with regards to that.

So back to this piece of legislation. One point here too, it assigns the authority to prevent, control, and respond to animal disease outbreaks to the province's chief veterinarian officer. And the second thing that this piece of legislation also does is it provides the chief veterinarian officer the ability to add or remove diseases from the list of provincially notifiable diseases.

So I think this is probably a pretty good move because veterinarians would be the experts in this field and would have a good idea of what diseases should be our primary focus or which ones are more situated in different areas of the province. They probably have a better idea so I think having the responsibility being on the province's chief veterinarian officer, that's probably a good move with regards to that.

It also expands the definition of disease to include non-infectious threats to animal health. So this sets out the veterinarian inspector's authority to entering and inspecting premises; establishing quarantines, disease surveillance, and control zones; and euthanizing any animals to prevent suffering and the spread of disease.

This puts a lot of control in the veterinarian inspector's hands. So it'll be really important that the ministry ensures that the people who are responsible for this have the proper requirements. But

allowing them to have the authority to inspect premises is really important and giving them that ability to properly evaluate situations and do surveillances of diseases is really important.

So I think there's going to be quite a bit of discussion with regards to this piece of legislation, like I said, because we know more and more this is becoming an issue within our province and the spread of diseases from animals. And so I know the critic will meet with the stakeholders and individuals across the province. And so there's a bit of concerns with regards to some of the changes here and hopefully that'll be addressed within the regulations.

It'll be interesting to see how the regulations play out. And I'm sure there'll be a lot of discussion in committee with regards to discussing the particulars of this bill. But I have other colleagues who would like to put their remarks on the record with regards to this bill, so I'm going to adjourn debate on Bill No. 140.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Prince Albert Northcote 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.

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 Saskatoon Riversdale.

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's always a pleasure to wade into the debate on bills before us today. And in front of us right now is Bill No. 152, *The Builders' Lien (Prompt Payment) Amendment Act, 2018*, Mr. Speaker.

I understand that the Saskatchewan Construction Association has been very active on this file, Mr. Speaker, so it's always good to hear that those impacted by legislation are involved in putting forward their ideas and why it's necessary.

That's one of our jobs in opposition, is to study why a bill came forward, who asked for it, what is its intended consequence, think about its unintended consequences. And that's why you need to talk to lots of people, Mr. Speaker. But it's good news that the Saskatchewan Construction Association has been involved on everything that needed to go into this bill, Mr. Speaker. But I know when the critic gets to committee, there'll be many questions about who else was involved in providing some input as well, Mr. Speaker.

But in particular, this bill allows prompt payment under construction contracts. It changes some definitions and adds new ones. It requires that a "proper invoice be given to an owner every month, unless the contract provides otherwise." It establishes timelines for the payment of a proper invoice by an owner, so

within 28 days of receiving the invoice from the contractor. The timeline is subject to change if the owner disputes the payment of a proper invoice. It establishes timelines for the payment of a subcontractor by a contractor and/or between subcontractors.

Bill No. 152 also establishes an adjudication process for the resolution of disputes. It sets out that the parties will split the adjudicator fees equally, which is probably a good thing, Mr. Speaker, when two people have a disagreement. It seems fair that both parties should be part of coming to a middle ground. It authorizes the minister to designate an entity as the adjudication authority.

This bill sets out how amounts payable are enforced in compliance with the adjudicator's determination. It authorizes a successful party to an adjudication to file a determination with the court for enforcement. It establishes the terms of extension of a lien referred to adjudication and it sets out transitional provisions for existing contracts.

So quite a few things, Mr. Speaker, but hopefully it'll help ensure that when people in this industry do work, that they are in fact paid or there's measures that help ensure that people are paid in a timely fashion, Mr. Speaker. Businesses need to . . . or they carry costs, and you don't want them having to carry costs over a long period of time.

[16:15]

It's interesting, just the conversation around builders and construction. We have right now a point in time, Mr. Deputy Speaker, here in the province that we have a government that put in PST, Mr. Deputy Speaker, on construction labour. I know, having spoken to constituents of mine who work in construction, contractors, how this has impacted their businesses. The number of homes they're able to build has dropped substantially since the PST was implemented on construction labour. I know that a contractor who lives just a couple weeks, a couple blocks . . . Why am I having such a hard time speaking? It's not even the end of the day yet, Mr. Deputy Speaker . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Yes, it's budget day tomorrow. I think our minds are all on that perhaps.

A contractor who just lives a couple blocks away from me, she was pointing out this has had a huge impact on her business. She does rather modest renovations. She's an electrician by profession but has moved into working as a contractor. And she said people in our neighbourhood who are of moderate middle income or lower middle income, that the contracts that she gets, it means the people weren't . . . they've chosen not to do renovations or they've scaled them right back, which impacts her bottom line. And she's not . . . she can't raise her rates because it will mean less work for her, so she's been very unhappy with this. But we know that there's many, many people in the construction industry, organizations, who have said this has not been helpful.

We can look at numbers in the . . . As of August 2018 there's been a decrease of 34 per cent for single-family built homes and a 40 per cent decrease for builds for multi-family builds. Urban starts, a 32 per cent decrease, and a decrease of 40 per cent for single family homes, Mr. Speaker. There's been a very real impact. Even at SUMA [Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities

Association] a few weeks ago, Mr. Speaker, at the table at which I was sitting, municipalities were saying how much of a hit this PST has had on their bottom line and their ability to go forward with infrastructure, Mr. Speaker, because they're now in a position of having to pay this as well.

So that's just a bit of an aside here. When we're speaking about the construction industry, I think it's important to highlight that, that that has been the epitome of a job-killing tax, Mr. Speaker.

But with respect to Bill No. 152, I know that our critic will have many questions when this bill moves to committee, but for the time being I would like to move to adjourn debate.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

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

The Deputy Speaker: — The Government House Leader has moved that this House adjourns. 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 16:18.]

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