



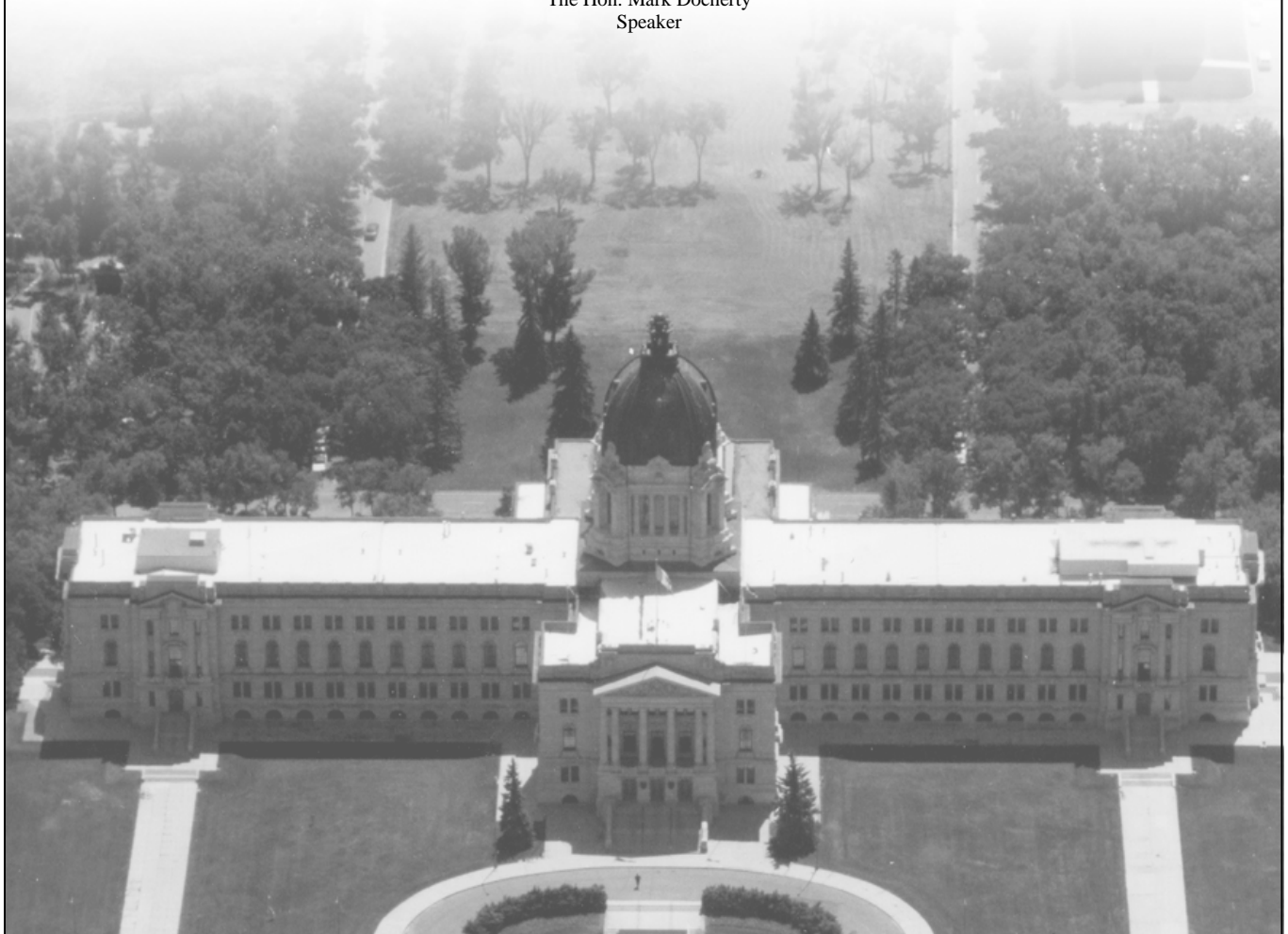
THIRD SESSION - TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

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



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

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Leader of the Opposition — Ryan Meili

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

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[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

Hon. Mr. Makowsky: — Mr. Speaker, I request leave for an extended introduction.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the minister.

Hon. Mr. Makowsky: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. To you and all the members of the Assembly this afternoon, I'd like to introduce outstanding athletes, coaches, and volunteers who are the recipients of the Saskatchewan Sports Awards that took place on Thursday in Saskatoon. These annual awards are designed to celebrate and promote the outstanding achievements of our amateur athletes, coaches, officials, and volunteers in our province.

In attendance today we have players from the Team Sask water polo under-19 women's team who were honoured as the 2018 Team of the Year recipients. The players who made it into the gallery here today are Paige Donald, Carissa Semple, Brooklyn Swetlikoff, Rumina Edgerton, Jessica Dean, Taeghen Hack, and their coach, Ethan D'Souza. This team had a great year winning gold at the national championship and becoming the first Saskatchewan team to win the junior national title.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Makowsky: — Absolutely. Another award recipient in the House is Andrea Wolfe. She won the Female Coach Dedication Award for support, mentorship, and dedication to softball in Saskatchewan. Andrea coached the U of R [University of Regina] Cougars to a Canadian college softball championship in 2018 and the Saskatchewan women's team to a bronze at the Canada Games.

Udo Baecker is also here today. He is the recipient of the Male Coach Dedication Award. Udo was a 35-year contributor to the development of soccer as a coach, mentor, learning facilitator, and master coach developer. He's coached teams at various games here, including the Canada Games.

Leslie Blyth, I see Leslie up there. She's from Sask Sport. The volunteer Chair has been a strong supporter of the sporting community, particularly in soccer. Cheryl Willoughby is the volunteer Chair of Sask Sport Future Best & Awards Committee. She's also very involved in the soccer community in Saskatchewan, both athlete and a coach.

And there are several members I see up there from the ministry and from Sask Sport. Of course, Mr. Speaker, we're all very proud of our athletes who represent our province nationally and internationally. We admire the thousands of hours you commit to your sport and your training, and we thank the coaches for their influence on our young athletes. I'm sure these and all the award winners and all those who participate in amateur sport will grow from that and become great leaders in our community for years to come.

So I ask all members to help me welcome these fine citizens to their legislature.

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

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd just like to join with the minister opposite on behalf of the official opposition and with special thanks to the critic for Sport for allowing me to say a few words of congratulations to these very important guests to their Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, certainly to Udo Baecker and Andrea Wolf, the coaches of the year, to the folks from Sask Sport, we say thank you very much for all the great work that you do. But I'd be lying if I didn't say I've got a special place in my heart for water polo, Mr. Speaker.

There are a lot of these players and athletes, players come out of the Lawson Aquatic Centre, Mr. Speaker. Their home club is the Armada. And certainly, Mr. Speaker, I can attest first-hand to the tremendous calibre of play that is represented in the western gallery here today. But it's a club that has tremendous support. I see some people up in the gallery right now that spent all weekend coaching and officiating at water polo and then made it to their legislature today for this very special recognition.

But, Mr. Speaker, certainly the 2018 Team of the Year Award to these under-19 women's national champions is a tremendous thing. And I'd also just want to say a special word of congratulations to an individual who's made a lot of these tremendous things happen. And you'd certainly say that it takes a team to make this all happen. But you know, teams need leaders, and certainly to see Cyril Dorgigné here today at the legislature is very fitting, because this is an individual that's put Saskatchewan water polo on the map.

So, Mr. Speaker, short of a commitment from the Sask Party government to a second Olympic-capable pool in the city of Regina, I don't know what more I could add. But, Mr. Speaker, certainly it's good to see these individuals here today at their Legislative Assembly.

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

Mr. Olason: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request leave for an extended introduction.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member.

Mr. Olason: — Now thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you and to all members of the Assembly, I'd like to introduce to you 10 youth from the Aboriginal Youth Entrepreneurship Program. They do tremendous amount of work at their different high schools, including making eagle feather boxes and decorating and selling used cupboard doors as art, as well as the sewer pipe extension that is so famous up in the cabin country.

Here joining us today from the One Arrow Business Club is — just give us a wave when I read your names — Stephan Littlepine, Chanelle Smallchild, Ruby Daniels, and chaperone Terri Orr. And from the Muskoday Business Club: Luke Crain-Ross, Shanice Beauchene, Tessa Tait, Shaye Bear, Aleah Tait. And their mentors are Cheryl Murphy and Barry Bear.

Joining us as well today, Mr. Speaker, is Joe Taylor. He's been here a number of times as the Aboriginal Youth Entrepreneurship Program coordinator. And, Mr. Speaker, I think I can speak for him that there is no better mentor for these young entrepreneurs than Joe. His passion is evident, and he is a tireless advocate for these youth and what they're doing on their reserves and in their high schools.

So I ask all members to welcome all of these folks to their Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I want to stand in my place and join the member from University in Saskatoon in welcoming all the Aboriginal entrepreneur students that are here today and to tell them that it's great to see the Aboriginal community get involved with business because obviously, as we've often maintained in the Assembly, that if we engage the Aboriginal community to the extent that they should be engaged, then that's a \$90 billion opportunity for the province of Saskatchewan. So you are leaders in your own way and you are the best.

[The hon. member spoke for a time in Cree.]

So in my Cree language I said, don't be afraid of anything and don't quit. And good luck in your studies.

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

Hon. Ms. Beaudry-Mellor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Up in the far gallery here I see our friend, Lee Elliott. He's joined us today. Lee Elliott is a business owner in our community. He's a community builder. He works with the social innovation and entrepreneurship club known as Enactus at the University of Regina where he also teaches sessionally in the Hill School of Business. He's a family guy and a great friend and leadership coach to many. And I'd just like all members to join me in welcoming Lee Elliott to his Legislative Assembly.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the minister opposite to welcome Lee Elliott to his Assembly. Also seated is Sean Tucker beside Lee up in the east gallery. It's a pleasure to have both these leaders within our community and leaders within our province here in the Assembly. So thank you so much, Lee. Thank you so much, Sean. And I ask all members to provide a warm welcome.

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

Mr. Bradshaw: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the member from Athabasca and the member from Saskatoon University in welcoming Joe Taylor here to the legislature. I've known Joe for a good number of years and the amount of work that he has done on instructing Aboriginal employment and moving things along. He's also attended the YBEX [Youth Business Excellence] Awards all the time. So thank you, Joe, for all the work you do. And I'd like everybody here to welcome him to his Assembly. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm always glad to defer to the member for Carrot River Valley. He's one of the few people that's almost as old as I am, so I always respect that.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to join with the member opposite in welcoming Lee Elliott and especially Dr. Tucker to the legislature today. Dr. Sean Tucker has done a huge amount of work that's been highly beneficial with the occupational health and safety division of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety.

The information he's provided is the statistical information which has allowed us to do a deeper, more careful analysis of some of the causes of workplace injuries and fatalities. And the assistance that he's giving the people over there, we think, is actually saving injuries and saving lives. So I would like to not just only welcome him to his legislature, but to thank him for the great work that he's doing.

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

Mr. Pedersen: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd just like to join with some of the other members in welcoming Cheryl Willoughby to her legislature. In addition to her talents and her work with young people and with soccer, Cheryl is a talented lawyer in her own right and of similar vintage to myself, and I've known her for quite some time. So I'd like to ask all members to join with me in welcoming Cheryl to her legislature.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Moosomin.

Mr. Bonk: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today is April Fool's but I'm afraid this is no joke. Today the federal government, the Trudeau-led federal government, has unilaterally imposed a tax on a tax on everything in this country. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to present a petition from the citizens who are opposed to the federal government's decision to impose a carbon tax on the province of Saskatchewan.

I'd like to read the prayer:

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

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by citizens of Borden. I do so present.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, I rise to present a petition on behalf of northern Saskatchewan residents. Many northerners are in the need of dialysis treatment, whether we look at the east side of the province, the west side, the far North, or central. Many northerners are needing treatment and are asking the government to look at this. And when I get into this, Mr. Speaker, many of them travel many hours just to have this treatment done in the south part of the province, and they're asking this government to consider what they're going through. So I'm going to read a few comments that they have shared with me in the last little while. Many elders and community members are experiencing physical pain, fatigue, driving on bumpy northern roads. Travel is very costly and complicated.

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

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Government of Saskatchewan build a dialysis centre in the North so that northerners can have treatment closer to home and not have to spend so much time and money on travelling.

Mr. Speaker, it is signed by many good people in northern Saskatchewan. I so present.

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

[13:45]

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise once again today to present petitions on behalf of concerned citizens, people, local businesses, communities all across our province as it relates to the imposition of the PST [provincial sales tax] by the Sask Party government onto construction.

This is the epitome of a job-killing tax, Mr. Speaker. The facts speak for themselves. The consequences are being felt by Saskatchewan households that have been hit hard by the cost of the PST, and by the construction sector, Mr. Speaker, where we see permits down all across our province, where we see thousands of tradespeople, Mr. Speaker, who have lost employment.

So many of those Saskatchewan people, Mr. Speaker, who have been forced to move outside of Saskatchewan because of the choices of a government, a government that saw a slowing economy and that chose to slam on the brakes with the imposition of the PST, a PST that's now costing the average household \$800 more per year than just four years ago, Mr. Speaker, a 70 per cent increase. Of course this is hurting families and it's hurting our

economy.

The prayer reads as follows:

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

These petitions today are signed by concerned residents of Moose Jaw. I so submit.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm rising today to present a petition calling for a public inquiry and forensic audit into the Regina bypass. The people who have signed this petition would like to bring to our attention the following: land developers purchased 640 acres of land along Tower Road and had the Regina bypass moved to accommodate their development; thousands of people were impacted directly, lost their land, their homes, businesses, access, life's work, health, history, and future; some land developers were paid up to 80 times more for their land than the long-term land, home, and business owners; and the costs of the Regina bypass exploded from 400 million to now over \$2 billion.

Mr. Speaker, I'll read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Government of Saskatchewan call for a judicial public inquiry and forensic audit into the entire Regina bypass land scandal.

And the people that have signed this petition today are from the city of Regina; the communities of Pilot Butte, Birch Hills, Leross, and Macoun. Mr. Speaker, I so submit.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for 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. Those who signed this petition wish to bring to our attention the following: Saskatchewan has the highest rate of domestic violence amongst all of the provinces; and employees who are survivors of domestic violence should be able to take a leave of absence from their employment without penalty; and Saskatchewan must do much more to protect survivors of domestic violence.

Mr. Speaker, this is what we called for in our private member's bill. It allows for five days paid leave to be provided to survivors of domestic violence. It puts us in line with other jurisdictions in the country, Mr. Speaker, and it's been before the government in several different iterations for a few years now, Mr. Speaker. The consultation on this has been done. The people on the front lines have spoken loud and clear. This is needed and necessary and we need it to save lives now, so the government needs to pass this bill now.

Let me 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 the 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 in Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, this particular petition comes to us fresh from the streets of Regina, signed this very noon hour, Mr. Speaker, as part of a petition drive from a group organizing the Fight for 15 in Saskatchewan. And we thank them for their efforts, Mr. Speaker.

But this particular petition is signed by folks who are aware that the full-time minimum wage workers in Saskatchewan are living in poverty. They're aware that the people working in full time should not live in poverty, Mr. Speaker. They're aware that a \$15-an-hour minimum wage should bring workers' wages above the poverty line. They recognize that a \$15-an-hour minimum wage would 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 the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan to raise the minimum wage to \$15 an hour for all workers.

Mr. Speaker, again, this particular petition is signed by not one but two citizens from the fair riding of Regina Elphinstone-Centre and by an individual from Pilot Butte. I so present.

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

Mr. Pedersen: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present a petition calling for real action to fight climate change. Mr. Speaker, the petitioners signing this petition were some of the students that gathered on the steps of this building weeks ago to demand real action on climate change.

Mr. Speaker, they wish to draw to our attention that Saskatchewan produces the highest greenhouse gas emissions per capita in all of Canada; that the Saskatchewan Party government has failed to tackle climate change, reduce emissions according to the province's own targets, or even put in a real plan to protect the natural environment.

They wish to bring to our attention that slashing programs and funding for the environment have set this province on a backward course, and that the Saskatchewan Party government's inaction on climate change is reflected by per capita greenhouse gas emissions that are more than three times the national average. And, Mr. Speaker, lastly, they want to draw to our attention that

there has been a steady increase in payments under the provincial disaster assistance program.

Mr. Speaker, the petitioners in the prayer:

Respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan enact a real plan and allocate appropriate funding in the provincial budget to tackle climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, helping families transition to energy-efficient homes, and encouraging everyone in the province to take real action to protect the environment.

I so present.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Health Research Foundation's Santé Awards

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On December 6th I attended the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation's 15th annual Santé Awards night that took place at TCU Place in Saskatoon. The evening celebrated the talent, collaboration, and innovation driving Saskatchewan's health research community.

SHRF's [Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation] mission is to lead strategic investments in high-impact, peer-reviewed health research that works to be aligned with Saskatchewan's needs. They work to build and broaden Saskatchewan's health research and innovation capacity. SHRF focuses on facilitating the use of health research findings for informed decision making, from the individual to care providers to policy makers.

SHRF was recently recognized by the Return on Investment Institute as one of their 2017-2018 award winners for most innovative approach to ROI [return on investment]. This award was given to the individual or organization that shows the most creativity in implementation of the ROI methodology. Patrick Odnokon, CEO [chief executive officer] of SHRF, said, "It's an honour for SHRF to be recognized for the work we have done on measuring and demonstrating the impact of Saskatchewan health research."

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in congratulating Dr. Ingrid Pickering who was presented with the 2018 Achievement Award; Dr. Brenna Bath, presented with the Impact Award; and all the winners of the 15th annual Santé Awards.

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

Aboriginal Youth Entrepreneurship Program

Mr. Olason: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Aboriginal Youth Entrepreneurship Program is a strategic initiative that immerses students into the world of entrepreneurialism. Today we are joined by members from the One Arrow Business Club who have invented a home supply product, created a community garden, and have plans to install a greenhouse and beekeeping facility.

I'd also like to highlight the work of Shanice Beauchene from Muskoday First Nation, as she operates RedWaters Bagging. Her initiative creates awareness for missing and murdered indigenous women and children, and part of the profits are donated towards a women's shelter in Prince Albert.

We are also joined by the Muskoday Business Club students who are taking the lead in their newest business venture, which is a collaboration for all business club members. The company is called 3R Innovative Imaging, which stands for reduce, recycle, reinvent. They also just finished their audition for *Dragon's Den* last week, and we wish them luck.

Members of the Aboriginal Youth Entrepreneurship Program have many ventures that are indeed worth celebrating, but we know that that is just a start of a long successful career in business and innovation for these students. Mr. Speaker, I invite all members to please join me again in welcoming our guests and wishing them the best of luck in their future careers. Thank you.

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

Female Athlete of the Year Makes a Difference

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure to rise to recognize the accomplishments of a community leader, constituent, and friend, Carol LaFayette-Boyd. Carol grew up on a farm but moved to Regina at 14 and was the only black student when she attended Sheldon-Williams Collegiate, where she also participated in track and field. She studied psychiatric nursing followed by social work, and dedicated herself to making a difference through public service in diverse and important roles within social services. Carol is also a driving force within the Saskatchewan African Canadian Heritage Museum.

At the age of 50, Carol participated in a masters track meet in Regina. She has shared that she was hooked from that moment on. And not only did she train and compete, she won event after event and set record after record, and she continues to do that to this day. Carol holds world records for the 100 metre, the 200, as well as the long-, high-, and triple-jump events.

Carol has won many prestigious awards over time and has recently been named the 2018 Female Athlete of the Year by World Masters Athletics, a year in which she broke more world records at the age of 76.

Not only has Carol made her province incredibly proud, she has and continues to make it a better place. Please join me in thanking Carol LaFayette-Boyd for a life of service, and to celebrate her remarkable athletic accomplishments. Carol is truly a powerhouse on the track, and a powerhouse of good in the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Students Headed to Canada-Wide Science Fair

Mr. Hindley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Two Swift Current students are headed to the Canada-Wide Science Fair in May after winning in their respective divisions at the Chinook Regional Science Fair.

Parth Shah, a grade 10 student from Swift Current Comprehensive High School, and Fairview School grade 8 student Haden Harrison will be taking their winning projects to Fredericton for the national competition.

And let me tell you, Mr. Speaker, science fair projects have come a long way since the "can a potato conduct electricity" experiment which was pretty popular back when I was at school. Parth's project, which won the intermediate division, is an app-based program called Intuition that makes creating an app easier for people. In addition to winning the intermediate division, Parth also won the overall Science Fair Gold Award, the Rogers Innovation Award, and the SaskPower Award. And Mr. Speaker, Parth is no stranger to winning contests like this. He won the Chinook Regional Science Fair junior category back in 2017.

For Haden's project, he focused on how mass affects gravitational force and space, calling it "This is Warped." Haden said, "I was looking for something to expand my knowledge and create different viewpoints for myself." And let's remind members that Haden is only in grade 8.

The Canada-Wide Science Fair runs from May 15th to the 17th at the University of New Brunswick campus. I want to congratulate Parth and Haden on their winning experiments and wish them best of luck at nationals. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

No Room for Racism in Religion

Mr. Fiaz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last week I had the pleasure of speaking at the Regina Interfaith Discussion Dinner. The event served as an important opportunity to connect with our faith communities. The discussion: our current world that we live in. In the light of attacks in New Zealand, Mr. Speaker, which recall our memories on all tragic events in Quebec; Pittsburgh, United States on a synagogue; a church in Egypt; *Charlie Hebdo*, we are all again reminded that evil does exist in our world.

Though this evil does exist, we must be reminded that racism has no place in religion. Mr. Speaker, every religion may differ in beliefs and practice, but what they all have in common is their teaching of peace, love, and respect for other neighbours. We should not let our difference divide us. Unfortunately, many are driven by this difference and have caused violence in our world. We saw it in New Zealand; Quebec; and in Pittsburgh, United States; Egypt; and in France. This hatred does not represent the teachings of any faith, but we as a global community can move forward and heal together through the teaching of understanding and that there is love for all, hatred for none.

Our faith communities are healing, Mr. Speaker, and regardless of our backgrounds we must choose support for one another in the hard times. There is no room and will never be room for racism in religion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

[14:00]

Dress for Success Fundraising Gala

Ms. Ross: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On International Women's Day I, along with the member for Regina University, had the pleasure of attending Dress For Success annual fundraising gala, Shine.

Dress for Success Regina is a volunteer-led, not-for-profit organization. Since 2008 they have focused on providing long-lasting solutions that give women in Regina a chance to realize their full potential, achieve financial independence, and break the cycle of poverty. Dress for Success focuses on empowering women to achieve economic independence by providing a network of support, professional attire, and the development tools to help women thrive in the workplace and in life.

It is part of a global movement for change, empowering women to obtain safer and better futures. Mr. Speaker, this year's Shine gala featured a stunning leadership panel with some amazing local women: Kellie Garrett, an executive coach and speaker is one of Canada's most 100 powerful women; Nicole Cook, chief operating officer of Hope's Home; Annette Revet, chief transformation officer of Conexus Credit Union; Penelope Popp, assistant deputy minister for design and construction division in the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask all members of the Assembly to join me in thanking and congratulating Dress for Success and volunteers on a wonderful evening, and thank all the attendees for supporting such a wonderful cause. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Silverspring-Sutherland.

Special Olympics Athletes Make Saskatchewan Proud

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to share today the recent accomplishments of the Saskatchewan Special Olympics athletes. Between March 14th and 21st, athletes from around the world competed at the Special Olympics World Summer Games in Abu Dhabi and Dubai.

Coach Jackie Powell and athletes Addison Czaya-Woolly, Richard Dolan, Colby Kosteniuk, Dawn Rieben, Michael Qing, and Tianna Zimmerman all competed for Team Canada. This was the largest contingent of Saskatchewan athletes selected to represent Team Canada ever.

Mr. Speaker, in total these athletes won 14 medals. Addison placed third in the 100-metre run. Richard placed first in 10-pin bowling team event and second in singles and third in doubles. Colby won gold in the 400-metre freestyle swim and the 4 x 100 relay, and second in the 1500-metre freestyle. Dawn won gold in 10-pin bowling doubles. Michael won three gold medals in 1500-metre freestyle, 4 x 100 relay, and 800-metre freestyle, and a bronze in 400-metre freestyle. Tianna got gold in the 4 x 50 metre freestyle relay and third in the 800-metre freestyle relay.

Mr. Speaker, as a father of a Special Olympian, I ask all members to join me in congratulating the athletes and coaches and families on an amazing showing in the World Summer Games. You made

Saskatchewan proud. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Climate Change and Attendance at Rallies

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to start today off with a quote. It's a definition of sorts that says, "Climate change: the made-up catastrophe used by globalists and socialists to instill fear and guilt to tax, regulate, and remove our freedoms while pretending to save the planet."

And I'm wondering, Mr. Speaker, if the Premier recognizes the quote, knows what the source of that is, and whether he agrees with the sentiment, or whether he agrees with me that climate change is real, it is the result of human activity, and that it requires serious action.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — I don't recognize the quote, Mr. Speaker, so I have no idea who said that, but I did hear the Leader of the Opposition just quoted in. But the fact of the matter is, Mr. Speaker, climate change is real, Mr. Speaker. And climate change has been a focal point, I think in fairness, of the industries that are operating here in the province of Saskatchewan for quite a number of years now. We most notably look . . . and I've told the story of agriculture and how crop agriculture, Mr. Speaker, is carbon neutral.

You've seen the investment in the carbon capture and storage facility at Boundary dam 3 by this government, by the Crown corporation on behalf of the people of the province, Mr. Speaker. And you've seen what our industries are doing in mining and in manufacturing here in this province, Mr. Speaker.

Climate change is real. It is a global challenge, Mr. Speaker. And it's a global challenge that we need to ensure that we are engaging with our friends and neighbours around the world in sharing the innovation and the technology that we have to address this challenge far beyond the borders of our province.

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

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm glad to hear that the Premier agrees. The quote, however, comes from the official account of the Regina rally against the tax — the official account that this Premier has retweeted and promoted — a rally that he plans to attend, Mr. Speaker.

And you know, it just occurred to me. It occurred to me . . . Why was it so difficult for the Premier to distance himself from the yellow vests? We asked about this a number of times over the last few weeks and he wasn't able to do it. He wasn't able to say that he wouldn't be attending those rallies, or anyone else. And I just kept asking myself why. It shouldn't be that hard to do the right thing, especially the way that the rhetoric has become uglier and uglier over time. And I wondered if maybe he was just, you know, stubborn, didn't want to admit he was wrong but would privately be telling people, hey stay away from anything to do with the yellow vests. And that would have been reasonable.

But no, that's not the case. The reason he wouldn't do so, the reason he couldn't distance himself from yellow vest rallies is that he was busy planning one. Because the rally that's coming up, he couldn't disavow. How could he disavow a group that he's working alongside to prepare a rally? The so-called no-yellow-vests rally this Thursday, Mr. Speaker, is a yellow vest rally without the yellow vests. That's the only difference, Mr. Speaker.

And this is my question for the Premier: why was he not willing to make it clear that he couldn't distance himself from the yellow vests because he was depending on working alongside them to further his own political interests?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, the quotes that we can attribute to myself and to the Government of Saskatchewan are quotes that come out of my mouth, Mr. Speaker. We've talked about, we've talked with respect, Mr. Speaker, to myself and others on this side of the House condemning any acts of hate. Whether they be words, Mr. Speaker, whether they be actions, whether they occur here in this province, Mr. Speaker, whether they occur around the world, we most certainly condemn and denounce those.

Mr. Speaker, where the link is being drawn here, in fairness I think, and what the Leader of the Opposition is trying to link statements that are made in the broader public, Mr. Speaker, to different individuals, Mr. Speaker . . . Because there's some association on that side of the House, Mr. Speaker, with the Prime Minister of this nation and some of the flawed policies that are being implemented, namely a carbon tax, on this day, Mr. Speaker.

As we go back to October 30th, where the now Leader of the Opposition says, "We applaud the federal government's recent announcement of a minimum price on carbon." February 14th, 2017: "We also need to look at what's being done in other places and consider a modest carbon tax." Mr. Speaker, we go on to March 3rd, 2018: "I think carbon pricing is a model that works," Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, last week the Leader of the Opposition indicated he was going to attend that rally on behalf of the hard-working people in this province, Mr. Speaker, and the industries that they work in. Is he still willing to do that?

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

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I did say that I'd look into attending that rally, and that's exactly what I did, was look into it. Because it's not really about what people are wearing; it's about what they're saying, Mr. Speaker, and who is organizing it. And one of the main organizers and the spokesperson for this rally — the spokesperson for the group that the Premier has accepted to address — is a fellow by the name of Jason LeBlanc.

And Jason attended the rebranded yellow vest convoy event in Ottawa, the event that featured Faith Goldy among other great luminaries, Mr. Speaker. And he gave a speech at that rally, and in his speech he described himself as a "man-made climate change doomsday denier." And he said that the Prime Minister is someone who ". . . manipulates society through basic human

needs and wants to make the globe a one-world government," Mr. Speaker.

Far-out-there conspiracy theories, climate change denial, anti-immigrant, anti-Muslim, anti-Semitic sentiment — this is what the yellow vest movement has become, Mr. Speaker. And I do not understand, but I'd like the Premier to explain why he wants to be associated with that group.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, I've made my thoughts and my beliefs with respect to racism, Mr. Speaker, with respect to comments that have been made in this province, Mr. Speaker, and around and how we denounce those, Mr. Speaker. I've made myself clear with respect to how we should best be addressing climate change in Saskatchewan and sharing that knowledge and innovation that we have with other places around the world, Mr. Speaker, so that we can truly make a difference in what is a global challenge, Mr. Speaker.

And I will continue to stand with the people this Thursday, the hard-working people of this province in the industries that create wealth in our communities right across Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. I will continue to stand with our farmers and our agriculture industry as we address challenges, market access challenges that we have, Mr. Speaker. I will continue to stand with the manufacturers in communities right across this province, whether it be at Evraz steel north of the city or whether it be, Mr. Speaker, in our strong and vibrant agricultural manufacturing industry in communities right across Saskatchewan. I'll stand with our energy workers. I'll stand with our mining workers, Mr. Speaker.

This is a government that will continue to ensure that we can have every opportunity to grow our economy, to welcome people to move to our communities from across Canada, across North America, and from around the world, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It appears from public communications and online presentation of materials that the Sask Party has been working directly with Mr. LeBlanc and the organizers in planning this event.

And my question is, where has that collaboration been going on? Has that been from the Sask Party itself or has it been through the Premier's office?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, I was invited to attend and I accepted. So wherever that . . . Correspondence unit, I suppose, is where you'd find it.

But the fact of the matter is, Mr. Speaker, with respect to the Leader of the Opposition, you know, linking people, Mr. Speaker, to statements that have been made by other people here in the province, I maybe would ask this: we have energy workers, Mr. Speaker, working in communities across southern Saskatchewan, up the west side of our province. Is he in turn linking these hard-working families, Mr. Speaker, people in their

communities, as being racist, Mr. Speaker? Is he linking them and telling them that they are climate change deniers, Mr. Speaker? We have farmers virtually in every community across this province, Mr. Speaker; I don't think they're climate change deniers. I actually think they're some of the strongest environmentalists in the world.

We have 1,000 people working in one plant just north of our capital city here, Mr. Speaker, a plant that has a very, very strong environmental record, whether it comes to the recycling of water and the water usage of that plant, Mr. Speaker, or whether it's compared to their competitors around the world with respect to their greenhouse gas emissions, Mr. Speaker.

We have a strong record here in the province of Saskatchewan, and I'm going to stand with each and every one of these hard-working members in our communities in this province.

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

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think we all agree in this House that the people of Saskatchewan are good people, that the people of Saskatchewan are not racists, that the people of Saskatchewan have strong values. This is why this matters, Mr. Speaker . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order, please. I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Meili: — That is why this matters, Mr. Speaker. That is why it's important. Because a small group, a small group of people have become involved with this yellow vest organization, have been part of fomenting this discussion online.

Canadian Anti-Hate Network and other organizations that track this have seen the way that anti-Islamic, anti-Semitic, anti-immigrant sentiment has been on the rise in Canada. And it's for the honour of the people of Saskatchewan that the Premier should take his role seriously. And for the Premier, a man in his position to stand up and attend events organized by the yellow vests, to associate with that organization in any way, sends a terrible message, sends a terrible message to newcomers to this province and it sends a dangerous message to that small minority that would spread hate against them.

Will he do the right thing? Will he stand up today and cancel his attendance at that rally on Thursday?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, it's a rally against Bill C-69. It's a rally against Bill C-48. It's a rally against the carbon tax, Mr. Speaker, of which 88 per cent of the people in this province actually agree with the government's position, Mr. Speaker.

So the question I would have back, the question I would have back, Mr. Speaker, is, is he going to attend the rally with me?

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

Minimum Wage in Saskatchewan

Mr. McCall: — Mr. Speaker, once again Saskatchewan is dead last when it comes to minimum wage in Canada. Nova Scotia today is the latest province to jump ahead of us. And what did low wage workers get from this government the last time wages went up? An increase of a dime, Mr. Speaker, a dime per year.

[14:15]

With this government's formula, Saskatchewan people won't get to \$15 an hour until 2052. With the Sask Party so concerned about the cost of living for Saskatchewan people, why did they only give workers a wage increase of a dime last year?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, since we formed government in 2007, the minimum wage has increased 10 times and has increased by some 39 per cent. Mr. Speaker, at the request of the opposition, the request of businesses, and the requests from people in our province, we chose to adopt an indexation formula, that the increase would be set annually and the increase would be halfway between the average hourly wage increase and the increase in the consumer price index.

Mr. Speaker, that is the process that we followed and that is the process that we are continuing to follow. It is predictable, it is sustainable, and it is working well, Mr. Speaker. At times it will go up. At times it will not go up as fast as other provinces but, Mr. Speaker, it is something that's working well for the businesses in our province and is working well for the people in our province, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. McCall: — Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan minimum wage workers are the lowest minimum wage workers in all of Canada, Mr. Speaker. That's where this government's actions have led us to, Mr. Speaker. So there's a chance today for the minister and that government to recognize that there's a problem with Saskatchewan workers being the last in the pack, Mr. Speaker, and get the situation right.

You know, in terms of working for minimum wage, you'd think that it would result in dignity. You'd think that it would result in a living wage. You'd think that all these things would come to bear when it comes to this government making those decisions but, Mr. Speaker, it hasn't resulted in that.

This is a government that, you know, earlier today was talking about their concern for workers. And if that is true, Mr. Speaker, then how is it that minimum wage workers in the province of Saskatchewan are once again dead last in all of Canada?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, we've made changes in our taxation system. We've made changes to how much a worker can earn before they pay any tax at all. The effect of that change is 112,000 people have been taken off the tax rolls.

Mr. Speaker, a person earning minimum wage today in Saskatchewan earns about \$6,000 a year more than they did in 2007 under the NDP [New Democratic Party]. But, Mr. Speaker, here's the thing: today in Saskatchewan, even with \$6,000 a year more income, the same minimum wage earner actually pays about \$200 less in provincial income tax.

Once again the NDP says one thing and does another. Under the NDP the people were making less money and the NDP was taking more of it. Today wages are higher, taxes are lower, more people are working than ever before in this province.

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

Mr. McCall: — Mr. Speaker, I tell you what the minimum wage hasn't kept up with. It hasn't kept up with the numerous power bill increases that this government has foisted on Saskatchewan families. I'll tell you something else, Mr. Speaker. It hasn't kept up with the fact that last year they took a billion extra dollars on PST, and that still gets paid forward to this very day, Mr. Speaker. That's something else.

I guess, Mr. Speaker, when it comes to, you know, what the minister wants to say, how is it that in every other sector we want to lead the country; we want to be competitive, but when it comes to the hardest working, least paid members of our society, Mr. Speaker, dead last is the best they can expect from this government? How is that in any way right?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, the members want to talk about PST. They should talk about their record on PST. Mr. Speaker, a single person in Saskatchewan making \$40,000 pays \$767 less income tax and PST than when the NDP were in government. A family of four making \$50,000 in Saskatchewan pays \$2,325 less income tax and PST than when the NDP were in government. Mr. Speaker, a family of four making \$75,000 in Saskatchewan pays \$1,791 less income tax and PST than when the NDP were in government.

Mr. Speaker, that's why we're in government, and that's why the NDP are in the opposition. And that's why they're going to stay there for a very long time.

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

Fees for Lease of Crown Land

Mr. Pedersen: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party's budget contained many surprises that came with no consultation whatsoever. The potash companies saw their fees going up with no warning. Cornwall School saw its budget slashed on budget day with no warning at all. And now the fallacy of the right balance has been exposed by Crown land leaseholders like Darwin Williams who are going to see their fees increase by 500 per cent over the next two years.

How is anyone in this province supposed to invest or make business decisions knowing that their fees that they owe to the government could increase fivefold in the space of two years? How is that respecting small businesses?

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

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the member for the question. Mr. Speaker, first of all these were a part of fee adjustments that were announced to the public several weeks before the budget came out, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, these are fees for Crown land dispositions that have not been updated for more than 12 years in most cases, more than a decade, Mr. Speaker, and I think in all the cases, Mr. Speaker. And what the Ministry of Environment did, in conjunction with other ministries, is did a review that found that many of the fees were below market value, Mr. Speaker.

And so we felt that after no adjustments in 12 years and considering the fact that the market had . . . adjustments had exceeded what people are now paying for the use of Crown land, Mr. Speaker, that we felt that it was appropriate that we try to, over the course of a number of years, catch up those fees to what are the fees that are paid for on privately owned land, Mr. Speaker. So most of these fees will be phased in, either in a two- or four-year period. In some exceptions it will be over this year.

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

Mr. Pedersen: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Getting a fair return for the public requires the government to actually be fair. And there's nothing fair about a budget that hikes fees fivefold with no warning at all, that drives up your costs with zero consultation. And operators like Darwin are concerned that these changes that were announced are making bigger businesses more profitable while making smaller, northern operations like his . . . giving them more fees, fewer profits.

Why didn't the government show businesses like Darwin the respect? Why didn't the government give those people the respect of consulting with them before making the decision? Why didn't they listen to business owners like Darwin before giving him a five-fold increase in his fees?

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

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, I think everybody is, I think, of the same opinion, that whether it's oil and gas development, whether it's peat development, whether it's the extraction of sand and gravel, this has, Mr. Speaker, extensive surface disturbances for those individuals' economic gain, Mr. Speaker. And so it is our job and our responsibility to ensure that the public is having a fair return from the individuals that are leasing those Crown lands from the Government of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

In these cases, most if not all of these had not had an economic adjustment for over a decade. In most cases, for more than 12 years, there had been no increase in the fees, Mr. Speaker, and yet the disturbance, the extensive disturbance that takes place on these Crown lands continues for those individuals' economic gain, Mr. Speaker. And so in all of the decisions that government has to make, we have to balance, find the right balance between ensuring that there is continued economic development but also ensuring, Mr. Speaker, that there is a proper return for the people of Saskatchewan.

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

Reports on the Village of Pinehouse and the Global Transportation Hub

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, instead of the minister helping the northern village of Pinehouse three years ago as she promised, we learned last week the government is now calling an inquiry into a situation that should have been fixed three years ago. On this side of the House, we know it's important to get to the bottom of concerns and to restore public trust.

But, Mr. Speaker, it's remarkable how willing this government is to call an inquiry into a situation created by someone else, meanwhile denying Saskatchewan people the inquiry into the mess that they created at the GTH [Global Transportation Hub]. The auditor's report was not a forensic audit, and Bill Boyd and other key players at the heart of the mess have never testified on the land deals that made Sask Party donors millions and left Saskatchewan people holding the bag. To this day, Saskatchewan people are still out millions. Will this government finally call an inquiry to find out why?

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

Hon. Mr. Kaeding: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regards to Pinehouse, we're currently awaiting a final report that we've initiated with our inspector, Neil Robertson. We've sent him into the community to find out some of our, you know . . . to build around some of our concerns that we've had in the community. We're awaiting the final report, and once we get details from him, we will have a decision made and be able to release our report.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, I don't know. I thought I asked a question about the GTH, and I'm not sure why the Minister of Government Relations . . . But we thank him. We thank him for his answer, that's for sure, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, there are tens of millions of taxpayers' dollars in the wind on the GTH. Non-criminality doesn't get our money back and doesn't get Saskatchewan people the answers they deserve on the GTH.

Before losing his leadership bid and being gagged by his seatmate, the Deputy Premier said, "The only way to lift the cloud over the GTH is to shine a very bright and very public light on the entire matter." The only bright lights that we've seen on this matter, Mr. Speaker, were Bill Boyd's tail lights as he cruised into the sunset without answering a damn thing about this mess, Mr. Speaker. Any government worth their . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — You can . . . It's unparliamentary. You can withdraw and apologize.

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, I withdraw and apologize for the use of that word.

Okay, let's try it again then. They didn't answer a thing about this mess, Mr. Speaker. Any government worth their salt would apply the same level of diligence that the Minister of Government Relations just talked about to the GTH, the municipality they created, as is being applied to the northern municipality of Pinehouse. To the Minister of the GTH: will he commit to calling an inquiry today?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, as the Minister Responsible for the GTH, a project started by the NDP, I'm pleased to answer the question, Mr. Speaker. And I'm willing to say this: the GTH land assembly is one of the most thoroughly examined projects ever undertaken in this province. Mr. Speaker, I want to say this. The members opposite have heard this, and I will repeat it again to the NDP: that project has been examined extensively. They made complaints to the Provincial Auditor. They made complaints to the Conflict of Interest Commissioner. They made complaints to the RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police]. The RCMP spent 7,500 hours of investigation, 1,000 days. It was one of the most comprehensive, meticulous investigations by 10 RCMP commercial crime investigators. Mr. Speaker, it's done.

The Speaker: — Why is the Opposition House Leader on her feet?

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, before orders of the day, I request leave to move a motion regarding the *Rules and Procedures of the Legislative Assembly*.

The Speaker: — The Opposition House Leader has requested leave to move a motion regarding the *Rules and Procedures of the Legislative Assembly*. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave has been granted. The Opposition House Leader may proceed.

MOTIONS

Motions to Amend Rules 48 and 1

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Government House Leader and I will be moving a few motions this afternoon that will help to ensure that this Chamber moves the ball forward in terms of accommodations for MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly] and in particular MLAs who are pregnant and who have given birth.

I do want to take this opportunity to specifically thank members on both sides of the House and in particular House leadership on opposition side and the Deputy House Leader and the House Leader on the government side for working so well together, as well as the Clerks and yourself, Mr. Speaker, for working expeditiously and in unison on this very important non-partisan issue, Mr. Speaker.

I would say it's my hope — and I think it's very fair to say that it's everyone's hope — that this will help, like I said, move the ball forward in the Chamber and move us forward in terms of accommodation and support. And hopefully we won't have to

wait another 30 years before we see another pregnant MLA in this Chamber.

[14:30]

Mr. Speaker, with that I move:

That the *Rules and Procedures of the Legislative Assembly* be amended by adding the following after rule 48(8):

48(9) Infants being cared for by a member shall not be regarded as strangers.

The Speaker: — The Opposition House Leader has moved:

That the *Rules and Procedures of the Legislative Assembly* be amended by adding the following after rule 48(8):

48(9) Infants being cared for by a member shall not be regarded as strangers.

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: — The motion is carried. Why is the Government House Leader on his feet?

Hon. Mr. Brkich: — I request leave to move a motion regarding the *Rules and Procedures of the Legislative Assembly*.

The Speaker: — The Government House Leader has requested leave to move a motion regarding the *Rules and Procedures of the Legislative Assembly*. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave has been granted. The Government House Leader may proceed.

Hon. Mr. Brkich: — I move:

That rule 1(2) of the *Rules and Procedures of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan* be amended by omitting the word “permit” and inserting in its place the word “accommodate” and removing all the words after “any member” and inserting the following:

- (a) with a disability;
- (b) with an illness or pregnancy related need; and
- (c) that requires to care for their infant in the Chamber.

I so move.

The Speaker: — The Government House Leader has moved:

That rule 1(2) of the *Rules and Procedures of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan* be amended by omitting the

word “permit” and inserting in its place the word “accommodate” and removing all the words after “any Member” and inserting the following:

- (a) with a disability;
- (b) with an illness or pregnancy related need; and
- (c) that requires to care for their infant in the Chamber.

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: — The motion is carried.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

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 Speaker: — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Riversdale.

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It’s my pleasure to rise to enter debate on Bill No. 137, *The SaskEnergy (Miscellaneous) Amendment Act, 2018*. It’s a rather brief bill. There was a SaskEnergy bill before us a year or so ago, Mr. Speaker, but this one doesn’t have a lot of content to it. In fact it introduces minor changes.

The approval of the Lieutenant Governor for participants generally approved to distribute gas will be granted through a regular order in council, but an additional specific order in council will be required for individual submissions. The same goes actually for transport of gas. So the approval of the Lieutenant Governor for participants generally approved to transport gas would be granted through a regular order in council, but an additional specific order in council will be required for individual submissions.

The minister actually talks about these proposed amendments to section 24 in Bill 137 as looking ahead to the future. The minister, in her comments, describes that “The change will establish a framework to allow SaskEnergy to continue to protect its distribution and transportation franchise while also supporting the innovation that will allow our energy sector to continue to play a vital role in our economy.”

The other particular thing that this bill does, Mr. Speaker, is it

increases the debt limit of SaskEnergy by 800 million, moving from 1.7 billion to 2.5 billion, Mr. Speaker. So that in itself is concerning. I mean there are undoubtedly infrastructure issues around SaskEnergy where investment is required, but we've seen these increases before. This is a government who's piled debt onto our Crowns, has pulled debt out of our Crowns as well, Mr. Speaker.

When we get this bill to committee there'll be some very specific questions. As the critic responsible, I'll be very interested in seeing the 5- and 10-year capital plan to see if it matches the requested increase of the 800 million and to see if this can actually be justified.

Around the single orders in council, I'll be wanting to know if there are examples in the past when government would have done this in similar circumstances in terms of simplifying the process. Other questions will be, will there be any programs in the next few years that are in the plans where this change would apply?

So we'll have an opportunity when Bill No. 137, *The SaskEnergy (Miscellaneous) Amendment Act, 2018* gets to committee. I look forward to that opportunity. And with that, I will finish my comments for now and will allow it to move to committee.

The Speaker: — Question before the Assembly is a motion by the minister that Bill No. 137 be now read a second time. Pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

The Speaker: — To which committee shall this bill be committed?

Hon. Mr. Brkich: — I designate that Bill No. 137, *The SaskEnergy (Miscellaneous) Amendment Act, 2018* be committed to the Standing Committee on the Economy.

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

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 Speaker: — I recognize the member for Regina Northeast.

Mr. Pedersen: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's an honour today to participate in the debate on Bill 140, *An Act respecting Animal Health and the Prevention, Control and Eradication of Diseases among Animals*, 2018. Mr. Speaker, this is an important update. It's been quite some time since our animal health legislation has been updated. It's been decades actually. And while it's good to see our legislation responding to the changing needs of our province and changing situations, the question it always brings to my mind is, why do some things get updated and not others?

And I think of, you know, another piece of legislation that's been quite some time since it's been updated. And that's the surface rights legislation that . . . There doesn't seem to be any rush to update that even though it is also decades old and in need of update.

But I digress, Mr. Speaker, because this debate is about *The Animal Health Act*. Mr. Speaker, climate change is obviously a global issue but it's one that is impacting Saskatchewan. It's one that's impacting our economy, our residents, our businesses, and it's impacting the animals that live here. One of the things that we've seen with climate change that's impacting our economy and businesses here is it's made it possible for Lyme disease-bearing ticks to move into the province. Climate change has resulted in the pine bark beetle being able to move east and could be impacting our boreal forest. These will have significant impacts on our province, Mr. Speaker, so it's important that our legislation stays abreast of these things.

It's also important that our province have legislation and action to address other ways that climate change impacts our province and to mitigate our role in creating that climate change. And while there is some part on the government to try to figure out how we can make Saskatchewan businesses and residents more resilient to the changes brought about by climate change — whether that's changes to pests, weeds, or diseases — where we've seen the government drop the ball on climate change is actually in mitigating the causes of it and reducing our emissions. And on that front, Mr. Speaker, sadly we see this government continuing to just drop the ball in terms of reducing emissions.

Mr. Speaker, one of the important measures in this bill is actually moving the reporting structure, I guess you might call it, away from the Minister of Agriculture to the chief veterinarian of the province. And that's probably a good measure, Mr. Speaker, because the chief veterinarian is the one of course who has the technical knowledge, the technical insight into these issues much more so than politicians do. And while the Minister of Agriculture of course has the benefit of getting information and briefings from ministry staff, at the end of the day the minister's office is a political office and that's not where decisions of science ought to be made. And so it's probably a good thing that the chief veterinarian will be where that process is going.

Mr. Speaker, I noted with interest the definition of "animals" in the new legislation. And it's any animal, so that does include not just mammals and reptiles and amphibians and birds, it also includes insects. And that includes honey bees which are of course an animal, an insect near and dear to my heart, along with other pollinators.

And so I'll have a fair bit of curiosity as to what this bill will mean for insect health in our province. Because although most of us don't really . . . most of us view insects as an annoyance as they're buzzing around or getting places where we don't really want them, the reality is they're a very important part of our ecosystem. They're at the bottom of the food chain so they support a lot of higher life forms, so they are very important part of our province too.

Mr. Speaker, I also have some curiosity as to how this bill will impact, not just our agricultural producers who are a very important part of our economy, but also how this bill will impact

things like pet-care facilities, boarding kennels and such like that. I have a friend who operates a boarding kennel just outside of the province so I know has expressed some concerns or suggestions when it comes to this bill that I'm looking forward to dig into when it's in committee.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I think what I'll do is I'll wrap up my comments on this bill. I'm prepared to have this bill move to committee where we can dig into this, dig into the merits of this bill in some greater detail.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the minister that Bill No. 140 be now read a second time. Pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

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

Hon. Mr. Brkich: — I designate that Bill No. 140, *The Animal Health Act* be committed to the Standing Committee on the Economy.

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

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 Regina Northeast.

Mr. Pedersen: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour again to participate in this debate. Mr. Speaker, this bill might be seen as simply updating the legislation on irrigation infrastructure in the province, but I suspect it's probably necessary because this government wants to offload a bunch of the deferred liability and maintenance debt, the infrastructure debt, onto irrigation districts and get it off of the provincial books.

[14:45]

That seems to be the way that this government does it, is when this government is talking about striking the right balance, it's about downloading liabilities off of its books onto the backs of communities and businesses and farmers and residents that can't afford it. Mr. Speaker, when it comes to irrigation districts, many of them have hundreds of millions of dollars of deferred maintenance liability or liability for deferred maintenance, infrastructure that's going to need to have dollars spent in it. And those are big dollars, Mr. Speaker.

But the farmers that are benefiting from the irrigation aren't the only ones who benefit from irrigation. The public and the local economies also benefit from irrigation infrastructure. And I think

it's for that reason, Mr. Speaker, that both the federal and provincial governments have seen fit to invest in irrigation projects over the years and seen fit to put those dollars in on behalf of the public because there is benefit to more than simply the local and immediate producers who get to use the water.

Mr. Speaker, I think it's a little ironic actually that governments seem excited and interested in investing in new irrigation projects. And there's been talk of new irrigation projects in the last couple of years. Nothing coming to fruition yet, but lots of talk and buzz about the possibility of new irrigation, new and exciting irrigation. So I find it a little bit ironic that we might be, as a public, investing in new irrigation infrastructure, but at the same time not able to keep up the maintenance and rehabilitation of existing infrastructure, and instead of spending the required money on that, just passing that off to local farmers and producers even where it has been indicated that they're not really that excited about taking on that responsibility.

And I know, Mr. Speaker, that one of the ways that irrigation districts had their arms twisted to take over those liabilities was that the transfer agreements and the legislation gave them broad exemption from liability clauses there that protect the irrigation districts who manage these infrastructure assets, gave them broad protection from public liability.

Now there's probably an argument to be made that that might be necessary. But I think, Mr. Speaker, you'd also have to be curious as to why the clause on the exemption from liability was so broad, in fact broader than many other government institutions or municipalities get. And so that, Mr. Speaker, is a concern, one that we'll be looking into when it comes to going to committee.

Mr. Speaker, another question that comes up with the transfer of the irrigation infrastructure assets to irrigation districts is on the government's insistence that confidentiality clauses or non-disclosure clauses be negotiated into the agreements. And that, Mr. Speaker, is a little curious, because there's nothing commercially sensitive in these contracts. There's no trade secrets. There's no competition going on. And so you have to wonder if there's any reason for putting confidentiality clauses into these agreements other than simply giving the government the means to avoid public scrutiny on them to give . . . to take away the right of irrigation districts to compare notes and maybe negotiate themselves a better deal. So that's a little curious, Mr. Speaker, when you have confidentiality clauses negotiated into agreements where there's really no necessity for confidentiality. That raises the very interesting question of why.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I think there will be lots of room to investigate the merits of this bill in committee. And so with that, Mr. Speaker, I'm prepared to wrap up my comments and let this bill move to committee.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion by the minister that Bill No. 162 be now read a second time. Pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — Second reading of

this bill.

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

Hon. Mr. Brkich: — I designate that Bill No. 162, *The Irrigation Act, 2018* be committed to the Standing Committee on the Economy.

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

Bill No. 165

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

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

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise today to enter into adjourned debate on Bill No. 165, *The Workers' Compensation Amendment Act* of 2018. I'll talk about some of the changes that are being proposed in this legislation as well as some changes that perhaps we could be seeing, and then I will conclude my remarks, Mr. Speaker.

In the minister's second reading speech, he identified what some of the key changes were that would be put forward in this legislation, one being to expand presumptive coverage for Saskatchewan firefighters to include prostate cancer, skin cancer, breast cancer, cervical cancer, ovarian cancer, and multiple myeloma.

There's obviously a tremendous amount of debt and gratitude that we owe to these individuals, Mr. Speaker. And I want to say that I've been present in the Legislative Assembly when we've had the Saskatchewan Professional Fire Fighters Association come speak to our caucus about what the dangers are of their profession and how important the expansion of this coverage is. They really are putting themselves at tremendous risk for the benefit of the general public. And so it's a key and important change, and certainly one that we can get behind, Mr. Speaker.

I also understand that one of the other changes that's being proposed in this bill is to change the board composition at WCB, the Workers' Compensation Board. So the minister has said that when the committee of review submitted its recommendations in August 2016, one was to increase the size of the board. They undertook further consultations on how to achieve that, and now what they're proposing is expanding the board to seven members as per the committee's report. This is going to include a full-time chairperson; two full-time members, one representing employers and one representing workers; and four part-time members, once again equally representing employers and workers. And previously the Act allowed for a board of up to five full-time members, and historically the board has been composed of three full-time members. So this will lead to significant change.

A couple of other changes that we are seeing with this bill: it amends some definitions, it establishes the responsibilities of the

board, it clarifies that dependent spouse benefits are to be indexed to the consumer price index, it changes the time period for reviews of the Act and regulations, it makes housekeeping amendments to maintain consistent language throughout the Act, and it includes consequential amendments to *The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. So that's when we see changes being made to other Acts as a result of the consequence of the changes that are made to this Act. So a number of different changes.

I think that we can't talk about *The Workers' Compensation Amendment Act*, Mr. Speaker, without talking about where workplace fatalities are at in this province. The member for Elphinstone-Centre has raised workplace fatalities a number of times this year in this Assembly, and recently raised it in question period, Mr. Speaker. You know, when we see workplace fatalities reaching alarming numbers, increasing by 78 per cent this year, we have to ask what the government's plan is to reverse this trend.

We know that the president of the SFL [Saskatchewan Federation of Labour], Lori Johb, is calling for a strategy, a comprehensive worker fatalities crisis strategy. We haven't heard from the minister about whether he will commit to this strategy, whether he will commit to meeting with the SFL to come up with a plan, Mr. Speaker, on how to address this.

You know, it's 2019. We don't expect that we're going to see numbers this alarming when we're talking about workplace fatalities. Something has to be done to work toward minimizing the risk to workers across our province. You know, these are just people who are out trying to make a living, trying to provide for their families. And when they're being put in unnecessarily risky positions, it is something we should be looking at, and is certainly the role of government to make sure that we have regulations that will protect our workers.

Occupational diseases, such as the exposure to asbestos, continue to be leading causes of workplace fatalities. We've certainly been outspoken on this side of the Assembly about the need for changes in these areas. According to the WCB's board:

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

Additionally, the Saskatchewan Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization has raised awareness about the lack of certification standard for asbestos and abatement removal contractors in Saskatchewan. So raising some serious concerns here. There's still no clear answer about what the government is going to do to fix this very real problem. And while we have the Act opened up is a time to reflect on the changes that need to take place, and whether this government is doing their job to keep our workers safe and to ensure they are able to return home safely to their families at night, Mr. Speaker.

I know that a number of my colleagues will want to weigh in further and that we'll have further questions in committee. But with that I will move that we adjourn debate on this bill today.

The Speaker: — The member has moved to adjourn debate on

Bill No. 165. 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 Regina Northeast.

Mr. Pedersen: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's an honour to be here to participate in the debate of this legislation, although to be honest I'm not actually sure what it does. So, Mr. Speaker, a lot of the amendments in this bill are pretty technical, pretty formal, and it's amending some . . . A lot of it is what we would typically call housekeeping. And, Mr. Speaker, housekeeping amendments are such that you really need to dig into. You need to be familiar with the area, Mr. Speaker. My background is not in how school boards run. That's not my expertise.

So, Mr. Speaker, I'm afraid I don't have a lot that I can offer in the debate on this bill, although I'm tempted to respond to some of the critiques from my friends across the House. You know, it's always a pleasure to engage in those debates, Mr. Speaker, but I don't know that this particular occasion is the time or the place to remind the member from Martensville that they didn't reopen any schools or hospitals . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Mr. Speaker, it's not often that the member from Martensville can say that she didn't say anything, but maybe she's right for once.

[15:00]

Mr. Speaker, in any case, getting back to education and this particular bill, I'm going to simply conclude my remarks and move that debate on this bill be adjourned.

The Speaker: — The member has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 157. Pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 158

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

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's always a pleasure to enter in the debate here on the floor of the House, and today we're talking about Bill No. 158, *The Youth Justice Administration Act, 2018*.

It's always good to take a look at the minister's second reading

remarks, along with reading the bill, to get a sense of where the government is coming from when it comes to the legislation that comes before us. That's always a good place to start, Mr. Speaker.

Just with respect to *The Youth Justice Administration Act* he pointed out, the minister pointed out in his second reading speech that it coincided with the implementation of the federal *Youth Criminal Justice Act*, the Act that established the minister's authority to set up and operate custody facilities and provide youth justice services here, Mr. Speaker.

The bill does a number of things. It is in fact a very administrative bill. The minister points out that it codifies existing regulations, policies, and best practices to provide a more comprehensive piece of legislation to govern youth custody facilities here in the province. He points out that:

Provisions [are] being moved from the regulations to the Act [including] . . . respecting when and how searches of young persons, visitors, and youth workers will be performed and who may perform those searches. [It also establishes] . . . informal discipline processes and requiring that youth workers attempt informal resolution. [And thirdly it provides] . . . for the use of reasonable force and establishing provisions surrounding secluded room time.

The minister points out that:

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

The minister in his second reading speech also points out that the goal of the Act will be to:

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

[It also carries forward] from the regulations the provisions placing limits on the use of force and the use of physical restraint devices. [The minister points out that] the Act will also support community youth workers in their efforts providing reports for youth justice courts and supervising young persons, as well as the creation of community youth justice services.

And the minister also talks about the Act supporting:

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

So those are some of the minister's thoughts on what the legislation will do. I think it's important when we talk about youth justice, that we talk about environmental conditions or conditions which often see our young people needing to end up in some of these facilities, Mr. Speaker. I don't think you can talk about youth justice without talking about education, without talking about addressing poverty, without talking about mental health and addictions issues.

Mr. Speaker, those are all . . . I happened to, on Friday night in my community and in my constituency actually, there was a community emergency meeting that had close to 300 people in attendance due to recent shootings that have taken place in the area and some fear and concern about what's been going on in the neighbourhood, and in large measure due to crime and gangs and, according to police services, in large measure due to the drug trade of crystal meth.

So we're talking about youth justice here, but I think you have to walk all of that back and take a look at how we are supporting families because children don't live independent of their families. They live in the context of their families. So how are mom and dad doing? Do mom and dad have the supports to make sure they can put food on the table, that they have the supports so they can work or go to school to pursue their own dreams as well — all those pieces that sometimes, due to poverty and multiple generations of trauma, can be problematic.

So I think we really need to talk about, when we talk about some of this and these regulatory changes, we have to talk about the overrepresentation of Aboriginal youth in custody. For example, in 2016-17, 92 per cent for males and 98 per cent for females of youth admitted in custody were Aboriginal, Mr. Speaker. So what I think is important to talk about is, what is this government's strategy for reducing youth crime? But again youth crime is, I think, a result of all those other things — about lack of opportunity, about poverty and intergenerational trauma, and how we support folks to get the services that they need.

We just had a budget and we had a government who invested more than they have in the past in mental health and addictions, for example. But in terms of new mental health initiatives in this budget, there's only 0.18 per cent of the health budget for new mental health dollars, for new initiatives. So 0.18 per cent . . . It was, I think, 9.65 million provincial dollars that went directly into new initiatives. And if you added also the staff at the North Battleford hospital, the Saskatchewan Hospital North Battleford, it would be 0.4 per cent of the budget. So this is a government who patted itself on its back for making some investment in mental health and addiction, which is welcome and long overdue, but we need to do better.

We had an education budget that doesn't even maintain the status quo. So I know in my community, for example, at St. Mary's school, which is just down from where the meeting was held, there are huge challenges, Mr. Speaker, educational challenges making sure that kids have opportunities to those supports

outside of the educational assistants in the classroom but all those other necessary supports that kids need. Sometimes speech therapists, speech and language can be an issue. There are so many things that kids need. If we invest it early on in child care and then in pre-K [pre-kindergarten] through grade 1 through 12 would do a huge, I think, would do a huge favour to helping support kids not be in our youth justice system.

We have to do better. This government needs to do better. We as a society have to do better to make sure that kids aren't growing up in poverty. We talk about child poverty, but it's important again to remember that kids live in the context of our family, so it's family poverty as well, Mr. Speaker.

So I know that when this bill gets to committee, the Justice critic will have many questions about *The Youth Justice Administration Act, 2018* — that's Bill No. 158 — some very specific questions, but I just wanted to add some comments about the context in which children and youth find themselves in custody and how we need to do better to prevent those high incarceration or custody rates, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Mr. Speaker. Pardon me. It's that time of day and I'm used to the Deputy Speaker sitting in the chair for a little bit. Anyway with that I would like to move to adjourn debate.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to enter into debate this afternoon. Although it's with some level of frustration, as well, that we have the bill before us here today in a way that it's been designed, Mr. Speaker, because the bill as it's constructed around trespasses is really not enforceable, Mr. Speaker. It's certainly not practical as it's been designed, and it misses the mark for the real concerns that exist, that are present around property crime in rural Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, real concerns that deserve a response from this government, action from this government. But this bill isn't it.

Nor is this bill an adequate response to real concerns that exist around clubroot, concerns that are specific to certain parts of the province, but are concerns none the less. And this is no solution to the challenges of clubroot either, Mr. Speaker.

So it's no fix to problems. It's not practical as it relates to heritage industries and the incredible activities in this province like hunting and fishing and extend that through berry picking and hiking and photography and birding, Mr. Speaker. And it's not enforceable, Mr. Speaker.

Now I come at this as, you know, someone who's hunted and fished and hiked and camped and paddled in every corner of this province, Mr. Speaker. I think beyond our people, who are our greatest asset, to our natural environment. And our habitat is second to none in the world, Mr. Speaker, and presents us with such exceptional opportunities within this province, Mr. Speaker.

But I also come at this as a treaty person as well, Mr. Speaker. And not only have they brought forward a bill that has brought forward changes that aren't practical and not enforceable and no fix to the challenges of rural crime, Mr. Speaker, or clubroot, but they've done so without any consultation with those that have accessed land for thousands and thousands of years, Mr. Speaker, indigenous peoples of our province. And I find it incredibly disrespectful, Mr. Speaker.

And if you're making changes on these fronts, Mr. Speaker, and you're talking about laws around land access, Mr. Speaker, you need to have the backbone and the decency, Mr. Speaker, to engage indigenous peoples, Mr. Speaker, who have hunted and fished and berry picked this land for, well for more than generations, Mr. Speaker, for thousands of years.

I also find it dismissive and disrespectful and fraught with, you know, creating bad legislation or legislation without understanding some of the unintended consequences, Mr. Speaker, to not consult with the wildlife federation or the hunters and fishers of this province, Mr. Speaker. Over 30,000 members of the wildlife federation not engaged, Mr. Speaker, until the eleventh hour when the bill was written and being presented.

That's not being a partner with good stewards of our land, Mr. Speaker. Those that hunt, fish, yes, Mr. Speaker and put dollars into the economy all across our province, many dollars into rural Saskatchewan that are valued by communities and small businesses all across our province. But also put their efforts into land stewardship and conservation and put their actions into those efforts, but also put their dollars into those efforts, as well, Mr. Speaker.

And I just find it so disrespectful and dismissive, Mr. Speaker, that this Sask Party government failed to consult in a meaningful way the hunters and fishers of this land through the wildlife federation. And as I said, it's indecent to not have engaged the indigenous peoples of this province.

We're talking about something that's incredibly important to our province, that balance of land access and incredible industries that are so important to tourism like hunting, and fishing, and birding, and photography, and hiking, and berry picking, Mr. Speaker. And this is a government that just failed to do the proper consultation.

I know that certainly, and I want to be clear, that landowners have rights; and landowners deserve safety out on the farm, Mr. Speaker; and landowners deserve the ability to post their land, no hunting, no trespassing; or to control access, Mr. Speaker. There's no question here. That's incredibly important, Mr. Speaker. But the unintended consequences or the practical consequences of this legislation are far reaching, Mr. Speaker, and really have significant impacts.

Of course hunting and fishing within our province, Mr. Speaker, is a very important part of the local economies of many communities, Mr. Speaker. They're important to so many that are involved in this industry, Mr. Speaker, so many small businesses and very important to rural Saskatchewan. And to get this wrong, Mr. Speaker, and to shut down hunting and fishing activity, and to shut down that important economic activity, and to shut down the important tourism activity going on in the province on this front is not fair, not right to all the people of the province, certainly not to those involved in these rural communities and small businesses as well, Mr. Speaker.

Hunting and fishing plays a very important role as well around things like resource management. And it's important in how it interacts to being eyes in the field and bringing in things like samples, to come back and understand things like chronic wasting disease, Mr. Speaker, where I would argue as well the response from the current government is insufficient in understanding the growing concerns on this front, and certainly worsened by the closure of some of the field offices to the public, Mr. Speaker. Of course we need to do a better job of encouraging things like the head samples that go along with the deer harvest, Mr. Speaker, making sure we understand what's happening on those fronts.

The legislation as brought forward, Mr. Speaker, as I said, isn't a fix to responding to the real concerns around clubroot, isn't a fix to the real concerns around property crime, both of which deserve and require a solution. But it has a real negative set of effects onto the hunters and fishers across our province, Mr. Speaker, and all those others that hike and enjoy birding or photography. And I think that the balance just wasn't found because this government either didn't want to find it or they wanted to play maybe some divisive wedge politics on this front, Mr. Speaker. I hope that's not the case. But there's an opportunity for them to do the right thing and to fix this legislation.

And we'll go forward into a committee process at some point. And I know stakeholders have been engaged. And I was out with the Environment minister, out with the wildlife federation in Moose Jaw not too long ago, and I know there's many involved in these organizations that are bringing forward very practical suggestions to the government, very practical suggestions to that minister and to this government. And if they're listening and if they're ready to work with landowners and work with hunters and fishers and work with indigenous peoples, Mr. Speaker, we can bring forward legislation that improves the situation on this front.

But the current piece of legislation, as I say, is not enforceable. It's not practical. It's no fix to the solution and it really will harm this very important heritage industry in our province, hunting and fishing, Mr. Speaker, and all those that enjoy connecting to this incredible natural environment that we have in the province.

You know, I grew up in the field, Mr. Speaker. From the time I could walk, I was beside the knee of my dad out there with him and the shotgun, pursuing whether it was pheasant or partridge or grouse or migratory birds — out with the rifle, Mr. Speaker, for deer hunts with my grandpa who's departed, Mr. Speaker. And our family, it's an important part of who we are. It's an important part of how we connect to the province.

And through that I've built a life of relationships with landowners, Mr. Speaker. I've always found it to be very important to have a relationship to those that own land and wherever possible to have permission, Mr. Speaker. But there's practical challenges that we'll get to through committee that just aren't understood by this government or a government that's failing to understand that.

But in our province, hunting and fishing and enjoyment of the natural outdoors is something that isn't just for the elite as it is, you know, in parts of the United States, Mr. Speaker, where it's pay for access or pay for hunting, Mr. Speaker. It's a very different environment. Or in parts of Europe where it's for the aristocrats or the elite as well, Mr. Speaker, and it's all about who owns land and who has wealth.

That's not how it's been set up in this province, Mr. Speaker, and you know, I think it's important to recognize that it's pursuit of the Queen's game, the public game, Mr. Speaker, the animals and wildlife, Mr. Speaker. And while certainly there's an important respect that needs to be offered to a landowner and the rights that they have, which include posting no hunting, Mr. Speaker, no trespassing, and controlling access, I think it's important to remember in this province that we have an interplay of our land that goes beyond that. We have, for example, mineral rights that exist and rights that exist for the wealth that's below the surface, Mr. Speaker. And that's important to our province as a resource-based economy, Mr. Speaker — our energy sector, our mining sector, Mr. Speaker.

And then we have the landowners' rights which are important as well, Mr. Speaker. And then we have the public game if you will, Mr. Speaker, and how do we do this in a way that works for all to be able to maintain important industries and activities like hunting and fishing in this province while protecting landowners' rights?

We have the opportunity to push and call on this government to get this right before they push it forward. If they push this forward, it really will be damaging to this very important industry. It's important they do this before this impacts a hunting season, Mr. Speaker, before a full year of access to land around berry picking and fishing and everything else, Mr. Speaker. So we'll be pushing on this government to be listening to the many across the province who are calling for that. We're certainly there to make sure that we have supports to improve rights for landowners, Mr. Speaker, and actions to respond to crime and actions to respond to things like clubroot, Mr. Speaker.

I think that there's an opportunity here to push a change, Mr. Speaker, to require permission for a vehicle to be on the land, Mr. Speaker, and that'd be different than what this government has brought forward. It would speak to the concerns of many landowners and those in rural Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, who are concerned about rural crime. It's difficult, for example, Mr. Speaker, for a theft at a Quonset to go on or something, Mr. Speaker, if someone isn't allowed to have their vehicle on the land without permission.

And I think that would certainly apply to trucks and snowmobiles and ATVs [all-terrain vehicle], Mr. Speaker, but would also respond to concerns around things like clubroot which, you know, could be transferred by way of a vehicle but not likely that

it's going to be transferred by way of someone's . . . by their feet, Mr. Speaker, if you will, knowing that a landowner at any time has the right to restrict access and to post restrictions on access.

So I think the bill as presented, Mr. Speaker, really needs to be put on pause, and this government needs to go back to conversations to get this right. I hope they take that opportunity, Mr. Speaker. We'll be there as the official opposition to be pushing for consideration of practical changes or amendments on this front, Mr. Speaker.

But certainly if left as this legislation's been created, Mr. Speaker, if left to be passed, it will have a very detrimental effect on hunting and fishing in this province, a very detrimental impact then on the role of hunting and fishing and resource management and in the economy as well.

So I call on the government to apply some common sense and to keep their ears open. We know that there's many in the province who are talking to them. I've been to a lot of wildlife federation dinners across the province, a lot of different . . . been hearing from many from across the province.

And I think of the Minister of Environment, Mr. Speaker, and I think of that Weyburn Wildlife Federation or the Weyburn Fish and Game League, Mr. Speaker. That's an incredible group of people, Mr. Speaker, who've put their heart and soul and their dollars and their actions into land protection, habitat protection, Mr. Speaker, and ensuring ethical hunting, Mr. Speaker, as well as investing in, you know, pheasant stocking and different programs that enhance the sport, Mr. Speaker, and enhance our province.

So I hope the minister is listening to his own constituents. Mr. Speaker, there's a lot of members of that Weyburn Wildlife Federation. I know many of them have put their lives into this sort of work. There's some very common-sense ways we can go at making sure we improve the situation for rights around landowners, Mr. Speaker, without upending that very important balance in our province and this very important activity, Mr. Speaker.

So at this point I will adjourn debate with respect to Bill No. 160, *The Trespass to Property Amendment Act, 2018*.

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 Rosemont.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This piece of legislation, Bill No. 161, the trespass to property consequential amendments, are simply a result of the legislation, Mr. Speaker, that I spoke to. This is something where again I call on the government to get this right. They've got it wrong in this legislation, Mr. Speaker. There's nothing wrong with admitting that a mistake has been made, and this government would be well served to listen to many across the province on this front.

If this government rams forward the changes as designed, Mr. Speaker, there's very negative impacts for hunting and fishing within Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, as well for those that access land around berry picking or photography or birders or hikers, Mr. Speaker.

I said in the first bill, Mr. Speaker, there's nothing I love more, Mr. Speaker, than being out in the vast wonderland that is our outdoors, Mr. Speaker, whether that's, you know, hiking and hunting pheasant near the American border, Mr. Speaker, down in the member for Cannington's riding, or whether it's, you know, working the hills, Mr. Speaker, up through the Strasbourg hills in the member for Last Mountain-Touchwood's riding.

And I've got relationships with . . . And these are but a few examples. I could go across the province, Mr. Speaker. But I've got relationships with landowners that we've built over generations, many of those relationships that were passed along from time with my dad and my grandpa, Mr. Speaker, out there in the field. And that's how you operate as a hunter, Mr. Speaker.

I'll also identify that there's all sorts of laws that govern hunting, Mr. Speaker, around setbacks from property and around where you can hunt and where you can't, Mr. Speaker, and there's no question that a landowner has the right to post their land and to control access, Mr. Speaker. But as designed, the legislation that's been brought forward is not enforceable. It's not practical. It's no fix to the problems that are real and that deserve action around rural crime, Mr. Speaker, and safety on the farm. No adequate response, Mr. Speaker, to concerns around clubroot, which are real.

I think there's a real chance, Mr. Speaker, to change this legislation or to amend it or to pull it back and scrap it and include, you know, the hunters and the fishers and the land users and indigenous peoples and get this right, Mr. Speaker.

I think a practical change that could be brought forward would be the requirement of having permission to have a vehicle on the land, Mr. Speaker. And that would be, you know, whether it's my, you know, my Dodge Ram, Mr. Speaker, or whether it's, you know, whoever's snowmobile or ATV or whatever else, Mr. Speaker. I think that that's a fair change, Mr. Speaker, a very fair change.

And I think it responds very well to the concerns around rural crime. As I mentioned in the first piece of legislation, it would be difficult to have a theft at a farm or a Quonset without having a vehicle there, Mr. Speaker, so that's an important consideration. It's also an important recognition that landowners have concerns around contamination of land around clubroot, and it's very reasonable that you would then bring forward a change that prevents somebody from being out there and moving clubroot, for example, Mr. Speaker.

So we'll be constructive in this. We're going to be looking for government to be the same. We've been working with farm groups and landowners, Mr. Speaker, across the province. We've been working with hunters and fishers. We've been working with indigenous peoples.

It's important we get this legislation right because hunting and fishing is so important to the economy of this province. More than that, it's so important to the culture, the identity of who we are, Mr. Speaker, an important heritage industry within our province. And as I've said, Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan has always had a special balance where there's a relationship with the landowner and a respect for that landowner as well. And we need to continue to respect those rights and actually look to improve those opportunities.

[15:30]

But in this province, Mr. Speaker, this beautiful province of ours, hunting and fishing hasn't just been for the elite and the wealthy, Mr. Speaker, as it often has been in parts of the United States. It's not just for the aristocrats or the elite and the wealthy as we've seen in many parts of Europe. It's been for all in this province, Mr. Speaker.

And the changes that are brought forward, Mr. Speaker, might seem simple enough if you listen to the urban lawyer who brought it forward, Mr. Speaker. But I think it lacks the context, it lacks an understanding of the realities of what that interplay looks like in hunting and fishing and hiking and birding and other pursuits, Mr. Speaker. And it lacks the respect that was required if you're making changes on this front to certainly engage the First Peoples, the indigenous peoples, Mr. Speaker, who have been hunting and fishing this land for thousands of years. And lacks the common sense, Mr. Speaker, or the respect to work with the hunters and fishers of this province, represented through the wildlife federation, for example, Mr. Speaker, in the 30,000-plus members — of which I'm one; full disclosure, Mr. Speaker — you know, in the province.

And as a result of that, when a government decides that they want to drive an agenda and they don't consult, you end up bringing forward legislation like this, Mr. Speaker. So we just call on this government to recognize that this legislation has consequences that shouldn't be accepted. I suspect they might be unintended consequences maybe from the Minister of Justice who I know . . . I don't think he has much experience being out in rural Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. I don't think he has much experience hunting or fishing or in some of these experiences. So I'd, you know, give him the benefit of the doubt and call on this government to go back to the table and look for a constructive solution on this front.

As such, I will adjourn debate with respect to Bill No. 161, *The Trespass to Property Consequential Amendments Act, 2018*.

The Speaker: — The member has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 161. Pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 141

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

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To join in on Bill No. 141, *The Interpersonal Violence Disclosure Protocol (Clare's Law) Act*. I guess initially before I make comments about the legislation that's coming forward, I know the member from Regina Douglas Park, my colleague on this side of the House, has been raising a petition asking for more supports for domestic violence and asking for five paid days. And she's introduced a petition time and time again asking the government to consider doing that.

I know there's a number of days there. I think it's 10 days for unpaid leave, but she's been pushing and trying to lobby the government, as well as those people signing the petition, asking the government to come up with five days of paid leave. So I give her credit. She's advocating and doing the good work that she does as the critic for Justice raising those concerns.

But I want to get back to, you know, the bill itself and what we see here. And Saskatchewan is one of, if not . . . I guess we're right up there with some of the provinces for the highest domestic violence in Canada. And that is nothing that we should be proud of. And you know, when you think about the challenges that families face, and some people may have experienced that as kids, you know, have gone through watching violence in the home. But I don't think anybody ever, ever forgets, you know, children that go through that, ever forget seeing the violence in a home. And my heart goes out to those children and those families that have to go through it. And not only that, but it's families who watch their daughter, their grandkids go through domestic violence. And always trying to say and hoping, you know, that there are provisions and laws that protect.

And I know there are shelters, and they do a great work and I want to give credit to all the front-line workers and those individuals that have done great, great work. I think about back home, and I think there's many communities have an opportunity where there's a shelter for women and families to go when they become . . . it's not safe in the home anymore, and not for any reason of their own but because of the situation they've been put in.

And I just, you know, again I want to say thank you to those front-line workers who do a great job and make sure they do all they can to protect children and women and spouses in a situation where it's domestic violence in the home.

This legislation, what so far . . . And I know we'll have more works and more questions in committee and find out exactly . . . [inaudible] . . . And I was wondering about this because I know what's being proposed here is saying you can apply an application to find out if an individual . . . you're in a relationship with somebody and all of a sudden you feel like, you know, maybe this person is showing some real aggression and you're not sure.

So from my understanding, I don't know if it's a family member. I don't know if it's a lawyer. I don't know if it's an individual, or it's . . . Somebody can apply. There's an application. And I know in committee we'll ask those questions and find out exactly how this will roll out and play, and we'll get an opportunity to ask the Justice minister and the officials to explain exactly how will this roll out when the person, you know, and gives that . . . I guess that person to put in an application and to, you know, make sure they want to, you know, if they want to check.

And now the authorities, the police, where before they couldn't share anything because certain things were protected. And here we see government, you know, changing and amending legislation, coming up with ways that individuals can find out if somebody has a violent, you know, a past, and if they've been charged with offence, you know, whether domestic or . . . you can see a pattern.

So again I think it's good work. There's more work to be done. We know that. And I know my colleague is going to continue to raise the petition, raise the concerns of the Justice critic and ask some tough questions and make the minister, you know, and the officials answer those tough questions. And, you know, from the floor here, asking the questions that need to be asked of the government.

And again, I go back to saying . . . thanking her for her passion and seeing, you know, the way she responds to the people that have asked her to present the petition or individuals to bring their concerns forward to the Legislative Assembly. So at this point I don't have any more comments to make, and I know we will have more questions in committee and we can flesh it out. At this point I'm prepared to adjourn debate on Bill 141.

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

Mr. Pedersen: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to rise today and participate in this debate on a very important, very important piece of legislation to deal with apprenticeships. Mr. Speaker, in my constituency of Regina Northeast, a great deal of my constituents work in construction. They work in the construction trades and are skilled labour, and so this is a very important piece of legislation and I'm sure it will have quite a significant impact on many of the people in my constituency.

Mr. Speaker, whether we're talking about ironworkers or boilermakers or millwrights or electricians or plumbers or bricklayers, those are important jobs. They're important trades in

our economy. And apprenticeships represent an important partnership between employers and the government when it comes to training and educating people.

Many of our most skilled jobs are actually jobs where people don't learn in a classroom, or they don't learn all of the job in the classroom. They learn a big chunk of the job actually doing it with their hands, observing skilled mentors who are already trained. That applies to lawyers like my own profession and doctors like the Leader of the Opposition, but it also applies to electricians and plumbers and heat and frost insulators and operating engineers, to many trades, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

And that's important because, as important as a classroom is, there is no substitute for actually learning on the job. And when you're sitting behind a desk trying to listen to an instructor going on and on but you don't understand the intricacies of the job, you don't understand the difficulties that may have presented themselves, it's hard to even know what you should pay attention to. And that's why on-the-job training is so important. That's why apprenticeships are so important.

But, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have a problem in Saskatchewan, and we have a problem in that you can't be an apprentice unless you have a job. You can't have on-the-job training unless you have a job. And with the advent of PST on construction services introduced by this government, the number of construction jobs in this province are going down, Mr. Deputy Speaker. In the last few years we've seen a, you know, roughly somewhere in the neighbourhood of a 30 per cent drop in the number of apprenticeships there for the number of apprentices that are actually working in our economy.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this bill talks about subtrades and, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we're concerned that designating subtrades and occupations in areas concerned to the building trades will have a negative effect on both the ability to train apprentices and on the ability of individuals who are trained in such occupations or subtrades to adapt to changing labour market conditions.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, broad-based training guarantees that practitioners have threshold competence in an area in which they are trained. A practitioner with threshold competency has mobility, not only in the Saskatchewan marketplace, but also beyond that. They have competency beyond the provincial marketplace and, Mr. Speaker, our workers need to be able to meet the requirements of the market where they could seek employment, and that means that they have to have a harmonious match with other jurisdictions where trades are not bifurcated.

Now as you know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, apprenticeship in the building trades combines on-the-job training with classroom-based technical training. And while I'm at it, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'd just like to give a shout-out to the UA [United Association], who has built an exceptional training facility right in their facility here in Regina, a relatively new operation here just set up, where they're doing some important work for pipefitters, among others, letting them get basically hands-on training so that they can compete and be trained in the marketplace.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, apprentices of course, you know, they have to work with journeypersons to learn their practical skills on the

job, and apprenticeship also requires that they attend class annually to complement their work-based training. On many job sites apprentices currently do the work that, under this bill, would be done by occupations or subtrades. And if that work is taken away from apprentices it will mean fewer apprenticeship opportunities and, as a result, fewer apprenticeships in the system and ultimately fewer journeypersons. Designating subtrades or occupations in areas that are currently within the scope of building trades will mean fewer opportunities for apprentices, as they will be competing with designated subtrades or occupations for job opportunities.

And it's worthy to note, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that where subtrades have been attempted, they've not necessarily succeeded. One of the exceptions, though, where a full trade has been derived from an existing one is for instance the heavy-duty mechanics.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, one of the drivers that enables businesses to make decisions to invest in an area like Saskatchewan is the ready ability to have a highly skilled job force there, to have highly skilled people to build and maintain their projects. Mr. Deputy Speaker, people who have high skills have broadly based skills and they understand the interaction of their work to the project as a whole. Subtrades, sub-occupations, and a lack of apprentices to replace the existing workforce do not satisfy this decision driver.

[15:45]

Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned, you don't get to be an apprentice unless you have a job. There are already fewer opportunities for apprentices in Saskatchewan. Designating subtrades in the building trades will mean fewer jobs for apprentices and ultimately fewer apprentices. The provincial government should not make changes that make it harder for apprentices to get training. Designating subtrades and occupations in the building trades represents a threat to the apprenticeship system and a threat to Saskatchewan's economy, which relies on skilled workers.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we are concerned that some of the changes that are proposed would water down the apprenticeship system and represent the deskilling of trades associated with construction by encouraging apprentices to learn only a narrow range of skills instead of all the skills associated with a particular trade. Mr. Speaker, that doesn't benefit us here in Saskatchewan's economy.

Individuals working industrial and commercial construction are often required to move from job site to job site and amongst employers frequently, and sometimes many times within a year. Individuals with only a narrow set of skills will be less able to move from one job to another because the requirements of each job might be slightly different. This in turn can contribute to higher unemployment and a less productive economy.

Any move to reduce the employability of Saskatchewan workers or labour productivity is unwise, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Narrowly trained, difficult-to-employ subskills creates bad educational policy, bad economic policy, bad social policy, and bad industrial policy.

Now there might be some situations where designating a subtrade or occupation may serve the interest of both learners and employers, and of course if that's the case, we'd be very supportive of that. But where there is an existing building trade, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that's not a place where we should be designating subtrades or occupations.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, you know, when I think of the many occupations, the many jobs out there where there's on-the-job training, getting exposed to a broad range of the situations that might be applied in that job are very important. I know again, turning to my own background in the legal business, many law firms take the view that articling students should get a broad exposure to many different ranges of types of legal practice of different situations, so that no matter where life takes them that they will be able to adapt. So whether it's criminal law or divorce law, whether it's immigration, whether it's litigation or drafting contracts, whether it's working in-house in a corporation or working behind the scenes in the Ministry of Justice, that young, new students are getting exposed to that broad exposure is important.

And I know the medical profession takes the same approach. It's not until later in your career that you start to specialize. And that's important. It's not that we don't want to have specialists, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Specialization is important. But we want to make sure that people getting trained are getting exposure to broad skills, the ability to think and interpret different information.

And that's ultimately what the apprenticeship program, apprenticeship system is about, and it's important to maintain that. We don't want to only be training very narrow, technical specialties right off the bat without giving them the broad exposure to a bunch of different situations and skills and opportunities that they might be faced with later on.

So with that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'm going to wrap up my comments. Thank you for the ability to participate in this debate, and I move that debate on this bill be adjourned.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Regina Northeast 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. 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 Regina Douglas Park.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's my honour to rise . . .

[Interjections]

Ms. Sarauer: — Whoa . . . this afternoon and enter in the debate around Bill No. 138, the miscellaneous statutes amendment Act. I'm not sure why members opposite are so excited to hear my thoughts on Bill No. 138, but I guess they'll have the pleasure of hearing it now.

Mr. Speaker, the bill that is before us right now gives the chief inspector the power to issue compliance orders for amusement rides, boilers, electrical licensing, fire safety, gas licensing, elevators, technical safety, building codes. Mr. Speaker, maybe it's the power around amusement rides that members opposite are so excited to hear about. I know sometimes being in the House feels like you're riding a bit of a roller coaster that you can't get off of, that for some reason you paid to get on, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

So there's some interesting things here in this bill that allows for some changes that are essentially updating legislation that required some legislation. It changes some wording; penalty, for example, is changed. It also includes some important public safety laws around the different areas that I just spoke about, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

There's also a right of appeal, an obligation of an inspector to act on reasonable and probable grounds because the inspector has power to shut down a business, which I think is an important measure as well.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I know I have other colleagues who are going to be entering in the debate on this bill, who are quite excited, I'm sure, just as excited as I was to enter into debate on this bill. So at this point I will adjourn debate on Bill No. 138.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Regina Douglas Park 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 Saskatoon Riversdale.

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's my pleasure to enter into the debate on Bill No. 139, *The Foreign Worker Recruitment and Immigration Services Amendment Act, 2018*, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

A good place to always start in reviewing legislation is looking at the minister's second reading speech, looking at the bill, talking to stakeholders — all those kinds of things, Mr. Deputy

Speaker. Sometimes in the process of a bill being drafted, it's always important to understand, has there been consultation conducted? Who asked for the bill to be . . . the changes in this particular case because it's an amendment Act? Those are all important things to ask.

And I noticed in the minister's second reading speeches that he points out that the changes in this bill are ". . . the result of a review conducted by the Minister of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety after it assumed responsibility for administration of [*The Foreign Worker Recruitment and Immigration Services Amendment Act*] . . . in the 2017-18 budget." And this particular Act is designed to discourage "unethical practices" and to protect ". . . foreign workers from exploitation and mistreatment during the recruitment and immigration process." The minister goes on to say that it "builds transparency and accountability to immigration consulting and recruiting services."

So I'm just curious in the review — and I know the critic will have some questions when the bill gets to committee — but around the review process. To whom did the Ministry of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety speak? What organizations? What individuals? Is this the only change that could better protect some of the most vulnerable workers that we have here in our province and across the country, quite frankly?

Those who come from other places to come and work in the temporary foreign worker program often don't know what their rights are. They are sometimes fearful. If they do know their rights, they're fearful of asserting their rights or trying to assert their rights because they literally don't want to be sent back home from whence they came. So could there have been anything else in this legislation or in these amendments that could have further strengthened and supported folks who come here to support our economy and to earn some money?

The one particular change that the minister points out, that the key amendment outlines "the procedure for hearing an appeal" and it defines "the powers of the adjudicator." And the minister says his goal was ". . . to ensure that the process was fair and transparent" for those who are involved.

So when I'm talking about the appeal process, I'm talking about . . . This is under *The Saskatchewan Employment Act*, and it ". . . includes an appeal process for decisions of the directors of employment standards and occupational health and safety." And those processes were used as a blueprint in the development of a new appeals process under this Act, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

We can think about ways to support those who come to our province, more than 100,000 people in the last while, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I know in my own constituency there's many folks who land from all parts of the world. Many refugees who come to Saskatoon are housed initially in Saskatoon Riversdale, in my community.

And I know some of the ways that we can also better support those who come to Saskatchewan is English as an additional language supports, which are sorely lacking in our schools — not because there aren't people who can deliver that education and support, but there just aren't enough of them or not enough time allotted to help build young students' language skills. And then

adults who are coming here, I can't even imagine what that's like, to go to a country where you don't speak the language and have to get set up, conduct your business, your daily business, in a language that isn't your native language. So there are many ways that we can better support newcomers — whether they're temporary foreign workers, refugees, immigrants — through the process.

We can think about a few years ago, it was under this government who . . . Under this government, there have been many people who have come to Saskatchewan from all around the world, but one program they cut was the family class. And I know when I speak to people in my constituency and elsewhere, that family class was a key part of helping to support, not just attract people to Saskatchewan but to keep people in Saskatchewan. Those of us who have been here all our life, I think, are fairly hardy and we accept our winters and the change of seasons. But when you're coming from a different climate and a different, totally different culture, being able to have a support network around you is really important, whether it's your mother and father who might come and help you care for your children so you can go to school and improve your language skills and be attached to the labour force. That family class was a key part of retaining folks who come here to Saskatchewan, and it was a shame that the government cut that way, way back a few years ago.

Again this bill, around temporary foreign workers, they are incredibly vulnerable, as I said at the start of my comments. These are the folks who don't always know what their rights and responsibilities are under employment legislation. And even if they do know, even if someone shares that information with them, they don't always know how to assert themselves, and they also are incredibly fearful of that.

So I'm looking forward to hearing, when the critic is in committee, if there were any other potential changes that came up in the review or if this was the best way to go about making sure that these most vulnerable workers were secure. But with that, I know the critic will get to committee here eventually, 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. 139. 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.]

[16:00]

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

Mr. Pedersen: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Again my honour to participate in this debate. Unlike the changes to *The*

Education Act, this is a bill on which I actually know something about, Mr. Deputy Speaker, from my background. This is all about laws and collecting unpaid debts and construction contracts. So I've got some background here, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and I guess I have a hard time getting overly excited about this bill.

When I think about the situations in my experience, Mr. Deputy Speaker, when I've had a client in my office who has a concern because they're not getting paid on a construction contract, there's a few things that come to mind. And one of the primary concerns, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is that our legal dispute system is costly, both in terms of dollars and in terms of time. And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, most of the people impacted by not getting paid — whether it's an employee or a subtrade or a contractor or someone who's supplied materials — they're not interested in waiting six months or six years for a court case to wind its way through the system. They need to get paid right away.

And it's one thing when the economy is booming and they've got more work than they can handle. In situations like that, you know, there's lots of times when they can manage just fine if it's a small bill that's not getting paid. Obviously if it's a big bill, that's a different story. But when the economy is slow, like it is right now, when people in the construction trade, construction business are suffering and where there isn't so much work, this is when it's much tougher to swallow not getting paid on a job or even getting paid slowly. And the problem, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is that this bill doesn't do anything to address the time and expense of the legal dispute resolution system.

One of the other significant problems that comes up with this area, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is that a lot of times, when contractors or subcontractors or employees are coming into your office, it's not that they're without a legal remedy. You know, the person who is slow in paying them or isn't paying them is already doing something that's against the law. It might be in breach of contract. That would likely be what the problem is, that they're in breach of contract.

The problem is that the person who isn't getting paid is concerned that they don't want to get a reputation within their industry of, you know, filing builders' liens. You know, if you're, say, an earth-moving contractor, you've got maybe a three- or four-man shop where you run a backhoe or a Bobcat or you do some work for general contractors.

Well the problem, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is that if you are not getting paid by one of your big clients on a job and you say, well I have the right to lien that job or I have the right to sue them to get my bill paid, the problem is that that contractor might not give you work on other jobs. And the problem is that's a very real concern for a lot of subcontractors. They might know that it's the owner of the project who isn't paying the general contractor, who isn't paying the subcontractor who has hired them, but they don't want to get the reputation of being the problem that files the lien or shuts down the flow of money because they want to make sure that they keep the person who's hiring them happy.

And so it's not actually that people don't have the legal rights to take into force, it's that they don't want to enforce them because they don't want to get a reputation for being that type of contractor or subcontractor. And that is the problem right now

that we have in the construction industry, and it all flows from having rights that you don't want to enforce. And you don't want to enforce them because the system in which you enforce them is too expensive and too time consuming and shuts down the flow of money. The interesting thing about this bill is that this bill actually increases the paperwork. It increases the red tape. It increases the bureaucracy in a construction project which, you know, it just kind of blows me away actually that this is what's coming from this government.

And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, you don't have to take my word for that. You know, coming from this side of the House, Mr. Deputy Speaker, you could talk to, you know, lawyers like Bill Preston or Murray Sawatzky. You know, they're not socialists. They know this area of the law too. They're experts. They're specialists in this area. Mr. Deputy Speaker, you could ask them about this and whether this is going to fix the problems that have been identified.

Mr. Speaker, I think we can all agree that the people working in construction projects, work in the industry, deserve to get paid. They deserve to get paid promptly. Got no issue with that at all. We all want that, doesn't matter what job you're in. When you do the work, you expect to get paid promptly. So we all want that. And the trick is actually finding a mechanism and a solution where that can happen when money isn't flowing as quickly as it ought to be, where there's some sort of dispute developing. That's the challenge, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and unfortunately this bill does not accomplish that. This bill isn't going to change the culture that's there. It's not going to get people paid more quickly.

I'm going to leave the rest of my comments and my thoughts about this bill for another day. But I'm hopeful that perhaps in some discussion with stakeholders, in some discussions with the ministry, that there will be some ways that we can actually fix this bill so that contractors and subcontractors and materials and people and labourers can get paid quicker without shutting down projects when there's a need.

So with that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, appreciate your attention, and I'm going to move that the debate on this bill be adjourned.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

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

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

[The Assembly adjourned at 16:08.]

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GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

CABINET MINISTERS

Hon. Scott Moe
Premier
President of the Executive Council
Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs

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

Hon. Lori Carr
Minister of Highways and Infrastructure

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

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

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

Hon. Joe Hargrave
Minister of Crown Investments
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Government Insurance
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Transportation Company

Hon. Donna Harpauer
Minister of Finance

Hon. Jeremy Harrison
Minister of Trade and Export Development
Minister of Immigration and Career Training

Hon. Warren Kaeding
Minister of Government Relations
Minister Responsible for First Nations, Métis
and Northern Affairs

Hon. Gene Makowsky
Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Liquor
and Gaming Authority
Minister Responsible for Tourism Saskatchewan

Hon. David Marit
Minister of Agriculture
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Crop
Insurance Corporation

Hon. Paul Merriman
Minister of Social Services

Hon. Don Morgan
Minister of Justice and Attorney General
Minister of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety
Minister Responsible for the Saskatchewan
Workers' Compensation Board
Minister Responsible for The Global
Transportation Hub Authority
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Telecommunications

Hon. Greg Ottenbreit
Minister Responsible for Rural and Remote Health

Hon. Jim Reiter
Minister of Health

Hon. Christine Tell
Minister of Corrections and Policing
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Gaming Corporation

Hon. Gordon Wyant
Deputy Premier
Minister of Education
Minister Responsible for SaskBuilds and
Priority Saskatchewan