



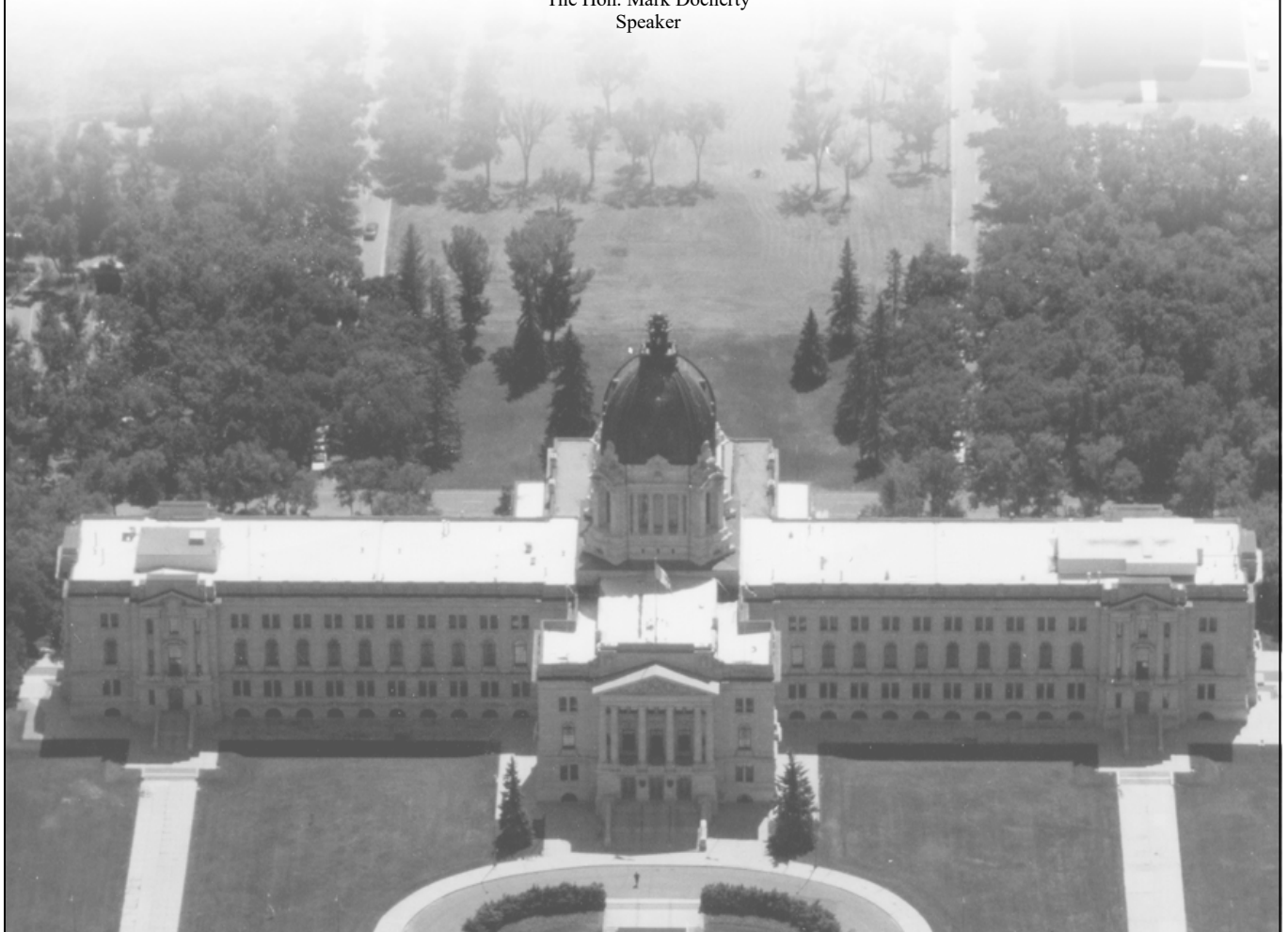
THIRD SESSION - TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

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



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

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

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| Beck , Carla — Regina Lakeview (NDP) | Marit , Hon. David — Wood River (SP) |
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| D'Autremont , Dan — Cannington (SP) | Olauson , Eric — Saskatoon University (SP) |
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| Doke , Larry — Cut Knife-Turtleford (SP) | Rancourt , Nicole — Prince Albert Northcote (NDP) |
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| Eyre , Hon. Bronwyn — Saskatoon Stonebridge-Dakota (SP) | Ross , Laura — Regina Rochdale (SP) |
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| Forbes , David — Saskatoon Centre (NDP) | Sproule , Cathy — Saskatoon Nutana (NDP) |
| Francis , Ken — Kindersley (SP) | Steele , Doug — Cypress Hills (SP) |
| Goudy , Todd — Melfort (SP) | Steinley , Warren — Regina Walsh Acres (SP) |
| Hargrave , Hon. Joe — Prince Albert Carlton (SP) | Stewart , Lyle — Lumsden-Morse (SP) |
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| Kaeding , Hon. Warren — Melville-Saltcoats (SP) | Wotherspoon , Trent — Regina Rosemont (NDP) |
| Kirsch , Delbert — Batoche (SP) | Wyant , Hon. Gordon — Saskatoon Northwest (SP) |
| Lambert , Lisa — Saskatoon Churchill-Wildwood (SP) | Young , Colleen — Lloydminster (SP) |
| Lawrence , Greg — Moose Jaw Wakamow (SP) | |

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

Clerks-at-the-Table

Clerk — Gregory A. Putz

Law Clerk & Parliamentary Counsel — Kenneth S. Ring, Q.C.

Principal Clerk — Iris Lang

Clerk Assistant — Kathy Burianyak

Sergeant-at-Arms — Terry Quinn

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[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

Hon. Ms. Beaudry-Mellor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to welcome the young ladies that we have here in the legislature in the gallery behind me, Mr. Speaker, from Women in the Legislature from the University of Saskatchewan.

This is the group's eighth annual visit to the legislature, and it's a great opportunity for these young women to connect and interact first-hand with the province's politicians and government leaders. I hope it will also inspire them to get engaged as citizens of this province.

They met with the Status of Women office this morning. I believe they're meeting with members opposite, if they haven't already. And this afternoon they'll be meeting with my colleagues and I for what, I know, will be an engaging conversation. And on behalf of all of us, I would like us all to join me in welcoming you to your Legislative Assembly. Thank you very much.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join in with the minister opposite in welcoming the Women in the Legislature group to their Assembly today. They're seated in the east gallery today.

And we had the pleasure of meeting with the group as well as their director, Mackenzie Stewart, this morning. I think five out of our six female MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly] on this side of the House had the chance to meet with this bright group of individuals. I know it's primarily a new set of individuals and many of them, this is their first visit to the Legislative Assembly. So we certainly want to welcome them and thank them for their insightful comments. We had a great discussion about what the role is of the opposition in the Legislative Assembly, and some encouraging and bright minds to be brought to the table here today.

I would certainly also like to point out a couple of individuals who are in the group, Mr. Speaker: Nadia Ristau and Kirsten Samson, who I've had the pleasure of knowing for a couple of years now. Both worked as summer organizers for the New Democrats, Mr. Speaker, very bright, energetic young women who I have the pleasure of knowing. Kirsten also has done some work in my constituency office, Mr. Speaker, so I want to thank her for that work as well.

We know that Women in the Legislature is a non-partisan group, and we want to welcome everyone. I would invite all members to join me in welcoming them to their Assembly today.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, I'd like to welcome a number of individuals in the House who represent just a small number of our hard-working construction industry throughout this great province. April 9th marks their annual Construction Week lobby day, and I know that they've had a number of productive meetings here today already, Mr. Speaker. The work of these individuals laid the foundation, the groundwork for our communities in improving health and safety of our communities, supporting economic growth, protecting our environment, and helping us build a superior quality of life for the residents of this province that they deserve.

Mr. Speaker, joining us in your gallery we have Mark Cooper from the Saskatchewan Construction Association, if you could give us a wave; John Bockstael, Canadian Construction Association; Carolyn Bagnell from the Mechanical Contractors Association; Vern Hunt, Saskatchewan Roofing Contractors Association; John Lax from the Saskatchewan Construction Association; Kevin Dureau from the Regina Construction Association; Dion Malakoff, Construction Opportunities Development Council; Mary Van Buren from the Canadian Construction Association; Kim Skjonsby from the Mechanical Contractors Association; Karen Low from Merit Contractors Association of Saskatchewan; Paul Benson, Regina & Region Home Builders' Association; Ryan Leech from Saskatchewan Masonry Institute; Darrel Reid from the Progressive Contractors Association of Canada; Logan Rathgeber from Concrete Saskatchewan; Chris Guerette from the Saskatoon & Region Home Builders' Association; Matthew Farthing from the Saskatoon Construction Association.

I'm almost done, Mr. Speaker: Ian Knibbs from Merit Contractors Association of Saskatchewan; Jason Duke from Saskatchewan Construction Association; Warren Douglas from the Construction Opportunities Development Council; Mike Martens from the Progressive Contractors Association of Canada; Stu Niebergall, Regina & Region Home Builders' Association; Simon Merkosky from the Saskatchewan Roofing Contractors Association; Sasha Kisin from the Saskatchewan Masonry Institute; and Ashley Campbell from Concrete Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, I'd ask all members to join me in welcoming these individuals to their 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 these leaders within our province, leaders within our economy to their Assembly to recognize Construction Week, and for the invaluable efforts of not just the leaders that are here today, but the members of their respective organizations for building our province. The construction industry in Saskatchewan is vital to the future of our province. It's the backbone of our economy, Mr. Speaker, and it's such a privilege to have these leaders here today.

I'm not going to go through the extensive list that the Deputy Premier did here today. I think some of the folks that he identified

may or may not be in the Assembly here right now. But I see many friends in this Assembly, some new faces as well. We appreciated the meetings here today, talking about labour force development, about procurement, around the impact of the PST [provincial sales tax], and about building the future of this province that we all know and love.

So on behalf of the official opposition I ask all members to join with me in welcoming the leadership here that's here for Construction Week and to thank them for all their work within our province.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to this Assembly, it's my pleasure to introduce some visitors in your gallery, Mr. Speaker. We have some representatives here from the Heart and Stroke Foundation. We have Stephanie Rusu, we have Dr. Patrice Lindsay, Dr. Mike Kelly, Lisa Korec, and Nicole Ferguson.

Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity, along with the Minister of Rural and Remote Health, to meet with them this morning. They're here for some great news, Mr. Speaker. Probably many of the members have seen the news release that went out about funding for the FAST campaign, Mr. Speaker, Heart and Stroke Foundation, that stands for face, arms, speech, and time.

Mr. Speaker, we're going to hear more about that during member statements. The guests in the gallery are here for some meetings today and are hosting an MLA reception later on today. So, Mr. Speaker, I'd ask all members to please give them a warm welcome to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to join in with the minister opposite in welcoming these guests to their Assembly today from the Heart and Stroke Foundation. We do have a reception later on this afternoon that I look forward to chatting with you folks and hearing more about the work that you're doing right now. We certainly want to thank you for everything you're doing across the province and some important work that needs to be done across the province. Thank you for your advocacy. I'd ask all members to join me in welcoming them here today.

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

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to join with my colleague, the Minister of Health, and other colleagues in the Assembly to recognize a couple of people in your gallery. As well, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize Nicole Ferguson from Yorkton in your gallery with the Heart and Stroke people today. She's actually my neighbour and she's threatened to slap some FAST campaign magnets on my mailbox maybe sometime in the near future.

Also in your gallery is Lynel Martinuk. She's a long-time public servant. She served in Education, formerly served with Sunrise Health Region, and currently serves as our executive assistant of

community engagement and communications with the Saskatchewan Health Authority, Mr. Speaker. So I ask all members to welcome these individuals to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce to you and with you and in conjunction with everybody else who's had some introduction today, I'd like to give a special shout-out to Stephanie Rusu who's in a new role with the Heart and Stroke Foundation. She's been a long-time family friend.

She's a friend of mine, but she's a very close friend of my sister, Michelle's, who everybody knows here, who is my big support in my life. But you should maybe ask Stephanie about some trips to the Shuswap. Anyway, Stephanie is a good family friend and is doing great work in her new role, Mr. Speaker.

I'd also like to welcome the Women in the Legislature group here today. Whenever they come every year, it's always actually the highlight, one of the highlights in our legislative calendar to meet these inspiring women who are very interested in politics — not just in politics, but in public service in general — and learning a little bit more about how government works and the roles that they could play. It's always lots of fun to have some really good dialogue with them, and it was great to have a good portion of our women's caucus there today.

I would like to just acknowledge Nadia Ristau, who went to elementary school with my daughter, Hennessey, and Kirsten Sampson, who is a constituent of mine. I think that that covers the waterfront for the guests that I know. And to all the guests here, I'd ask all members to welcome them to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Mr. Steinley: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And to you and through you, I'd like to welcome, once again, grade seven and eight students from George Lee School. This is a record for Regina Walsh Acres; we've had three school groups in the last four days of the sitting, Mr. Speaker. So thank their teachers very much for bringing them out. They're coming with their teacher, Natalie Schapansky, and I'm looking forward to having a conversation after in the Saskatchewan Gallery. So please welcome them to their Legislative Assembly, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the member opposite in welcoming this special group of students that are with us here today, and a friend, Natalie Schapansky, that's here. We had Ms. Davies here just a couple weeks ago, which was a lot of fun.

And I know my wife, Stephanie, taught at George Lee for a number of years, and I'd ask maybe the students that she taught or that knew her to give us a wave here today. I know I just gave her a text message here when I saw that you were here, and she says to say hello and that she misses you all. So it's great to have

you in the Assembly here today.

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

Mr. Michelson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pride to introduce, in the west gallery, there's 18 grade 10 social studies students from Vanier Collegiate in my constituency of Moose Jaw North. They are a great group. It's a nice school. My children went to Vanier and so did . . . The member from Wakamow, his children went to Vanier. And I think the Leader of the Opposition is an alumni there. So they're here to watch the proceedings and, if I'm good, they will let me have my picture taken with them a little bit later and meet them. So I'd like everybody to welcome them to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Mr. Pedersen: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd just like to join with a couple of the other members in welcoming Natalie Schapansky to her Legislative Assembly. Both of my daughters had the good fortune to be students of Ms. Schapansky's. And I had the pleasure myself of serving on the school community council with Ms. Schapansky. So I'd like to invite all members to join with me in welcoming her to her Legislative Assembly.

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

Ms. Lambert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you and to all members of the Assembly, I would like to introduce Anita and Dakota Hertlein. They are seated in the west gallery. Give us a wave. Thanks. They are here to reinforce the curriculum that Dakota is learning in his home-school grade 11 course work. Anita teaches Dakota. So please welcome them both to their Legislative Assembly.

[13:45]

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

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to add my welcome to everybody that's in the Assembly here. I think we've covered absolutely everybody off except for two people, Mr. Speaker.

I'd like to introduce my newest staff, Alanah Shyluk, as I was told to say. Alanah's our junior admin assistant and has been with us for almost a month right now. Raised in Saskatoon but spent most of her life on a farm near Hafford, Saskatchewan, she moved to Regina three years ago and recently took her programming at Sask Polytech. She's an awesome part of Team Awesome that is up in room 303, Mr. Speaker, which we like to call ourselves.

And I'd also like to introduce Emma L'Heureux. She's our MA [ministerial assistant]. She's from Moose Jaw. That is all. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise once again to present petitions on behalf of concerned residents, local businesses, and communities all across our province as it relates to the choice of the Sask Party government to slam the construction industry with the PST on construction labour. Of course this is the epitome of a job-killing tax, Mr. Speaker.

In this case, you know, that government saw a slowing economy and chose to slam on the brakes, Mr. Speaker, with the imposition of the PST. Sadly we see the result of that, Mr. Speaker. We see permits down all across our province. We see important projects that have been shelved, Mr. Speaker. We see thousands of Saskatchewan tradespeople, skilled labour, Saskatchewan people losing employment, many of those people being forced far outside of Saskatchewan in the pursuit of employment, Mr. Speaker. And we continue to push on this government to do the right thing and to work to fire up this economy on many fronts with an important measure as well of reversing this decision.

The petition 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 Lloydminster. I so submit.

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

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

I'd like to read the prayer:

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

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by citizens of Canwood, Mont Nebo, Shell Lake, Spiritwood. I do so present.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm rising today to present a petition on the Regina bypass project. The folks who have signed this petition would like to bring to our attention the following: very few details about the Regina bypass project are publicly available, and whatever is available has been heavily redacted despite it being the costliest infrastructure project funded by taxpayers in the province's history.

Ministry officials did identify in documents some major deficiencies in the project that were in an email that has yet to be released in full for public review. In the Assembly, the previous

minister of Highways referenced the breach of an aquifer in Wascana Creek as an example of one of these major deficiencies. However our current Minister of Highways has repeatedly stated on the record that there are no major deficiencies on this bypass.

So which one is it, Mr. Speaker? Saskatchewan people will be paying for this piece of infrastructure for the next 30 years. And in the interest of government transparency, these contradictory statements require immediate clarification.

I'll read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Sask Party government to immediately release a full, unredacted copy of records detailing all minor and major deficiencies identified in the Regina bypass project to date.

And, Mr. Speaker, these folks who signed this petition today are from Moose Jaw. I so submit.

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

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

But you know, Mr. Speaker, that the people of Saskatchewan deserve to live in a fair province where all voices are equal and money can't influence politics. But we know that over the past 10 years, the Saskatchewan Party has received \$12.61 million in corporate donations and of that, \$2.87 million came from companies outside of Saskatchewan.

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

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

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

Mr. Speaker, the people signing this petition today come from Cut Knife and Lloydminster. I do so present. Thank you.

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. Mr. Speaker, the individuals signing this petition today

wish to bring to our attention the following: Saskatchewan has the highest rates of domestic violence amongst all the provinces in Canada, and employees who are survivors of domestic violence should be able to take a leave of absence from their employment without penalty.

Mr. Speaker, this is what we've called for in our private member's bill which seeks to provide five days' paid leave for all survivors of domestic violence. We're not asking the Sask Party to do anything that doesn't exist in other provinces, Mr. Speaker. In fact some form of paid days leave exists in Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, PEI [Prince Edward Island], and Newfoundland and Labrador. And shockingly, Mr. Speaker, none of those province's economies have collapsed as a result of implementing this legislation. Considering we have the worst rates of domestic violence in the country, the least we could do, Mr. Speaker, is implement what already exists for survivors in other provinces.

Let me read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Legislative Assembly to pass legislation providing critical supports for survivors of domestic violence.

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

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

Mr. Pedersen: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition on the seed regulations. Mr. Speaker, the residents signing this petition want to bring to our attention that the federal government is proposing to pass regulations that would enable plant breeders to charge farmers royalties on crops which the farmers have grown, that one proposal under consideration by the federal government will see farmers pay an end-point royalty on every tonne of crop that they sell, and another proposal will see farmers pay a trailing royalty on every tonne of crop that they have grown themselves and reused for seed later.

Mr. Speaker, the current proposals under consideration do not give any farmers any guarantee that royalties will be devoted to funding research, they don't provide any guarantee that research would return the value of that research to farmers, nor do they provide any guarantee that the research would be on Canadian crop varieties.

And they want to bring to our attention that these proposals will give plant breeders total control over plant varieties registered after February of 2015, including conditions of sale and use, and that the current model of government- and farmer-funded research has generated up to 20 to 1 returns for the Canadian public and farmers.

Mr. Speaker, the petitioners in their prayer:

Respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call upon the Saskatchewan Party government to advocate on behalf of farmers with the federal government to ensure that the rights of farmers to

freely use their own seed be established and maintained and that end-point royalties and trailing royalties will not be imposed on farmers and that any seed research that is paid for by farmers will be controlled and directed by farmers.

I so present, Mr. Speaker. The people signing this petition are from Lucky Lake and Swift Current.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Remembering Vimy Ridge

Mr. Lawrence: — Mr. Speaker, we have the opportunity to mark the proclamations for many groups to recognize incredible achievements of our people or the incredible sadness of tragedy. Today is about an event that is both. Today I would like to recognize the heroic determination of our Canadian soldiers during the Battle of Vimy Ridge in France. Today we, with great appreciation, pay tribute to the sacrifices of 3,598 fallen soldiers at Vimy Ridge and to all of those who have served our country.

The Battle of Vimy Ridge marked the first time that all four divisions of the Canadian corps stood together. To achieve such a great victory was a milestone on the road to our nationhood, further symbolizing Canada's long-standing commitment to peace in the world. Because of their sacrifice, we're able to go about our days with a sense of peace and security.

And in this Chamber we do our very best to act on that legacy of freedom for the prosperity of all citizens, that this building, this marble palace we have the privilege to work in on their behalf, should be a beacon of those rights and freedoms. But the true foundations of this building, indeed our whole society, is offset just a few yards west, Mr. Speaker, to the Saskatchewan War Memorial.

Lest we forget.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Mr. Speaker, today is April 9th and once again we commemorate the Canadian victory at Vimy Ridge in 1917, when thousands of Canadian workers and farmers turned into soldiers. Their sacrifice transformed Canada from a political arrangement into a nation. With innovative tactics, determination, and courage, Canadians succeeded where others had failed in the taking of Vimy Ridge, earning Canada its own place at the treaty table at Versailles.

But, Mr. Speaker, the cost of victory was steep. Of the roughly 100,000 Canadians who served at Vimy Ridge, there were more than 10,600 casualties by the end of battle, including almost 3,600 who lost their lives. After the war, a grateful France granted Canada the land where Canadian National Vimy Memorial now stands. Engraved on the memorial are the names of over 11,000 Canadian soldiers listed as "missing, presumed dead" and whose final resting place is unknown. The bravery and sacrifice demonstrated by Canadian soldiers during the Battle of Vimy Ridge resulted in one of the most impressive Allied

victories of the entire First World War.

Mr. Speaker, Canadians continue to face difficult challenges and decisions as to our responsibilities in the world. As we face those challenges, we must strive to ensure that our achievements are worthy of the sacrifice of so many who came before us.

Lest we forget.

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

Women in the Legislature

Ms. Ross: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to welcome the members of the Women in the Legislature program to their Legislative Assembly. Mr. Speaker, this University of Saskatchewan program aims to increase awareness about the under-representation of women in politics and to encourage university students to consider a career in politics.

WiL [Women in the Legislature] is a non-partisan student group dedicated to increasing the number of young women in politics. This program seeks to empower young women by giving them meaningful opportunities to engage with the Legislative Assembly. Today we have 25 young women who have travelled to the capital city to interact with MLAs from both sides of the House as well as the office of the Status of Women.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud that some alumni members of WiL have gone on to participate in politics and in governance, and I'm sure we will see many of these women here today in prominent political positions in the future. Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in welcoming the Women in the Legislature, and we hope to see many of them take their seat right here in this Assembly. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Saskatchewan Construction Week

Ms. Rancourt: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This week is the third annual Saskatchewan Construction Week. Sadly, this year those who work in construction have little to celebrate. Housing construction in Saskatchewan is at an all-time low. A big reason for that, Mr. Speaker, lies squarely on the shoulders of the Saskatchewan Party government and its decision to add PST to construction labour. The addition of the PST on construction resulted in a screeching halt to the industry.

[14:00]

This is one more example of the government's lack of consultation with the industry before making a budget decision with such an impact to our economy. This slowdown has a ripple effect on many other sectors of our economy. Lumber yards and hardware shops are suffering because their sales are down, which has resulted in layoffs. And construction workers must leave our cities, and in many cases our province, to find work.

Loss of jobs in the construction industry creates stress and anxiety and has a negative impact on home life. It is time this government have another look at yet another disastrous decision

and reverse the PST on construction.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members join with me in acknowledging the good work done by the over 50,000 Saskatchewan construction workers and companies and offer our best wishes for a brighter future. Thank you.

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

Knights of Columbus Saskatchewan Indoor Games

Mr. Olason: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In January I had the honour of attending the 54th annual Knights of Columbus Saskatchewan Indoor Games.

This event features over 3,000 elementary school students and Special Olympics athletes. For 54 years, this event has showcased many athletic achievements, creating a lasting legacy of the indoor games.

Mr. Speaker, this event provides our young athletes with positive role models by having elementary school students compete in the same meets as international stars. It gave them opportunity not only to get a taste of high-calibre competition, but also a chance to meet and chat with the international athletes and learn more about the value of goal setting and overcoming hurdles in life. Mr. Speaker, the international athletes arrived a few days earlier in Saskatoon and visited many inner-city schools around Saskatchewan, inspiring our athletes of tomorrow.

The catchphrase for the meet was Come for the Start, Stay for the Finish, and I believe that exemplifies the true reason why we do sports.

Mr. Speaker, as a proud member of the Knights of Columbus, I am astounded each and every day by the number of volunteers and thousands of hours dedicated by these faithful servants to improve the quality of life for all Saskatchewan residents. I now ask all members to please join me in congratulating all participants from the Knights of Columbus Saskatchewan Indoor Games on another successful event. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Canora-Pelly.

Campaign Aids Recognition of Stroke Signs

Mr. Dennis: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as most members are aware, stroke is a significant health issue worldwide. Here in Saskatchewan, approximately 1,700 people are hospitalized for a stroke every year, and about 300 of those cases resulting in death.

However, there is hope. Stroke mortality rates have been gradually declining, both here and nationwide. And people who experienced a stroke have a better prospect for survival and recovery today than ever before. This is thanks to improvements in research, treatment, and public awareness.

Mr. Speaker, that is why our government has committed \$50,000 to support Heart and Stroke Foundation for the FAST campaign. Since 2014 this campaign has successfully improved public recognition of stroke signs using an easy acronym: F — face, is

it drooping; A — arms, can you raise both; S — speech, is it slurred and jumbled; and T — time to call 911. The campaign also urges people to seek immediate or emergency medical care, which improves chances for surviving a stroke and minimizing damage.

Mr. Speaker, I'd ask all members to join me in thanking the Heart and Stroke Foundation for their work on the FAST campaign and their contributions to public awareness. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Congratulations to Centenarians

Ms. Lambert: — I rise in the House today to congratulate constituents of mine who have reached the significant milestone of centenarian. Mr. Speaker, Betty Hidlebaugh was born in Kelliher, Saskatchewan and after high school became a teacher. She is proud to come from a long line of teachers and devoted her life to education. She married James. They farmed in the Choiceland area and had four children. When asked how she kept so healthy all her 103 years, she says there are no secrets, but walking five miles a day until just last year and still playing bridge and crib and computer games have kept her sharp.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to recognize Clara Arnason. She grew up in Stockholm, Saskatchewan and taught in many country schools. Clara spent most of her life farming in the Qu'Appelle Valley area. She has a love for dancing and hats and was an exceptional cook. On March 29th, I joined Clara at Preston Park II when she celebrated her Mad Hatter-themed 100th birthday surrounded by her seven children.

Mr. Speaker, other centenarians in my constituency include Jean Alston who is 100; Velma Roberts, 100; Margaret McElhinney, 100; and Gladys Rowlands, 101. I hope all in this Assembly are inspired by Betty and Clara's resilience and love of life. Thank you.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Support for Education

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're seeing a pattern starting to develop with this government. They like online surveys. Whether it's cannabis or trespassing, libraries or now education, they like to have people tick boxes online so they can say they've ticked the box and they've done consultation, and then they can proceed and do things as they'd planned to begin with.

Now, Mr. Speaker, what we need is not another survey. We need a vision for K to 12 [kindergarten to grade 12] education so that kids will have a chance to succeed.

We'll continue today with our new tradition of bringing forth questions from across the province. Today we have a question from Garth Pickard right here in Regina who wrote to us and wants to ask the Premier: when is this government going to get serious about addressing sustainability in education? And when

will we see a vision for K to 12 education based on the experiential, multi-sensory, and play space learning we know helps kids succeed?

And we'd like to know, with so many people out in the community with expertise like Garth, why this government isn't learning from Saskatchewan experts through a legitimate consultation process.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, some time ago the Ministry of Education moved forward with a co-construction, Mr. Speaker, of education and what it's going to look like once the education sector plan expires next year, Mr. Speaker. It's intelligent for the government to move forward and seek input from organizations, Mr. Speaker, so that we can plan for public education for the next 5 to 10 years, Mr. Speaker.

Here are some of the organizations that participated in that co-construction: the SSBA [Saskatchewan School Boards Association], Mr. Speaker, LEED [leadership in energy and environmental design], SASBO [Saskatchewan Association of School Business Officials], the FSIN [Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations], the Métis Nation, the Office of the Treaty Commissioner, Mr. Speaker. And I can also tell you, Mr. Speaker, that at the original . . . when the co-construction began, Mr. Speaker, the STF [Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation] was involved, Mr. Speaker. They were part of the original co-construction. They've chosen now, Mr. Speaker, to not participate in our program, Mr. Speaker.

But I've reached out to the STF, Mr. Speaker, their leadership. And I've said to them, you know, in terms of the work that they're doing, we want to know what the results of the work that they're doing so that we can bring all that information together, Mr. Speaker. But to suggest, laughable to suggest that we're not reaching out to the people in this province, Mr. Speaker, who have a significant role to play in the future of public education, Mr. Speaker.

So we want to hear from teachers, Mr. Speaker. And I'm going to be going out to talk to teachers as we move this process forward, because their voice is very important, as is every voice with respect to moving this forward.

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

Government Procurement Process

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This government has a history of shutting out Saskatchewan companies when it comes to public investment. The largest projects in the last few years, of the largest projects, over \$4 billion of the 5.5 spent, over 74 per cent have gone to out-of-province or out-of-country companies. And the remainder of the projects have had significant involvement from companies out of province and out of country.

Mr. Speaker, when Saskatchewan companies are shut out of these projects, that means fewer materials being purchased here. That means fewer local employees working here. That means less profit being reinvested back here, Mr. Speaker. When it comes to these investments, Saskatchewan people should be the first to

benefit when we're spending our own dollars to build our own roads and our own schools and our own hospitals, Mr. Speaker. But contract after contract, the Sask Party shuts out Saskatchewan companies.

Why does this government refuse to take into account the unique value that is offered by having local companies do the work right here?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, it's apparent. It's apparent to me, Mr. Speaker, that the Leader of the Opposition isn't paying very much attention. Mr. Speaker, in 2015, '14, we established Priority Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, for the sole purpose of ensuring that Saskatchewan companies could participate, Mr. Speaker, on an even basis with others, Mr. Speaker. And we know how successful that's been, Mr. Speaker. We've seen great success in a number of the capital projects that have moved forward in this province, Mr. Speaker, to great congratulations for the construction industry, Mr. Speaker.

We know there's more work to do, but we continue to do this work, Mr. Speaker. Just recently we announced our single-window procurement, Mr. Speaker, to help make procurement within the executive government more efficient, Mr. Speaker, primarily aimed at ensuring that Saskatchewan companies participate.

But, Mr. Speaker, we will always be respectful of our trade relationships, Mr. Speaker. We will always be respectful of the law when it comes to procurement, Mr. Speaker. So to suggest that we should shut out every other company, Mr. Speaker, for the benefit of Saskatchewan companies, Mr. Speaker, just breeds inefficiency in the market, Mr. Speaker.

We'll continue to build on the great work that Priority Saskatchewan has done, Mr. Speaker, and the results. The proof is in the pudding when it comes to Saskatchewan participation in those contracts.

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

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The proof absolutely is in the results, and the results are over \$4 billion of the 5.5 spent in the last few years on major projects has gone to out-of-province and out-of-country companies exclusively, not to mention involvement in the rest of the projects from those companies as well, Mr. Speaker.

These are great investments in the economy — in the economy of France, of Japan, of the United States, of England, and of Australia, when they could be fuelling economic growth right here in Saskatchewan. They could be employing workers, having local companies selling materials, and reinvesting those profits right here at home, Mr. Speaker. Our provincial trading partners in Alberta and British Columbia have taken steps to take into account the local benefit of contracts in their procurement process.

Mr. Speaker, a community benefit agreement model could allow us to make sure that Saskatchewan companies don't continue to be shut out of these important contracts. Will the Sask Party even

consider looking at the options to make sure that local companies aren't shut out, that they can compete? Because the fact of the matter, Mr. Speaker, is if they don't, we all lose.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, I'm confused, Mr. Speaker. I had asked the Leader of the Opposition to table those numbers, Mr. Speaker, and a compilation of those numbers, because they are not accurate, Mr. Speaker. As part of our . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Yes, don't throw them away. Mr. Speaker, as . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order please. I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, part of our 13-point procurement transformation plan that we brought forward in 2015, after significant consultation with the industry, Mr. Speaker — many, many meetings — we brought best value into our procurement, Mr. Speaker. And that's the new basis for awarding contracts in this province. It allows us to take into account many other factors, not just lowest cost, Mr. Speaker.

And so when we brought best value in, Mr. Speaker, it came with some great congratulatory notes from many in the construction industry because it allowed us to move past lowest cost, Mr. Speaker. We changed legislation on the floor of this Assembly simply to do that, Mr. Speaker. So to suggest that we're not working in the best interests of Saskatchewan companies is ridiculous. And I'd ask the Leader of the Opposition to table those numbers. Show me those contracts, Mr. Speaker, because they're not accurate.

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

Resolution of Land Flooding Issue

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In 2011, Saskatchewan farmers Peter and Barbara Onofreychuk filed their first complaint with the Water Security Agency about neighbours flooding their land. Eight years later, and after watching Bill Boyd's file pushed through the Water Security Agency — the highest ranks — within a matter of weeks, Peter and Barbara are still begging for resolution. They've joined us in the Assembly today looking for answers, Mr. Speaker.

To the Minister Responsible for the Water Security Agency: how can it take more than eight years for a farmer's file to be resolved?

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

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think the member opposite will know that this is a very complex issue that we're working with, that the Water Security Agency is working with a number of landowners, Mr. Speaker.

My understanding is that the Water Security Agency has obtained compliance, voluntary compliance from a number of those landowners. I also know that the courts have been involved as well and have issued orders, Mr. Speaker, that the Water

Security Agency is ensuring that there is compliance with those, Mr. Speaker.

So, Mr. Speaker, again I would say that the member opposite knows that this is a very complex file that is involving these particular landowners, involving a number of landowners in that area, Mr. Speaker. And the Water Security Agency is working to ensure that everybody is brought into compliance.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, eight years later, this is about leadership and oversight. And, Mr. Speaker, it's about obeying the law. In June of 2018 the Saskatchewan Court of Queen's Bench ruled on behalf of Peter and Barbara, who were so desperate to save their farm that they took the Water Security Agency to court. Now this judgment indicated that the minister's agency breached its duty and had to order them, they had to order the Water Security Agency to resolve the issue for good.

[14:15]

Well guess what, Mr. Speaker? The minister refers to voluntary compliance. The flooders have made very inadequate and feeble attempts to comply, and Peter and Barb are again facing another year of flooding, lost income, and the heartbreak of watching their family farm literally go under.

The WSA [Water Security Agency] has failed them. To the Minister for the WSA: will he do the right thing this spring and properly enforce the court's ruling?

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

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I know it's the intent of the WSA and their officials to work in collaboration with all of the landowners and stakeholders that may be involved in a particular situation. I know that that was the intent of the WSA.

In this case, knowing that it has gone on for several years and involves a number of landowners and is a very complex water management file, Mr. Speaker, but certainly once the courts had made the decision and ruled in this matter, the WSA followed the order of the court, Mr. Speaker. And certainly they will be following that court order this spring as well.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, the minister is talking about collaborating with people who are deliberately breaking the law. Instead of enforcing the law, the Water Security Agency has not acted. They've stepped back once again and are standing idly by while the farmers who are breaking the law are now using extraordinary measures to take Peter's land from him.

The local watershed association has stepped in and is threatening to expropriate Peter's land since their members refuse to stop flooding him. The farmers who are illegally flooding are behind this as they are prominent members of the association, as well as sitting on the RM [rural municipality] in question, as well as founders of a new conservation and development authority, which is being formed for the sole purpose of forcing Peter to

accept flooding on his land.

And did I mention, Mr. Speaker, these same landowners, the ones that are breaking the law, have strong ties to the Minister of Government Relations? To the minister: why is the WSA washing their hands like Pontius Pilate while Peter and Barbara are fighting for their land and livelihood? Do Peter and Barbara have to go back to court again to get the WSA to finish the job that they were . . .

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

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, I would say first of all that this is a complex water management issue on the east side of the province, Mr. Speaker, that a number of individuals and organizations have been working very hard to find a resolution to, Mr. Speaker, over a number of years.

I will not even address the smear from that member with respect to the Minister of Government Relations, Mr. Speaker. We're used to that though, coming from that member.

Mr. Speaker, landowners have the ability to form a conservation and development association. That is not new; that happened under the members opposite. And the C & D [conservation and development area authority] has the ability to expropriate an easement provided they have enough signatures from members within the C & D, Mr. Speaker, which is no different from when the members opposite were the government. Mr. Speaker, drainage in this province had not been touched in 30 years in terms of the regulations, the legislation, and the policies, particularly the 16 years the members opposite had as government of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, including two former Environment ministers sitting over there, Mr. Speaker. We're trying very hard to ensure that we have the right policies in place.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, Peter and Barbara are here today. And the problem isn't complex. It's simple; they are being illegally flooded. And the WSA has dragged their feet for eight years and are not stopping the illegal drainage, Mr. Speaker. That's the question. And for the minister to hide behind complexity is not acceptable to these folks who have come to their Assembly today to get straight answers. Will he give them a straight answer as to when the WSA's going to solve this issue of the broken law on the lands of Peter and Barbara Onofrechuk?

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

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we are going to continue to work with all of the landowners, with all of the organizations, including the C & Ds, C & D that is involved, Mr. Speaker. The Water Security Agency, I can tell you, has been working very hard on this particular file, Mr. Speaker, as well as a number of others as a part of our priority networks that we're working to ensure that all of these, all of these drainage projects which . . . for many years many of them were left unapproved, Mr. Speaker. We're working hard to bring them all into an approved status, Mr. Speaker. Where there are areas where the law needs to be enforced in

particular, as we've acknowledged the courts have ordered the law to be enforced, the Water Security Agency will ensure that the law is being enforced, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I think it adds nothing to this file for the member opposite to try to smear a member of the government, Mr. Speaker. We're going to continue to work with all the landowners, Mr. Speaker, to ensure that the law is followed, that any individual or any organization that is looking to do drainage has land control legally, Mr. Speaker, has an adequate outlet, Mr. Speaker. We believe on this side of the House where that's done appropriately that drainage is legal and should take place, Mr. Speaker, in a responsible manner, Mr. Speaker. I think the members opposite have a different view of that, Mr. Speaker, and it'd be interesting if they'd stand up and state that on the record.

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

Requirements for Autobody Shops

Ms. Rancourt: — Mr. Speaker, last week we asked the minister about SGI's [Saskatchewan Government Insurance] changes to the autobody industry. The minister went on about safety. And yes of course safety is important, but the need to keep our roads safe didn't just happen overnight, and there was no reason for this government to blindside small-business owners without consultation.

Barb Genert, who runs Sunny's Auto Body in Maple Creek, has made the trip here today, and she has this question for the minister: why is the minister trying to have small rural shops take on costs they can't afford? And will he agree to meet with Barb to discuss her concerns today?

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

Hon. Mr. Hargrave: — Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of course I'd be happy to meet with the individual here after question period, Mr. Speaker, because we recognize the good and important work done by the autobody shops, Mr. Speaker, around the province, and the services they provide to the people of Saskatchewan.

It is important, Mr. Speaker, that any vehicle that is in an accident is repaired to manufacturers' standards to ensure it is as safe as possible before it's back on the road. Consultations, Mr. Speaker, are being done, Mr. Speaker, have begun. SGI is holding a number of town hall meetings and consultations throughout the province over the next couple of weeks, Mr. Speaker. And I look forward to hearing what's the feedback from attendees at all those town halls. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Rancourt: — I'm happy to hear the minister is willing to engage in these discussions today, but these conversations with small businesses should have happened long before these changes were proposed.

Why is it, Mr. Speaker, that this government can only consult after the fact? Why can't people's businesses and livelihoods be

considered in the first place?

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

Hon. Mr. Hargrave: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate all the feedback that has been received from my colleagues, by my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, from industry, throughout the industry, and through discussions that they have had for ongoing, Mr. Speaker, with the autobody industry, Mr. Speaker.

We will ensure that we listen to all those affected, Mr. Speaker, at these town hall meetings. No decisions have been made, Mr. Speaker. SGI reviews policies like these on an ongoing basis. And these consultations over the next couple of weeks, as I said, Mr. Speaker, that are being held, I look forward to hearing what those people have to say. And, Mr. Speaker, it's after full consultation that decisions will be made as to the future of the autobody . . . which direction SGI will go in the autobody business. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Report on the Village of Pinehouse

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thirteen times, 13 times, the Information and Privacy Commissioner found that the village of Pinehouse had failed to follow the law before this government finally decided to investigate. The minister has so far refused to release the report that prompted the current inquiry even though it's been leaked to the media, and has not said whether they'll implement the report's recommendations. So we're going to ask again, will the minister commit today to releasing the report that prompted the current inquiry? And will he be implementing all of the report's recommendations?

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

Hon. Mr. Kaeding: — Mr. Speaker, after Mr. Robertson provided his initial inspection report, we believed that there was a need to know a little bit more about some of the questions we had that came from within the report, so we've asked him to undertake an inquiry. Also with that report, we had appointed Mr. Hasan Akhtar, a public servant of five years, an expert in northern municipal affairs, to provide assistance over the next year to kind of review and work with the municipal council of Pinehouse.

As well, we are now just determining the financial audit, as to how we're going to undertake a financial audit of the community. After Mr. Robertson is done with his inquiry, and Justice and our officials have had an opportunity to review it, we will then release all pertinent documents to the public.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Mr. Speaker, we know that when this government finally caves to pressure and announces an inquiry into the GTH [Global Transportation Hub], the overwhelming response will be, what took you so long? And that's the overwhelming response today of concerned citizens of Pinehouse to last week's announcement that there would be an inquiry into

the actions of their northern municipality. They're saying, what took you so long?

As recently as last October, under growing pressure to show that they were finally doing something about Pinehouse, the best talking points that the ministry of government affairs could come up with was, to demonstrate that they were taking the matter seriously, were that they held meetings, had made the council aware of their legal obligations, and had provided training opportunities and educational materials to the village.

To the minister: why did it take so long for this government to address this very serious concern that finally led to an inquiry?

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

Hon. Mr. Kaeding: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are always working with the municipalities to ensure that they have compliance with all matters that they have before them. SUMA [Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association], SARM [Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities], our provincial partners are always working with municipalities that struggle with compliance and certainly working towards assisting them in getting them into that.

We have the municipal advisory sector that certainly spends a lot of time with municipalities. When they have questions on orders and governance issues, they have the municipal advisory group that they can refer to. We've worked with SARM and SUMA that have developed a peer review network that, again, has an opportunity for any of the elected officials or even administrators to call and refer to when they have concerns that they have in the operations of their governance.

We understand, and as well as we've heard from even our representatives of the North, that many municipalities in the North certainly struggle with the ability to work within the governance factor, so we are always working with our municipal partners in being able to do with all the effects that they have in front of them. Thank you.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Mr. Speaker, I just want to remind the minister, it's 2019. And it's remarkable that it's taken this government this long to finally investigate when so many have been raising the alarm for years.

Here's just a few examples. In 2014, Pinehouse was sued in the Court of Queen's Bench by a news organization for its failure to comply with a freedom of information request. In 2015, locals raised the alarm about a village administrator and her staff destroying multiple boxes of documents in burning barrels outside the village office. In July 2016, an assistant deputy minister of Government Relations wrote to colleagues indicating that the Information and Privacy Commissioner "will be writing to us to see what we might be able to do to help/encourage/force Pinehouse to fulfill their legislative obligations under the Act." Still nothing from this government. No investigations until last December.

The Speaker: — No more preamble, just ask the question please.

Mr. Forbes: — Mr. Speaker, quite simply, why did it take so long?

[14:30]

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

Hon. Mr. Kaeding: — Mr. Speaker, I think we've reviewed the number of opportunities that municipalities have in front of them to continue to work with their governance models, as well as we respect certainly that level of government which is our elected officials that we have in all of our municipalities across the country and across the province. And certainly within that community they had opportunity to replace individuals that they would've felt uncomfortable with leading their community. So there's a number of venues that a lot of our municipalities have in front of them, one of them . . . [inaudible] . . . the electoral process, which I believe they had the opportunity to exercise, Mr. Speaker.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 171 — *The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2019*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker. I'm here today to move second reading of Bill No. 171, *The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2019*. This legislation implements the income tax initiatives announced on March 20th, 2019 as part of the 2019-20 provincial budget.

Mr. Speaker, volunteers are a critical part of the ability of Saskatchewan communities to respond to emergency situations, particularly in rural areas. These volunteers put themselves at risk to protect the safety and well-being of their neighbours, and to respond to mass tragedies.

I am pleased to announce the creation of three new non-refundable tax credits for volunteer firefighters, volunteer search and rescue personnel, and volunteer emergency medical first responders, beginning with the 2020 taxation year. Individuals performing at least 200 hours of eligible volunteer services in a year, as certified by the organization managing the volunteer services, will be able to claim a \$3,000 tax credit amount. Eligible volunteer services consist of responding to and being on call for emergencies, including search and rescue calls; attending required meetings; and participating in required training.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation will enact the income tax provisions required to provide for the three new tax credits. To maintain consistency with the rules related to similar federal tax credits, individuals who perform at least 200 hours of combined volunteer firefighting services, volunteer search and rescue, and volunteer emergency medical first responder services will now be able to claim one of the three tax credits. Individuals who also provide these services as a regular employee of the organization

will not be eligible for the tax credit. This will ensure that the new volunteer tax credits will be properly targeted to volunteers. And individuals who receive honoraria in respect of any of their volunteer emergency service duties may claim either the income exemption or one of the tax credits, but not both.

The Canada Revenue Agency, CRA, will be administering all three of these new tax credits. Mr. Speaker, at the request of the CRA, this legislation also updates the provincial age of pension credits to properly align with recent legislative changes made to the parallel federal age and pension credits. The updates will ensure administrative consistency between the federal and provincial credits.

Mr. Speaker, I now move second reading of Bill No. 171, *The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2019*.

The Speaker: — It has been moved that Bill No. 171 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much. Mr. Speaker. As has become the practice of this particular institution, Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to stand on my feet to give the current legislation a first, fresh look from the opposition perspective as to what the bill is all about and certainly what the bill tries to achieve. And, Mr. Speaker, as we've done on numerous occasions, we invite those that are impacted by the legislation that's before us, the Bill 171, *The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2019*. It's important that we encourage people to participate in the process and to add their input as to what the bill may or may achieve. And certainly their perspective is important, but also what the bill may miss, Mr. Speaker, and how we can certainly strengthen the bill and make sure that the objective stated within the bill is achieved with ease, Mr. Speaker.

What the bill does, just from our perspective, a general summary, it updates the age credit calculation as it pertains to *The Income Tax Amendment Act*. It updates the definition of a qualifying pension income. It introduces — which I think are three very, very important points as well, Mr. Speaker — introduces the Saskatchewan volunteer firefighter tax credit. That's one important point. The second one introduces a volunteer emergency medical first responder tax credit, Mr. Speaker. And of course the third effort, it introduces a volunteer search and rescue tax credit.

Now, Mr. Speaker, as we've indicated time and time again, each legislation is very, very important to note. Now as we look at the bill itself, Mr. Speaker, Bill 171, it's important to note that the official opposition, at the outset of some of the introduction of these bills, we get initial information. We quickly review the information and we see how we're able to help.

And I want to refer to a written submission by my colleague and, Mr. Speaker, I'm quoting from a letter. Mr. Trent Wotherspoon, MLA for Regina Rosemont constituency, wrote the Minister of Finance as it pertains to this particular bill. And I wish to read the letter for the record or into the record and for the record. And again, Mr. Speaker, I'm quoting:

Dear Minister Harpauer,

I write regarding the non-refundable tax credit for volunteer

firefighters and volunteer medical first responders announced in the 2019-20 budget. The official opposition is not opposed to this tax change. In fact we are very supportive of this effort. However we would like to offer a suggestion to improve this benefit for another group of volunteers who also make important sacrifices to keep Saskatchewan people safe.

I respectfully request that you take steps to ensure search and rescue volunteers who complete 200 hours of service are included in the provincial tax credit when you introduce *The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2019* during this spring session. Search and rescue volunteers are already recognized under a federal tax credit and including these valued volunteers in your new provincial tax credit is the fair and right thing to do.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter. I look forward to your response.

And it's signed, "Trent Wotherspoon, MLA for Regina Rosemont, the official opposition critic for Finance."

Now, Mr. Speaker, I would point out that this letter is read into the record as from our perspective as the official opposition, that this bill forgot one important group and it took the extra effort of my colleague from Regina Rosemont to recognize that. And we are pleased that the minister included the search and rescue personnel along with the volunteer firefighters and, of course, the emergency first responders.

It is important to note that there are a team of people that respond to emergencies of all sorts and there is one oversight on that front. And I want to commend my colleague from Regina Rosemont for taking the initiative to recognize that, to working hard to include the search and rescue people and to write the minister a direct letter. And of course, we also are pleased that the minister did take his suggestion and include this very valued group that was at one time not considered.

Now, Mr. Speaker, it's important to note that this particular bill, it's 151 pages of legislation, and there is a fairly wide-ranging description of what the bill is all about, how it's impacting on other legislation. There are things that you have to watch within this bill that are significant in detail. Paying attention to the detail of this bill is so very important.

In the 151 pages of Bill 171, Mr. Speaker, there's formulas on CYEL, current year of employment level. There's lump-sum payment acts around previous years for tax credits. There's a graduate tuition credit. There's a return of income definition. There's adjusted income. There's interest on student loans. There's computation of tax. There's a small business threshold amount. There's capital gains refund to mutual fund corporations. There's refundable research and development tax credits.

So the bill itself is very diverse. It's a very big bill. And this is the reason why the process of legislators is to have the government propose bills, and the official opposition look at those bills and go through these bills with a fine-tooth comb to see what is hoped to be achieved, and whether there are any surprises or twists or turns.

And, Mr. Speaker, given the manner in which our finances have been managed by the Saskatchewan Party the last number of years, it's so very important that the opposition pay attention to every detail because every opportunity from a booming economy to money in the bank and to record levels of employment, Mr. Speaker, this Saskatchewan Party government have found some way after 10 years of record revenue and good health for the people of Saskatchewan . . . We have record tax increases. We have an economy that's quickly turning into a wreck, Mr. Speaker. And above all else, by 2021 we're going to see that our debt triples to \$23 billion.

So how do you take a booming economy which the Saskatchewan Party inherited, money in the bank which they inherited, a growing population, what they inherited, and after 10 short years, Mr. Speaker, we have record tax increases. We have no money in the bank. Our economy is quickly going to the shreds, to be shredded, Mr. Speaker. And above all else, what is being left behind for our young generation is a huge, huge level of debt, and this despite the record revenues that were enjoyed by the Sask Party. And that's why it's important to pay attention to the details and exactly what the Saskatchewan Party's doing with our finances.

So on that note, Mr. Speaker, we have a lot more people that are going to participate in this process. There's a lot of information that we have to sift through, and it's important that we do that. So on this note, Mr. Speaker, I move that we adjourn debate on Bill 171, *The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2019*.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

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: — Mr. Speaker, I won't be speaking long today to Bill No. 160, *The Trespass to Property Amendment Act*. I've spoken to this bill in this Assembly. Of course this bill that was brought forward was done so in an incredibly disrespectful fashion, Mr. Speaker, that astounded I think many within the province, to learn that traditional land users, the Indigenous peoples that have hunted and fished and berry picked these lands for centuries, Mr. Speaker, weren't consulted in these changes.

And it was also very disappointing that the hunters and fishers of Saskatchewan, through the wildlife federation, for example — 30,000 members strong or more than that, Mr. Speaker — weren't consulted as well, Mr. Speaker. That sets up the potential

for government to ram forward legislation with a whole set of unintended consequences. Maybe they're intended consequences, Mr. Speaker.

But what's been brought forward here, Mr. Speaker, isn't enforceable. It's not practical. It's not a solution to the real problems that need action around rural crime or of clubroot, for example, Mr. Speaker. It will have a detrimental effect certainly to an important heritage industry in this province, hunting and fishing, and the economic activity that flows into many communities throughout the province.

Of course there's no question as to a landowner having the right to restrict access to land. That's very important, Mr. Speaker. We'll be pushing for change to this legislation to make sure that this government doesn't just ram forward a bill and really have a change that would have a cascading effect on many throughout the province. There's a lot of unintended consequences, or potentially unintended consequences, that this legislation would bring, Mr. Speaker.

So we'll be pushing for change, you know, a change along the lines of making sure that permission may be required for any vehicle to be on the land, Mr. Speaker. It would seem to be a very reasonable approach and that would be, you know, certainly my truck or a car, Mr. Speaker, or a snowmobile or an ATV [all-terrain vehicle], and would respond very well to concerns around clubroot. And there's also rural crime, Mr. Speaker. And we would see that as a position that could improve the current set of laws and supporting landowners across Saskatchewan who are a very vital partner all across this province and who have rights, Mr. Speaker, as well.

[14:45]

So I don't have much more to say here in this Assembly. I do look forward to dealing with Bill No. 160 in committee. And we're looking for the government to be reasonable and to look for an opportunity to change or amend this legislation, halt this legislation, and improve it before they bring about a change that has a whole set of, you know, very negative consequences for the province.

The Speaker: — Question before the Assembly is a motion by the minister that Bill No. 160 be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Principal Clerk: — Second reading of this bill.

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

Hon. Mr. Brkich: — I designate that Bill 160, *The Trespass to Property Amendment Act, 2018* be committed to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

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

Bill No. 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. I'll wait to be recognized. Thank you for allowing me to enter into debate with respect to Bill No. 161, *The Trespass to Property Consequential Amendments Act*. This legislation, as a result of the changes brought in Bill No. 160 that I've spoken to already in this Assembly, Mr. Speaker, again the legislation that's been brought forward here isn't practical, isn't enforceable, Mr. Speaker, isn't a fix to the real problems that need action by way of rural crime or concerns of clubroot, Mr. Speaker. Hunting and fishing and those that enjoy and access land from berry picking to photography and hiking, Mr. Speaker, is, you know, really an important thing to Saskatchewan people.

We've got a balance in responsibilities. There's certainly very important rights of landowners, Mr. Speaker, that need to be respected. And certainly landowners, private landowners, have the right to post and restrict access to land, Mr. Speaker. But the changes that have been brought forward have a lot of cascading consequences, Mr. Speaker, that really impact how many have connected to land across the province and have practical disconnect with land ownership in the province, Mr. Speaker, absentee landlords, Mr. Speaker, large numbered companies, if you look at the RM maps, that own large swathes of land, Mr. Speaker.

I know as a hunter and fisher myself, I've built relationships in every corner of this province with landowners. Those are relationships that I value and that I learn from, Mr. Speaker. But I also know the practical reality of an RM map, Mr. Speaker, with the many RMs and the important work they do within our province.

But for anyone who hasn't looked at one of those maps before, Mr. Speaker, you would certainly see a transformation over the last number of years on those maps, Mr. Speaker, with the change in what we're . . . you know, names of a family or a farming operation, Mr. Speaker, with numbered companies, Mr. Speaker, that often don't live in Saskatchewan.

And certainly still on the ground as a good hunter or fisher or hiker, Mr. Speaker, even when land isn't posted, the ethical and appropriate thing to do is to always seek to gain permission. So it's reaching out to the closest farms nearby and asking questions, finding out who owns what land.

But, you know, clearly through many of those conversations, Mr. Speaker, there's also recognition with many of those landowners that they frankly, I've been told, are thankful that we'll stop in but will say that they really don't want to have their yard site bombarded with folks coming in to ask permission. I've been told often, Mr. Speaker, that, you know, it's pretty clear, we've left things — that land there, those two quarters or those two sections — not posted. We've posted the home quarter or that land over

there with livestock or other aspects, Mr. Speaker.

So I think the legislation that's been brought forward doesn't fully canvass the realities that many rural landowners are facing. As well I hear from many that they would certainly like to be able to have an ability to indicate, you know, that it's permissible to hunt on the land. And I know so many that I've built such good relationships with, oftentimes, the first visit just rolling into their yard site, Mr. Speaker.

But hunting and fishing in Saskatchewan and access to land is something that's valued by the many, Mr. Speaker, not just the few. And many questions are being asked about whether this is setting up our province for, whether it's, you know, paid access to land, Mr. Speaker, which is something that hasn't been a part of how we hunt and fish in Saskatchewan, or what the other consequences are.

And, you know, it's not . . . Hunting in our province or accessing land isn't just for, you know, the elite, Mr. Speaker. It's for the many and that's an important relationship. It's different than in the United Kingdom where it's the aristocrats, if you will, and those that control and access land that get to hunt, but not many others.

So, Mr. Speaker, as I've said we will be following up at committee, looking for change on this front. We think it's incredibly disrespectful that Indigenous peoples, traditional land users for hundreds of years, weren't consulted on this front. And I find it disappointing and a loss that the hunters and fishers across Saskatchewan, through the Wildlife Federation, weren't consulted either, Mr. Speaker.

We'll be pushing for some practical changes. I suspect that members opposite are hearing from a lot of people about the practical concerns with respect to this legislation. So we'll be appealing for them to be constructive and to be entering into this with an open mind and to build legislation that, you know, respects certainly the rights of landowners, works to bring some practical improvements on that front, but that doesn't have, you know, a negative impact on the very important activity to many in this province, hunting and fishing and berry picking and hiking, Mr. Speaker.

And this legislation, as I say, isn't practical, isn't enforceable, and isn't a fix to the important challenges that exist. So we'll deal with Bill No. 161 at committee.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the minister that Bill No. 161 be now read a second time. Pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Principal Clerk: — Second reading of this bill.

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

Hon. Mr. Brkich: — I designate that Bill 161, *The Trespass to Property Consequential Amendments Act, 2018* be committed to

the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

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

Bill No. 168

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 168 — *The Justices of the Peace Amendment Act, 2019/Loi modificative de 2019 sur les juges de paix*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my pleasure this afternoon to rise and enter into debate, second reading debate on this bill, Bill No. 168, *The Justices of the Peace Amendment Act, 2019*.

Mr. Speaker, I understand that the reason that we see this bill in front of us is as part of a process that happens every six years, an independent remuneration process where a commission is struck to prepare and submit a report with respect to the determination of salary and benefits for justices of the peace in the province.

Justices of the peace, Mr. Speaker, perform a number of judicial functions. They're appointed by the order in council and there are about 150 justices of the peace in the province spread out throughout the province. The Office of the Supervising Justice of the Peace administers all matters dealing with justices of the peace and is responsible for identifying suitable applicants for appointment, training, receiving complaints and reviewing conduct issues, developing and implementing new programs and initiatives, and daily administration and province-wide support.

So there are a number of things that justices of the peace do. I think when a lot of people think of justices of the peace in the province, they think of their duties as marriage commissioners — certainly that is one of the functions — but there are many other functions. And so this commission is struck every six years to ensure that these people, these 150 JPs [Justice of the Peace] in the province receive proper remuneration. And, Mr. Speaker, I think that that's what we're seeing here with this bill.

A few changes that are proposed that are stemming from the report of that process; one of the recommendations was that all justices of the peace be included in the public employees pension plan, and that's what's being proposed here; as well as a number of housekeeping amendments; and outlining the benefits to which justices of the peace are entitled. Also it confirms the validity of pension plan payments under the previous Act, following the amendment of *The Justices of the Peace Act*, so brings those payments in line.

Mr. Speaker, it seems reasonable to follow the recommendations of this independent process. And I guess one of the things that I thought of when I was first reading this, the bill in front of me, 168, was, I guess just a little . . . We try to make personal connections and use our own personal lenses to look at the legislation. My mom was one of the first domestic violence justices of the peace in the province back in, I think it was 1995 that that legislation came in. And I think about all of the work

that was done with training, and the calls that would come in in the middle of the night sometimes, and that important work, as well as some of the other work that she was called to do, certainly around performing civil ceremonies for marriages and a number of other functions. So I have some familiarity with her work there, but maybe less with the other 150 justices of the peace in the province.

I know that a number of my colleagues have had an opportunity to speak to this bill. I don't know that we have any particular, I haven't had an opportunity to speak with the critic about any particular concerns that we might have, but it does appear that these changes flow directly out of the report of that commission that is held every six years. So I don't know that I have a lot to add to that at this point. With that, I am prepared to move to adjourn debate on this Bill 168.

The Speaker: — The member has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 168. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 169

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Kaeding that **Bill No. 169 — *The Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency Act*** 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 today to speak a little bit about Bill No. 169, *The Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency Act*. Mr. Speaker, this follows an announcement by this government in January that would see the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency that was created in November of 2017 as a treasury board Crown, that's basically been active since then, but that this will have fire safety elements from the Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Government Relations rolled into it. So we've got the wildfire management branch from Environment and the emergency management and fire safety responsibilities from Government Relations becoming part of the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency, Mr. Speaker.

[15:00]

This is early days at looking at this bill. It was just introduced yesterday, I believe, Mr. Deputy Speaker, just in the last few days. Some questions to ask, I know one of the things the minister talked about in his media around this particular event or this particular bill, back when they first announced that this would be happening, from a news article in the *Leader-Post* on January 9th, 2019, the minister says:

It's going to be very difficult to determine that at this time. We certainly don't expect it to be any more than that, and over time we'll be finding some efficiencies by having the two entities put together. But as it stands right now, that

would be very close to its operating budget.

So he was referring to the two budgets of the respective organizations coming together. So around a comment around efficiencies, it's always good to find efficiencies, Mr. Speaker. But I know that when the critic gets to committee there'll be some questions around what kind of efficiencies are they hoping to find, where through this amalgamation will those be: in jobs, fewer jobs. I know the minister has, in his second reading comments, reassured listeners and the opposition that there will not be. He had said that the public sector employees will continue to be as such and assured people that it's not a cost-reduction exercise, but that'll be definitely one question to be asked.

This bill in particular, the minister points out — it's always good to look at second reading speeches — but the minister points out those are two reasons for bringing these services together under one agency. In his second reading speech, he says, "We know we can improve the way we deliver vital public safety services, and the public has echoed this point since at least 2015."

So when you think about consultation and wanting to make sure that everybody who's involved or impacted by these changes has in fact been consulted, I know he mentioned the Red Cross at one point in some media. But communities, organizations, have they all been involved in bringing forward this change? Is this the best way of doing that, combining these services? Those will be all questions that need to be asked in committee.

The other thing that just jumps out at me — and I don't know; I'm just throwing this out here and this will be something to look at — Bill 169 proposes that the agency continue to have a high degree of ministerial oversight. Right now because it's a treasury board Crown, right now the minister says they're maintaining public accountability for government services by having on the board currently the Minister of Environment, the Minister of Health, and the Minister of Social Services. I don't know off the top of my head, but when we look at treasury board Crowns, is it normal to have that kind of oversight? I'm not sure about that, what the usual course of governance of a treasury board Crown is. But that's just something to look at and ask about, and why they've chosen to go that route as well, Mr. Speaker.

And not having an opportunity to chat with the critic, I think I shall leave it up to the critic to ask further questions. I know I have colleagues who will also be wading into this discussion on Bill 169, so for the moment I would like to move to adjourn debate.

The Speaker: — The member has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 169. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 170

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Eyre that **Bill No. 170 — *The Mineral Taxation Amendment Act, 2019*** 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 to participate in this debate. You know, this is a pretty technical Act on an area that not a lot of people know about. But in my background I had some dealings in this area, so I do have a little bit of insight, not a great deal.

But while I have the minister's ears, one of the things that could actually be done in this area is on freehold mineral titles. Sometimes there's a number of titles there that are held fractionally by people who are long deceased. And you know, maybe 60 years ago there wasn't any interest in those people updating or probating an estate to deal with a title because they thought it was worthless.

But of course we really came across this with the Bakken field as those titles all of a sudden became valuable. But it was a real bar to both oil companies wanting to develop those titles because they couldn't actually get an owner who actually had the legal ability to lease those titles to the company. And so sometimes it would be attractive enough that a company might go to the family and say, you know, look, if you can figure out where all these people are and get them to sign a lease, then we'd be happy to lease it, and we'll even pay for the legal fees to get all this done. But sometimes it was just too much work.

And so there's a real opportunity, it seemed to me, for the government. If there could be a way in which the province or some sort of entity could act as a trustee for those type of titles and have the authority to lease those titles to an oil company that would produce them, and then hold the money in trust so that . . . You know, it's easier to convince a family that they should get interested in this when there's a pot of money sitting there and the property is producing, rather than just going to them and saying, hey you're going to have a 116th or a 132nd share of this title. It may or may not turn into something. But you know, you might have to pay 1,000 or \$5,000 up front in legal fees to get maybe a 132nd share that might turn out to be nothing.

It's hard to get families to do that. But if the province could step in and basically be the middle person there, it would be a way that we could actually, you know, use our resource to more benefit.

And another situation where this would apply would be, there's a lot of ghost towns out there where there's still, you know, notionally, say 100 or 200 different titles for lots that were never actually developed. Or perhaps they had a house on them at one point in time but now they're just, you know . . . You've got, in a quarter section, you might have 100 different fractional titles where it's impossible for an oil company to go in and develop that quarter section because the mineral title still looks like there's 100 different properties.

So that would be an area where it seemed to me that the province would really be well served, both for the owners, the people who are entitled to be the owners of those mineral rights, but also our own provincial treasury in making sure that our resource got developed for the benefit of the province.

So I know that those comments are a little bit outside the purview of this Act but it's still under this minister's purview, and it seems

to me it would be a worthwhile thing for the minister to look at.

Mr. Speaker, on this particular bill I noted with some curiosity that this is retroactive to 2001. That's one of the proposals. That's very unusual for taxing legislation, so it seems to me this is very much kind of in the nature of housekeeping to maybe confirm what was already had been assumed to be the understanding, but maybe wasn't there explicitly in the law. I hope it is. I'm curious whether this is going to result in any additional tax revenue being collected by the government.

But I think with that, Mr. Speaker, I will conclude my remarks on this particular bill and move that debate on this bill be adjourned.

The Speaker: — The member has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 170. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Hon. Mr. Brkich: — Mr. Speaker, so the committees may carry work on later today, I move this House do now adjourn.

The Speaker: — It's been moved by the Government House Leader that the Assembly do now adjourn. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

[The Assembly adjourned at 15:09.]

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