



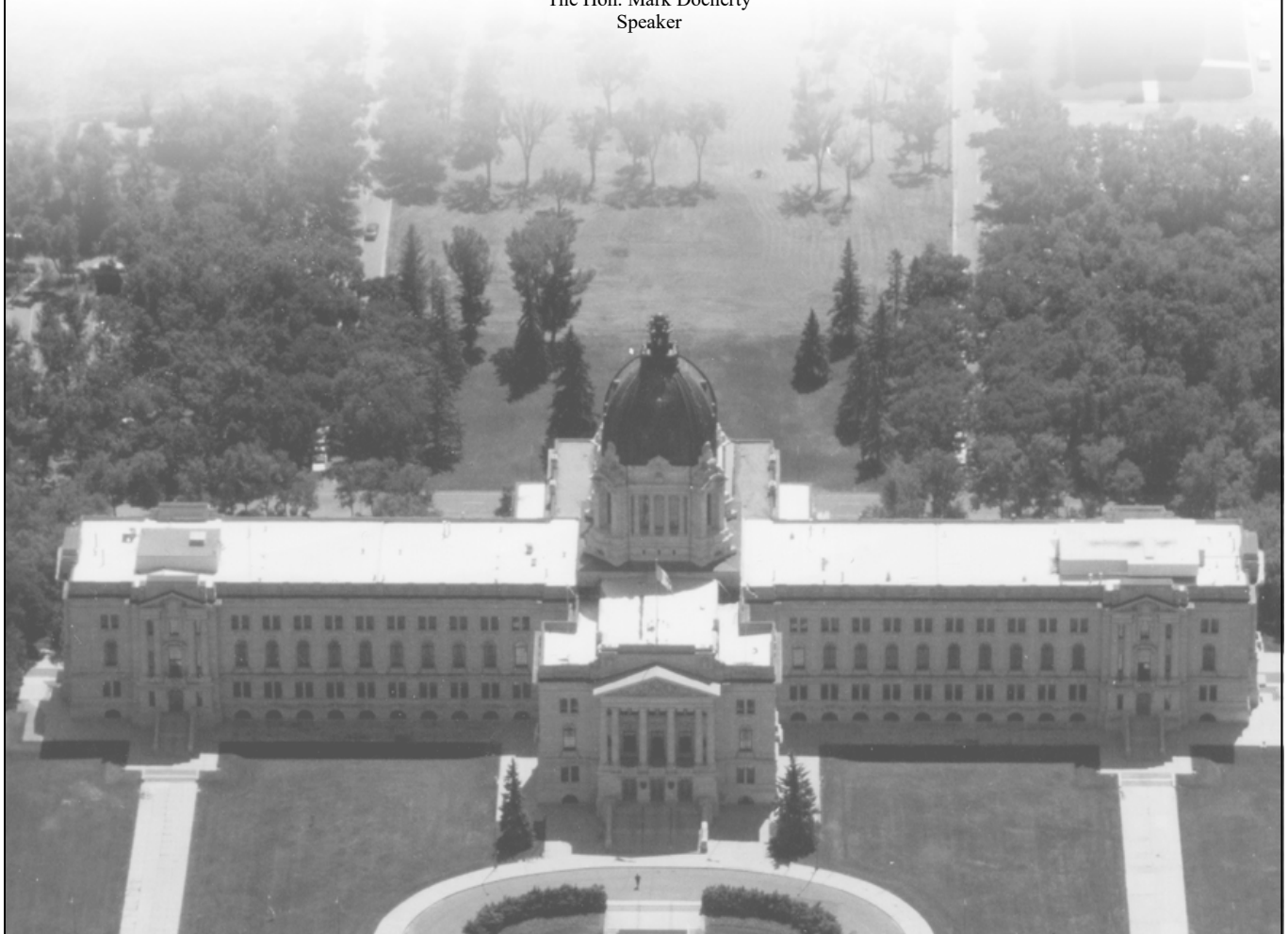
FOURTH SESSION - TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

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
4th Session — 28th Legislature

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Leader of the Opposition — Ryan Meili

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Lambert , Lisa — Saskatoon Churchill-Wildwood (SP)	Vacant — Regina Walsh Acres
Lawrence , Greg — Moose Jaw Wakamow (SP)	Vacant — Saskatoon Eastview

Party Standings: Saskatchewan Party (SP) — 46; New Democratic Party (NDP) — 13; Vacant — 2

Clerks-at-the-Table

Clerk — Gregory A. Putz

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

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Clerk Assistant — Kathy Buriannyk

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[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — Introduction of guests. I'm going to go first.

So sitting in the Speaker's gallery, I would like everyone to join me in welcoming 16 grade 12 students from Thom Collegiate. Accompanying them today is Janelle Henderson, teacher, and parent chaperone Cassandra. Give us a wave. I'll be looking forward to trying to explain what went on today to them. Please join me in welcoming the students from Thom Collegiate and their teacher to this Assembly.

I recognize the member for Saskatoon Westview.

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

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member.

Mr. Buckingham: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce some fine folks from the Sikh association of Regina. If you could give a wave when I call your name. Bikramjit Singh, past president of the Regina Sikh association. Gary Grewal — Gary is a candidate of ours for the Sask Party in the 2020 election. Sohan Singh Matharo, who is a founding member of the Regina Sikh association; Hem Singh Jutla, give a wave. Manpreet Singh, priest of the gurdwara; Gurdeep Singh, priest of the gurdwara. Major Singh; Daljit Singh Padwell.

Today is a very important day in the Sikh Society. It's the 550th celebration of the first Sikh gurdwara, Guru Nanak Dev Ji. And I ask all members to welcome them to their Assembly.

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

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join the member opposite in saying welcome and sat sri akal to our guests from the Sikh community, the leaders in this community. We've had a chance to be part of some of the celebrations of the 550th anniversary of Guru Nanak with the Nagar Kirtan parades this summer in Saskatoon and Regina.

It's a very auspicious day for the community, so congratulations on this day. And once again, thank you for the incredible work that the Sikh Society does here in Regina, in particular the kitchen at the gurdwara that offers a free meal to all comers. And I think all of us have had a chance to come and join in some of those meals and that celebration and fellowship at the gurdwara. It's an incredibly open and positive contributing community in our city and in our province.

So if all the members would please join me in welcoming and thanking these guests to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Ms. Ross: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with our member from this side of the House, Saskatoon Westview, in welcoming these fine members from the Sikh community to the Legislative Assembly. The Leader of the Opposition did mention that the Sikh community has been very generous in providing meals to the community, but I'd like to thank them for going into the community and serving meals to people who are in need. And it really shows the warm hospitality but also the giving spirit of the Sikh community here in the city of Regina. And so I'd like to ask all the members here to welcome them to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Mr. Fiaz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to join the member from Saskatoon Westview and the member from Rochdale, and would like to welcome all the Sikh Society of Regina and free kitchen volunteers in their legislative. I know them personally very well since the last 10 years, I believe, and would like to say thank you very much for doing all the kitchen work. And congratulations on 550th Guru Nanak Dev Ji birthday. And it's a good teaching, and we all follow all those good teachings. And thanks for coming. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member.

Mr. Olauson: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. You know, the Boys & Girls Clubs here in Saskatchewan do important work for our youth. And their mission is to provide a safe, supportive place where children and youth can experience new opportunities, overcome barriers, build positive relationships, and develop confidence and skills for life.

Mr. Speaker, the Boys & Girls Clubs here in Saskatchewan have served over 10,000 children, youth, and families. And, Mr. Speaker, to you and through you, I'd like to introduce a few of the folks that have joined us here today. From the Boys & Girls Clubs of Saskatoon — maybe just give a wave when I introduce you — the Boys & Girls Clubs of Saskatoon, we've got the president of the board of directors, Brandon Harris; the director of operations, Heidi Carl; and the CEO [chief executive officer] and a personal friend of mine, Wanda Desjardins. And from the Boys & Girls Club of Yorkton, we have the executive director, Lorraine Moeller; and from Battlefords Boys & Girls Club, we have the executive director, Nicole Combres.

Mr. Speaker, they're here today to meet with all of us and to provide a beautiful reception for the MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly] after session is finished. And we look forward to listening to all of their information and hearing about all the great work that they do in our province. So, Mr. Speaker, to you and through you, I'd like to welcome them to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join in with the member from Saskatoon University in welcoming the folks from the Boys & Girls Clubs from across the province here. Particularly I recognize Wanda, and I don't know Brandon up here, but I look forward to meeting him at the reception, and the folks from Yorkton and The Battlefords area.

That's great to have you here and we look forward to hearing about how you support the kids around the province and those who are particularly vulnerable. We appreciate your work that you do in our cities and our communities. It makes it a better place for us all. Thank you so much. I ask all members to join us in welcoming them to their legislature. Thank you.

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

Mr. Cox: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure to join with my colleagues and introduce a very good friend of mine seated up in your gallery, Nicole Combres, introduced previously as executive director of our Battlefords Boys & Girls Club. I've had occasion to work with Nicole on numerous times and visit our great Boys & Girls Club up there. She does such a wonderful job in making an inviting environment for so many children and youth that need some activities after school and other help. So I just ask all members to thank Nicole for what she does and welcome her to her Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Yorkton.

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join in with my colleagues to recognize these members of the Boys & Girls Club, but specifically Lorraine Moeller, Mr. Speaker. Although she's recognized very much locally and around the area for her involvement with Boys & Girls Club, she is involved in the community in a lot wider scale than that, Mr. Speaker. I just want to recognize that and welcome Lorraine to her Legislative Assembly.

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

Ms. Ross: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce to you and through you, 24 grade 4 students from Massey School. So I will have the opportunity to visit with them after question period today. Accompanying these 24 grade 4 students is their teacher, Megan Beach, so if Megan would wave to the crowd. And thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I look forward to visiting with these students and answering any of their questions they may have. So welcome them to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Requesting leave for extended

introduction.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Seated in the west gallery in this group that's come out from Massey School, I recognize a good friend up there. I see Chris Gust has joined us here today, and I want to give a special shout-out to Chris here today. Chris was recently awarded the Outstanding New Journeyman at the Saskatchewan Apprenticeship Commission Awards. He actually had the highest marks in the interprovincial Red Seal examination. He's a proud ironworker. He's a potash miner out at Esterhazy, Mr. Speaker. He's a proud Métis, Mr. Speaker, and he's a good friend. It's a pleasure to have him in his Assembly here today.

It's also a pleasure to have Peyton Lawson, his daughter, here today. Give us a wave, Peyton. Peyton — she's eight years old — and her other friend, Lola Topal, have been cleaning the walk for their neighbours. They've been picking up a few dollars, and they're not like I was when I was eight years old. I'd buy hockey cards or something like that, Mr. Speaker. They've been donating those dollars to cancer research, Mr. Speaker, in recognition and remembrance of her grandfather. So I'd ask all members to join with me in giving Chris Gust a warm hello, and a real warm hello and great big thank you to Peyton Lawson.

While on my feet I want to briefly give an introduction to Janelle Henderson, a good friend and a teacher at Thom Collegiate, with that fine delegation. She's an amazing teacher and person. Her husband is country music artist Chris Henderson. And I'd ask all members to give Janelle a warm hello too in her Assembly.

And I'll be brief on this one, but it's a tremendous honour to have friends and leadership of the Sikh Society here in the Assembly here today. To them I simply say thank you. Their efforts to build our community, the generosity and goodness that they extend is remarkable. Lucky to count these folks as friends, and our community is better for their many efforts to strengthen it. Of course there's the community kitchen in North Central, the tree planting that occurred this year, 550 trees. And yesterday on the Day of Remembrance, of course every year I see a strong, proud delegation from the Sikh Society, some of the folks that are here today, standing in remembrance at the cenotaph. It was great to see them there yesterday, Mr. Speaker, and it's great to see them here today as well. Thank you.

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

Mr. Stewart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. While I'm on my feet, I'd like to recognize and welcome all of our guests today, Mr. Speaker. But particularly I want to introduce and recognize a young man with the Massey School group by the name of Beckett Brière-Chelsberg. Give us a wave, Beckett. Beckett's grandmother is seated in the press gallery, Karen Briere. She says she's very proud of Beckett, and she asked me if I'd embarrass him a little bit while we're here, and so I'm doing my job. And Beckett's grandmother, Karen, is a resident of my hometown,

Pense, Saskatchewan, and curls with my wife and is a community leader in Pense. So welcome, Beckett.

The Speaker: — Yes, absolutely. Welcome, Beckett.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Mr. Cox: — 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 an unfair and ineffective carbon tax on the province of Saskatchewan.

[13:45]

I would 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 this province.

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by the good citizens of North Battleford. I do so present.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I arise once again today to present petitions on behalf of concerned people and businesses in communities from right across Saskatchewan as it relates to the Sask Party's choice to impose the PST [provincial sales tax] onto construction labour and of course expand it. This amounts to a billion dollar tax grab by the Sask Party, and it's hit households hard.

Households are now paying more than \$800 a year more than they were just four years ago, Mr. Speaker. So this is costly for households and it's hurt our economy. Of course this is the epitome of a job-killing tax, and, sadly, the results speak for themselves. Important projects have been shelved across our province. Permits are down across Saskatchewan. We've lost thousands of hard-working tradespeople, or their jobs within our province. And we've lost so many of those tradespeople who have been forced to find employment, often outside of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, a real loss for them and their family but a tremendous loss for our province.

The prayer reads as follows:

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

These petitions are signed by concerned residents of Siltou and Earl Grey. I so submit.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise again to present another petition calling on the Sask Party government to call by-elections in Regina Walsh Acres and Saskatoon Eastview.

The undersigned residents of the province of Saskatchewan want to bring to our attention the following: that the seats in the Legislative Assembly for Regina Walsh Acres and Saskatoon Eastview sadly are currently vacant, and that's because of a loophole in the Legislative Assembly. By-elections are not legally required to be called in Regina Walsh Acres or Saskatoon Eastview because the former MLAs did not resign before August 6th, 2019. They did so the next month in September.

Now we know that unless a by-election's called, the constituents in Regina Walsh Acres and Saskatoon Eastview will go without representation for nearly 14 months until a provincial election is held on October 26th, 2020. And we know members on the other side don't think people should be without representation for some six months. Fourteen months is way too long. But we know the Premier has the power and authority to call by-elections in Regina Walsh Acres and Saskatoon Eastview, even though the Legislative Assembly doesn't require it.

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

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan urge the Premier to call by-elections in the constituencies of Regina Walsh Acres and Saskatoon Eastview.

And the people signing this petition today come from Regina Walsh Acres and Saskatoon Eastview. I do so present. Thank you.

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

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition calling on the government to fix the crisis in our classrooms. Those who have signed the petition today wish to draw our attention to the following points: that the Sask Party government's cuts mean falling per-student funding and fewer supports for students who require a little help; that the Sask Party government's cuts leave educators without the resources that they need to support student learning; that the Sask Party government's lack of funding for school infrastructure has led to crumbling and overcrowded schools across Saskatchewan; and that the Sask Party government's failure to invest in our classrooms is having serious consequences today, and it will continue into the future, Mr. Speaker, unless something is done.

I'll read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call upon the Sask Party government to immediately fix the crisis in our classrooms by properly funding the most important investment that we can make in our children.

Mr. Speaker, those who have signed this petition today reside in Regina and Saskatoon. 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 to reinstate and expand SaskPower's net metering program. The people who have signed this petition would like to bring to our attention the following: an unprecedented number of residents want to take part in renewable energy opportunities. The SaskPower net metering program was very successful, which then caused the Sask Party to shut it down rather than expand it. And because of that abrupt shutdown up to 800 jobs could be lost and federal rebate dollars — and these are our own carbon price dollars, Mr. Speaker — will be left on the table. The Sask Party government's failure to plan for transition from a carbon-intensive economy to a low-carbon economy is short-sighted and detrimental both to our economy and to our future.

I'll read the prayer, Mr. Speaker:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan urge the Sask Party government to act to address climate change by restoring the SaskPower net metering program and introducing the Renew Saskatchewan energy transition program.

And the people who have signed this petition today, Mr. Speaker, are from the communities of Fort Qu'Appelle and Regina. I so submit.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition to end unacceptable emergency room wait times. These citizens wish to bring to our attention that despite the Sask Party government's promise to eliminate emergency room wait times in 2012, wait times in Saskatchewan's emergency rooms continue to grow; that instead of making smart investments to meet emergency room targets, the Sask Party government watered down targets to the point where they no longer exist; and that the Sask Party has cut funding to address emergency room wait times and has no meaningful strategy to get emergency room wait times under control.

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 fully fund and execute a plan, as they promised to do in 2012, to lower and eventually end ER wait times across Saskatchewan.

This petition is signed by individuals from Saskatoon today, Mr. Speaker. I do so present.

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

Ms. Rancourt: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm proud to stand in my place today to present a petition in support of FSIN's [Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations] suicide prevention strategy.

The individuals who signed this petition want to bring the

following points to your attention: that suicide continues to disproportionately affect First Nations and Métis families throughout Saskatchewan; the suicide rate for First Nations people in Saskatchewan is 4.3 times higher than non-First Nations people; the Children's Advocate has called on the province to work on a suicide prevention strategy with FSIN; that FSIN has developed a strategy that aligns with recommendations from the United Nations and the World Health Organization; and Saskatchewan people have long advocated for more mental health and addiction services to stem the tragic loss of life in northern and Indigenous communities.

I'll read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call upon the Sask Party government to support the suicide strategy put forward by the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations and commit the proper funding needed to address this serious issue.

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

The Speaker: — Why is the member on his feet?

Mr. Cox: — To request leave for an introduction.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mr. Cox: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just joining us in your gallery is another very good friend of mine and long-term friend, Darcy Woolfitt. Give us a wave up there, Darcy.

Darcy is a staff sergeant with our Battlefords detachment of the RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police], and we certainly thank him for what he does each and every day in The Battlefords. But he's here today with the Battlefords Boys & Girls Club. Darcy's been a long-time board member and Chair of our Boys & Girls club, does tremendous work in our community both in minor sports and in other endeavours. He's been a great citizen of The Battlefords. I've known Darcy for a long time. I would just ask everybody to thank Darcy and welcome him to his Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — Okay. I think we'll go back. Statements by members.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Birthday of Guru Nanak Dev Ji Sahib

Mr. Fiaz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm honoured to rise today to celebrate the 550th birthday of Guru Nanak Dev Ji Sahib. Mr.

Speaker, he is considered one of the greatest religious innovators of all time and the founder of the Sikh faith. Mr. Speaker, Guru Nanak was a wonderfully spiritual thinker and expressed his thoughts in extraordinary poetry that forms the basis of the Sikh scriptures, Guru Granth Sahib.

Guru Nanak's teachings are understood and practised in three ways: Vand Chakko, which is sharing with others and helping those who are in need; Kirat Karo, earning or making a living honestly without exploitation or fraud; and Naam Japna, the last step, which means to meditate on God's name.

Guru Nanak had a vision and an idea that the way to spiritual growth was through meditation and through living in the way that reflected the presence of the divine within each human being. Guru Nanak Ji thought that everyone is equal regardless of class, age, or gender, a message that still holds value today.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all the members to join me, acknowledge and honour the 550th birthday of Guru Nanak Dev Ji.

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

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Inclusion Saskatchewan Breakfast

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On October 3rd, 2019 I, along with some members from the government side, attended the fundraising breakfast hosted by Inclusion Saskatchewan, formerly known as the Saskatchewan Association for Community Living.

For over 60 years, the organization has worked with people of intellectual disabilities throughout this province. And though the name of the organization has changed, their vision has remained much the same: that is to see a society in which citizens who have intellectual disabilities are valued, supported, included, and have opportunities and choices in all aspects of life.

Inclusion Saskatchewan supports over 2,000 individuals with intellectual disabilities, and their family members, each year. Six key programs exist to ensure individuals may live fuller and more inclusive lives. Most of the programs offer direct services, such as support and advocacy to individuals, employment and transition support, and offering financial education. Beyond the individual, the organization encourages strong family networking, and at the same time works at a wider level to advocate for systemic change.

People with intellectual disabilities experience many disadvantages and roadblocks, few of which are within their control. At the breakfast, several of the people that Inclusion Saskatchewan has helped gave heartwarming statements about their experiences. They were so proud of their public speaking and so were their supporters.

This breakfast was a great opportunity to hear first-hand from the many individuals whose lives have been enhanced, even changed, because of the support of Inclusion Saskatchewan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Support the Home Front Care Kit Program

Mr. Lawrence: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On November 7th I had the honour of taking part in the Support the Home Front care kit distribution, along with the member from Regina Rochdale. The program was created in partnership with the Saskatchewan command of the Royal Canadian Legion, the Regina Stitchery Guild, and the UnderstandUs mental health initiative. It aims to combat mental health stigma and encourage veterans to seek help when they need it without fear or judgment.

The care kit program was also created as a nod to past traditions to give veterans recognition of the sacrifices they made. Mr. Speaker, during the war, care packages filled with letters, snacks, and reminders of home were sent to the soldiers overseas. The care packages were sent to boost morale and thank the soldiers for their service, and the care kit program hopes to follow in that tradition. It seems like such a small token, but these care packages go a long way to ensure veterans never feel forgotten or alone.

Please join me in thanking all of the creators and supporters of the Support the Home Front care kit program in congratulating them on honouring our veterans so well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Volunteer Wins Literacy Award

Ms. Rancourt: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to acknowledge the accomplishments of a long-time Prince Albert volunteer, LaVera Schiele. LaVera has been chosen as the 2019 recipient of the Council of the Federation Literacy Award. LaVera is most deserving of this recognition. She has been a vital member of the Prince Albert Literacy Network for almost 30 years and has been a driving force behind its success.

Mr. Speaker, I've seen first-hand her dedication and commitment to ensuring literacy education is readily available in Prince Albert. She has given countless hours of her time to our youth, our adults, and our new Canadians. She is a tireless volunteer with the goal of creating a welcoming space in which knowledge of reading can be shared. I have seen LaVera and the Prince Albert Literacy Network at numerous events around Prince Albert where they hand out free books to encourage families to read together. As well, LaVera is instrumental in organizing events on Family Literacy Day in January of each year.

Mr. Speaker, on October 10th the Prince Albert Literacy Network hosted an event celebrating 30 years of service, at which time LaVera's award was acknowledged. Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members join with me in congratulating LaVera Schiele on being the 2019 recipient of the Council of the Federation Literacy Award, and on congratulating the Prince Albert Literacy Network on its 30th anniversary. Thank you.

[14:00]

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Saskatoon

University.

Respect in School Initiative

Mr. Olason: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce our government's launch of the Respect Group Respect in School initiative, co-founded by Sheldon Kennedy and Wayne McNeil, both powerful advocates for children who have experienced abuse. Respect Group aims to empower people to recognize and prevent abuse, bullying, harassment, and discrimination through online training.

Mr. Speaker, this government recognizes the importance of supporting the leaders of our schools — teachers, school staff, and volunteers — in their efforts to prevent, identify, and respond to these complex issues. That's why we have implemented Respect in School, to provide even further support to ensure safe and welcoming environments in all learning environments across the province.

Upon the launch this morning, Mr. Kennedy stated that they "...are so grateful for the leadership that Saskatchewan continues to demonstrate when it comes to the prevention of bullying, abuse, harassment, and discrimination." And, Mr. Speaker, while we thank him greatly for this acknowledgement, it is he and Mr. McNeil who we are truly indebted to for everything they do to empower communities across this country.

So, Mr. Speaker, I invite all members to join me again in thanking Sheldon and Wayne as well as all the teachers, staff, and schools around this province for the work they do each and every day to ensure safe, inclusive, and welcoming learning environments for all. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

New Recreation Centre for Prince Albert

Hon. Mr. Hargrave: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my great pleasure to rise in the House today to talk about an exciting announcement made recently for a new aquatic and arena recreation centre in Prince Albert.

The new facility will include two 68,000-square-foot hockey rinks and a 47,000-square-foot aquatic centre. The 68,000 square footage for each of the two new community ice arenas represents the entire arena footprint which includes, of course, the ice surface, the dressing rooms, the spectator areas, stores, concessions, washrooms, and a foyer. Mr. Speaker, the two new community arenas will seat comfortably 800 spectators.

The new city of Prince Albert aquatic and arenas recreation centre will replace existing aging city facilities and will provide residents of all ages improved access to sporting and cultural activities in the city year-round. The Government of Saskatchewan is proud to provide \$20 million in funding for this project, and we appreciate the financial support from the city of Prince Albert and the Government of Canada.

Mr. Speaker, this will be a great new addition for the people and the city of Prince Albert and surrounding areas. I look forward to the completion of the project and to be able to enjoy the new

aquatic and arenas recreation centre with my family. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Job Growth in Saskatchewan

Mr. Hindley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. According to the most recent report by Stats Canada, year-over-year job growth in Saskatchewan continues to rise. In October Saskatchewan was up over 11,000 jobs from this month last year, setting a new record for total employment. Mr. Speaker, this marks the 15th consecutive month of year-over-year job increases and brings our unemployment rate down to 5.1 per cent, well below the national average.

Aboriginal employment, up. Female employment, up. Youth employment, up. The manufacturing sector saw its 11th month of job increases. Professional and science services saw a growth. Health care employment grew. Educational services grew. Agriculture jobs increased as well. Mr. Speaker, October's job numbers are proof that our government's plan for growing the economy is working.

Mr. Speaker, when the NDP [New Democratic Party] was in government, Saskatchewan had the worst job creation record in all of Canada. Imagine how strong our economy could be without the job-killing carbon tax. How strong would our economy be if we could actually get pipelines built for our energy sector, if we were opening up new export markets for our producers instead of putting up new barriers?

Mr. Speaker, the NDP supports the carbon tax. They have a leader who opposes Canadian pipelines and they attack work in international trade at every opportunity. More work to be done, Mr. Speaker, but Saskatchewan is moving forward.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Changes to Immigration Program

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This government needs to start answering some serious questions when it comes to the immigration scam at the GTH [Global Transportation Hub]. By finally announcing that they would no longer take applications for the GTEC [Global Trade and Exhibition Centre] program, they are finally admitting that that's exactly what that was — a scam. A scam that this government has had to distance itself from no less than five times as Brightenview repeatedly referred to a special relationship with the government. A scam that this government not just overlooked but actively promoted, going so far as sending Bill Boyd and Brad Wall himself to China to promote GTEC, Mr. Speaker. A scam for which the now Minister of Immigration, at the time minister for no wrongdoing, attended the ribbon cutting and said, and I . . .

The Speaker: — The Leader of the Opposition knows full well what his former title was.

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The then minister for the GTH — I'll be more precise, Mr. Speaker — saying, and I quote,

“When the GTH was announced, it was projects such as this that were envisioned.”

Well what kind of vision is that, Mr. Speaker? Why did they change the rules in the first place to allow this immigration scam to happen? And why did they wait until just before this story broke in the media to finally close the door on this immigration scam?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Trade and Export.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And of course the premise of the member’s question is completely wrong. The reality is, Mr. Speaker, that the Saskatchewan immigrant nominee program does not give preferential treatment to any individual or any company. All of the applications are processed on the merits of the applicant themselves, Mr. Speaker.

The overriding objective of the SINP [Saskatchewan immigrant nominee program] program is to ensure that newcomers who arrive, whether it be through the entrepreneurship category or other streams of SINP, are set up for success. And to that end, Mr. Speaker, we are constantly reviewing parameters of that program. We frequently made changes to the program over many years.

In fact the entrepreneurship category itself had been closed from 2013 to 2015 as we reviewed and made changes, including an EOI [expression of interest] model that ended up being what we announced in 2015, Mr. Speaker. We’ve recently made changes to other streams of SINP as well to ensure that those who come to this country through that program are set up to be successful.

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

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. They changed the rules to allow this to go forward. They’ve boasted repeatedly about the project. Only now when they’re caught do they finally come around to change things. What will be done to help those who have been damaged by this?

We hear from immigration lawyer and policy analyst Richard Kurland who told the CBC [Canadian Broadcasting Corporation], and I quote:

Unfortunately the outcome I see is that the Saskatchewan taxpayer is going to foot the bill for the political decision to get in bed in an immigration arrangement with a private sector company that they’re still not disclosing.

Mr. Speaker, that’s a very damning assessment from an expert in the field. Saskatchewan people deserve answers. We deserve a full judicial inquiry to get to the bottom of all of the wrongdoing, all of the wrongdoing at the GTH, Mr. Speaker.

And if this government is at all interested in sparing even a shred of credibility on transparency, Mr. Speaker, they would at least take the very small step of releasing the secret co-operation agreement signed with Brightenvue in 2016, a document this government is currently in court trying to prevent being released to the CBC, Mr. Speaker. Will the minister take that small step towards transparency and release those documents today?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Trade and Export.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of course once again the premise of the Leader of the Opposition’s question is just not correct. The reality is that the Saskatchewan immigrant nominee program does not give preferential treatment to any applicant, Mr. Speaker, or to any company. Applications are based on their merits.

And, Mr. Speaker, we are constantly reviewing parameters of all streams of SINP. And we did recently make . . . And we did recently make changes, Mr. Speaker, with regard to the parameters around the entrepreneur program. Those changes were made after months of consideration internally, Mr. Speaker, it announced last week. We added to the list of businesses prescribed not to be eligible: multi-unit condo units, in addition to what are now eight other categories of business, Mr. Speaker, including property rental investment, leasing activities, co-operatives, home-based businesses including bed and breakfast, investments in the business operated primarily for the purposes of deriving passive investment income, and many others.

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

Water Quality at St. Paul’s Hospital

Ms. Mowat: — For more than 24 hours last week, patients and staff at St. Paul’s Hospital in Saskatoon were unable to drink the water after staff complained it was coming out of the taps brown and discoloured. To the minister: what caused the discolouration of the water? What is this government going to do about it? And does the minister believe that Saskatchewan people should be able to drink the water in Saskatchewan hospitals?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Obviously Saskatchewan people need to be able to trust the water in Saskatchewan hospitals. As soon as staff were aware of the situation with the discoloured water, Mr. Speaker, action was taken immediately to provide potable water. Hospital officials worked diligently with city officials, Mr. Speaker, to track down the cause. And most importantly, they did water testing immediately but took all safety precautions. Mr. Speaker, I’m aware that as of today the water test has come back to be safe. I haven’t been told what the cause has been yet, Mr. Speaker. I’ll be following up with that. I spoke to officials this morning about it. The important thing, Mr. Speaker, is all possible safety precautions were taken and the water is now safe to drink.

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

Condition of Saskatchewan Hospital Building

Ms. Mowat: — Mr. Speaker, this government has done its best to keep a lid on the problems inside Sask Hospital North Battleford, but the truth is leaking out. Staff fear losing their jobs if they speak out, but their union has spoken to the media about the concerns they’re hearing, including water leaks in the walls unrelated to the roof leaks, issues with drainage, and other

problems that have delayed the full opening of the facility.

Last spring we submitted an FOI [freedom of information] for details on the extensive infrastructure issues of the hospital. But those records are held up in the Privacy Commissioner's office, and we've heard it's because the P3 [public-private partnership] partner is refusing to let SaskBuilds release the documents. Will the minister commit today to releasing the full list of deficiencies at Sask Hospital North Battleford?

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

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you very much for the question. As the member knows and members in this House know, out of an abundance of caution and to ensure that the health of patients and staff are an utmost priority, a full facility audit has been requested and the process is under way to identify any other deficiencies in the building. I also want to remind members opposite that P3s are an efficient way to invest in large-scale infrastructure projects. They save the taxpayer money and they ensure that the taxpayers aren't on the hook if there's any deficiencies such as these. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Mr. Speaker, the former SaskBuilds minister boasted a year ago that "When we get that hospital back in 30 years it's going to be in like-new condition." Well we've seen what like-new hospital looks like under this government, Mr. Speaker, and there's not much to like — a leaky roof, faulty insulation, faulty showers, lead in the water. And we've also heard that the hospital's entire electrical system has had to be rewired.

Will this government finally come clean about the full scope of issues with the Sask Hospital build? Or how much stress, uncertainty, and inconvenience are the patients and staff going to have to endure?

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

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Mr. Speaker, I thank the member opposite for the question. And it's her right to bring the questions forward on the floor of the legislature, but I ask her to make sure that her facts indeed are correct. I understand that a union member has been . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order, please. I recognize the minister.

[14:15]

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thanks very much. And I understand a union member has raised some concerns about various issues. And I want to ensure that the member opposite knows and this House knows that the safety and well-being of the patients, staff, and visitors will continue to be a priority of this government.

And I also remind members opposite that if they were in charge, there wouldn't be any hospital because they didn't get around to

it. They had a member from that area that was the minister of Health that promised this hospital year after year, time after time, and it never did get completed.

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

Effect of Mental Health and Addictions Supports on Wait Times

Ms. Chartier: — Mr. Speaker, we know there is an over capacity crisis in Saskatoon hospitals right now. Hundreds of patients have received health care in inappropriate places. What's happening in our emergency rooms is a symptom of a broken health care system, not the cause. We know that when people aren't able to access timely mental health supports, the ER [emergency room] is the last resort. We know that people are waiting 18 months to just hear back about the possibility of an appointment with a psychiatrist. Does the minister think it's acceptable for people in dire need to wait that long? And does he realize that this puts even more pressure on our emergency rooms?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Mr. Speaker, we recognize that mental health and addictions issues puts strain on the health care system, puts strain on our emergency rooms, Mr. Speaker. Because of the situation with crystal meth in this province for example, the opioid crisis, mental health in general, Mr. Speaker, we understand how important that is. We've made it a significant priority.

A number of programs are coming on stream, Mr. Speaker. We announced during the budget last spring some of them, Mr. Speaker. There's 75 new residential support beds for people who need intensive mental health needs, Mr. Speaker, coming on track. We've also, as I've said many times in this House, Saskatchewan Health Authority has released an RFP [request for proposal] on pre- and post-addiction treatment beds, Mr. Speaker. We've opened more addiction treatment beds in Pine Lodge, more in Calder Centre. There's six new addiction treatment beds for youth in southern Saskatchewan coming.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize the importance of what the member opposite has raised. We know it's a significant issue, Mr. Speaker. We're putting a great deal of resources at it.

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

Ms. Chartier: — I quibble with the term "a great deal of resources," Mr. Speaker. This government is a day late and a dollar short when it comes to addressing our crystal meth and addictions crisis in this province.

A resident of Saskatoon shared a letter with me last week. They were referred to a psychiatrist on May 1st of 2018 for help with mental health and addictions treatment. A week ago they finally heard back about an appointment. That's 18 months, Mr. Speaker. There are too many people waiting on lists like these with nowhere to turn but our emergency rooms if they're in crisis. Again, does the minister think this is acceptable? And what's the

plan to get these waits under control?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Mr. Speaker, obviously unnecessarily long wait times are not acceptable. We're working hard to fix that, Mr. Speaker, right across the entire medical field. That's why we've been doing a great deal of recruiting. There's almost 900 more doctors in the province, Mr. Speaker, than there was just over a decade ago. That includes psychiatrists, Mr. Speaker, mental health workers as well.

Mr. Speaker, I'm not aware of the situation that the member opposite has raised. If she'd like to talk to the person and would like to share that with me, certainly my office will reach out and see what we can do to help.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Mr. Speaker, it's not one person. It's many people who are struggling with getting access to the proper mental health and addictions care that they need. This isn't a new phenomenon. It's the result of this government underfunding mental health and addictions care for more than a decade.

Canadian Medical Association data shows Saskatchewan lagging well behind other provinces in terms of psychiatrists per capita, third-last after New Brunswick and PEI [Prince Edward Island]. Meanwhile we know there is an acute and growing need for mental health supports in our province. What's the plan to recruit and retain more psychiatrists so people can get the help they need, when they need it, and not be waiting 18 months to get an appointment?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Mr. Speaker, as I said, we take doctor recruitment very seriously, in fact recruitment of all medical professionals, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned, we've recruited almost 900 more doctors over the last decade, substantially more doctors than were here when we were given the privilege of forming government.

Mr. Speaker, you know, the member opposite has said that it's not about one patient, that it's about large numbers. And I understand that, Mr. Speaker, but frankly the best way to help those patients is one person at a time. So if the member would like to share that name, we'd be pleased to reach out to help.

In the meantime, Mr. Speaker, what we are doing broadly is we're working hard at recruitment. The physician recruitment agency in the Saskatchewan Health Authority is working hard at recruiting more physicians, Mr. Speaker.

As I said, Mr. Speaker, I just read a number of initiatives on mental health and addictions that we're doing, Mr. Speaker. On top of that, we recognize the drug addiction problem in this province. We're opening rapid action to addiction medicine clinics, Mr. Speaker. We are putting a lot of resources at it.

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

Management of Provincial Economy

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, the evidence that the Sask Party government is hurting people and our economy continues to mount. Last week we learned that more and more people are struggling to pay their bills, with the highest mortgage delinquency rate in Canada by far. And we've learned now that there are 4,200 fewer jobs in construction — jobs that were lost, by the minister's own admission, in part because of this Sask Party government's decision to add the PST to construction labour. Month after month we see losses in construction. Sadly, people leaving the province.

When will the Sask Party stop handcuffing workers, local businesses, our economy, and take the PST off of construction labour?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Trade and Export.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Well the fact of the matter is, Mr. Speaker, that we have seen 15 consecutive months of year-over-year job growth in this province. The other fact of the matter is, Mr. Speaker, when they were in government and had the opportunity to manage the economy and manage the factors that go into job creation, they had the absolute worst record in the entire country, Mr. Speaker. They had population decline over their time in government. We have seen on this side of the House, over the course of the last 12 years, population growth that has been unrivalled since the 1920s, Mr. Speaker.

There are challenges. There are headwinds in the economy. I've been very open about what those are. And, Mr. Speaker, I find it ironic that they are asking about these questions, given the fact that their leader supports those policies put in place by Justin Trudeau over and over and over again every time he gets the chance.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Well of course that's simply not the case. Like, don't let the facts get in the way, Mr. Minister, hey? And to gloss over the reality of construction workers who have lost their jobs, many that have been forced from our province, is incredibly weak and out of touch by that minister and government.

They don't have to take my word for it. They could listen to the CEO of the Saskatoon Home Builders who raised this matter of PST last week. The big banks are cutting projections for economic growth to less than 1 per cent.

No one expects the provincial government to be responsible for things like commodity prices, but they do expect the province to use the things they can control at the very least to do no harm. Policies matter. When will the Sask Party scrap their economy-damaging and job-killing PST on construction labour?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Trade and Export.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Mr. Speaker, the weakness of the leadership displayed by the Leader of the Opposition opposite is something to behold.

This is a Leader of the Opposition who weekly, weekly, every time he gets the chance, he stands up and he defends the policies of Justin Trudeau. He has stood in his place and opposed pipelines, Mr. Speaker, voted against them, as did that member for Rosemont. Voted against the Northern Gateway pipeline.

Those are members opposite, Mr. Speaker, who have stood in their place to oppose trade agreements. Every single trade agreement that this country has signed, that member and those members have opposed, Mr. Speaker. This is a member who weekly, who weekly has supported the carbon tax imposed on this province by Justin Trudeau.

Mr. Speaker, the people of this province know that. It's why they will never have the opportunity to govern Saskatchewan again.

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

Funding for Education

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, last week instead of taking action and bringing relief to our increasingly crowded and complex classrooms, the Minister of Education drafted terms of reference for a committee to study the problem. Mr. Speaker, this is a distraction and one that the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation has made very clear that they will refuse to participate in.

School divisions in our province recently released class size numbers, which average between 24 and 25 across Regina Public, Saskatoon Public, and Saskatoon Catholic. These numbers are far more accurate than the absurd number of 19 that we've heard the minister count.

Will the Education minister finally admit that what we need is not another committee? It's a commitment, a commitment to fund the growth and need in our classrooms today, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Deputy Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Thanks, Mr. Speaker. You know, last week we released terms of reference so that we can move forward to develop a path forward to solve some of the significant issues that are facing our classrooms. Mr. Speaker, I've stood on my feet a number of times to acknowledge the fact that there are some challenges.

Mr. Speaker, in their report last week when they released it, the STF [Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation] has said that the system's not broken. They've also gone on to say, Mr. Speaker, that "We have learned that people want to continue to talk about the future . . ." Well we're not satisfied, and continue to talk, Mr. Speaker. We've put a committee together to provide a path forward for this government so we can meet the very real challenges in our classroom, Mr. Speaker.

Now I'm disappointed that the union representing the teachers has decided that they don't want to participate, Mr. Speaker, but that doesn't mean . . . and the very people that have identified this as a significant issue in our classrooms, Mr. Speaker.

We are going to have the voice of teachers, Mr. Speaker. We're going to move forward, develop a path forward to address these very real issues, Mr. Speaker. This is bigger than the STF, and

it's not just simply a matter of throwing money at a problem, which is what the opposition members want us to do.

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

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, more selective quotations from that minister. The issues in our classrooms require immediate action, not another committee, and certainly not more attempts to divide and pit one against another from that minister.

If the minister isn't clear about what teachers in our province are looking for, he should come with us to one of our town halls, Mr. Speaker. One concerned citizen in North Battleford said this, and I quote:

Extra resources must be allocated to backfill past failings. It will be difficult and more expensive if we don't act quickly and correctly. In the future there will be an increased need for adult education.

Mr. Speaker, quotes like these at every one of the town halls. If we don't invest in public education now, Mr. Speaker, we'll have to pay for more and more costs down the road — the costs of illness, poverty, and crime. Will the minister finally admit that funding in our classrooms is a real issue? And instead of these games, Mr. Speaker, will he actually act upon it?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Deputy Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Thanks, Mr. Speaker. Well, Mr. Speaker, I never stood on my feet and said resources aren't important. We've talked about the need to make sure that we're properly resourcing our classrooms. But in order to resource those classrooms properly, Mr. Speaker, you need a plan. You just can't backfill funding to public education without having a plan in terms of how those funds are going to be allocated to deal with the very real problems that some classrooms are facing.

Mr. Speaker, every school division has different issues. Every classroom has different issues, Mr. Speaker. So we need to make sure that when we resource these classrooms, Mr. Speaker . . . And that's exactly what I've asked this committee to do: to look at the research and to provide some recommendations to me, Mr. Speaker, so that I can have conversations with my colleagues on this side of the House about how we're going to properly resource that. But we need to resource a plan, not simply a matter of backing a dump truck full of money up to the school divisions, Mr. Speaker, and pouring it in, because that won't solve the problem.

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

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, the education sector in this province has been waiting since 2009 for this government to get it together and get a plan. They're done waiting.

The minister wants to talk about this government's record on education. Well, Mr. Speaker, let's do it — 400 less per student and school divisions left with \$80 million in shortfall. Plowing ahead with Bill 63 despite no one telling them that was a good idea. A broken promise to hire 400 more educational assistants.

[14:30]

Mr. Speaker, staff are burning out, and more than 40 per cent of the teachers that completed our survey said that they have seriously considered leaving the profession altogether. There is a crisis in our classroom, Mr. Speaker, and it's that government's choices that have created that crisis. Doesn't the minister realize that the solution that is needed isn't another committee? It's adequate funding for publicly funded education in this province. It's past due.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Deputy Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wyatt: — Mr. Speaker, that's precisely what I'm asking for so that we can properly resource it, so we know . . . so we know where the resources need to go, Mr. Speaker. We need a plan, Mr. Speaker, as I've said. Each classroom in this province is different. Each school division is different. Their needs are different, Mr. Speaker. It's not one shoe fits everybody here, Mr. Speaker. And so as we go forward, we're going to have these very, very important discussions to develop a path forward for ensuring that we properly support our children and our teachers in the classroom, Mr. Speaker. And I make no apologies for this committee.

You know, Mr. Speaker, we have been spending time over the last while having lots of talk with a lot of teachers and educational professionals, Mr. Speaker. We know what we need to do, but we need to develop a plan. And I've heard nothing from that member, not one thing from that member, in terms of what plan they would have, Mr. Speaker, short of just dumping a bunch of money into public education without having a concrete and an intelligent plan that you can execute again, Mr. Speaker. And that's precisely what we're going to do.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 183 — *The Fisheries (Saskatchewan) Act, 2019*

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

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, after some brief remarks, I'll move second reading of Bill 183, *The Fisheries (Saskatchewan) Act, 2019*. I am pleased to have the opportunity to present the new Act for second reading today, Mr. Speaker.

Until recently, *The Fisheries Act (Saskatchewan), 1994* had not gone through a full review since its inception. During the course of the recent review, the Ministry of Environment determined there were opportunities to modernize the language and clarify the current intent of the Act. The new Act will provide consistency with other pieces of ministry-administered legislation such as *The Wildlife Act, 1998* and *The Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2010*.

The new Act also addresses specific gaps and limitations that were identified under the existing legislation and provides solutions to address those challenges. These include increasing the authority to respond quickly and efficiently to prohibited and aquatic invasive species, providing authority to enable the

development of environmental code chapters, providing the minister with the authority to appoint members of the fisheries advisory committee, and adding provisions to protect provincial aquatic species at risk that are not currently protected under federal legislation.

During development of the new Act, the ministry engaged with First Nations and Métis communities, the fisheries advisory committee, and other stakeholders.

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, this modernized Act will help protect our waters from aquatic invasive species. It will help protect aquatic species at risk and it will be more results based. And it will allow administrative penalties to be applied for offences that don't directly impact resources but still warrant a form of financial consequence, such as failing to abide by permitting conditions.

Mr. Speaker, I'm confident that this new Act will help provide the protections necessary to sustain, protect, and preserve our province's fishery resources and habitat for future generations to enjoy. And with that, Mr. Speaker, I now move second reading of Bill 183, *The Fisheries (Saskatchewan) Act, 2019*.

The Deputy Speaker: — The Minister of Environment has moved that Bill No. 183, *The Fisheries (Saskatchewan) Act, 2019* be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Regina Douglas Park.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's my honour to join today and enter into the debate around Bill No. 183.

I've just had the opportunity to hear the minister give his remarks and paid very close attention to everything he was saying with respect to this piece of legislation. I know he's very disappointed that the member from Athabasca isn't the one giving this speech, as is traditionally custom on our end, but he's been kind enough to allow me to speak to this legislation prior to him. So I will apologize in advance that I won't give quite as good of a response as my colleague, the member from Athabasca, of course would have done.

From what I understand, the legislation that's being put forward today is being created to hopefully improve the province's ability to respond to threats that are posed by prohibited and aquatic invasive species, and we've heard a lot of talk from the government about the concerns around aquatic invasive species and the damage that they can do to our lakes, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's important, as fisheries is a really important tourism piece in our province, that we ensure that our lakes are protected from these species.

And it also is going to increase the authority to respond quickly and efficiently to prohibited and aquatic invasive species threats, but also add some protection mechanisms for provincial aquatic species that are deemed at risk and that are not currently protected under federal legislation, Mr. Deputy Speaker. This is going to be some larger scale changes around fisheries, and from what I've heard from the minister's remarks that he just made, it sounds like some consultation had occurred prior to the introduction of this legislation. I'm sure the critic for this bill is going to be asking questions around the consultation, just to

ensure that all of the t's are crossed and the i's are dotted, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

It's also going to be providing the authority to enable the development of the Saskatchewan Environmental Code chapters and providing the minister with the authority to appoint members to the Saskatchewan fisheries advisory committee.

As I said, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the health and safety and vibrancy of our province's lakes is very important to everyone in this province, not only from a tourism perspective, but also from a just love-of-this-province perspective. So it's important that this legislation is solid and that this legislation has teeth, both to protect the aquatic species that are in our lakes, as well as some of the more administrative functions of issuing out licences, and also preventing invasive aquatic species from entering our lakes, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Because this is important legislation, we're going to be reviewing it carefully. I know the critic will be reviewing it carefully, and to allow for that work to be done, I am prepared to adjourn debate on Bill No. 183.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Regina Douglas Park has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 183. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 184 — *The Fisheries (Saskatchewan) Consequential Amendments Act, 2019/Loi de 2019 corrélative de la loi intitulée The Fisheries (Saskatchewan) Act, 2019*

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

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, after very brief remarks I will move second reading of Bill No. 184, *The Fisheries (Saskatchewan) Consequential Amendments Act, 2019*. Mr. Speaker, Bill 184 updates references and definitions in other bilingual Acts. There are no implications with the additional consequential amendments bill as the changes are housekeeping in nature for *The Fisheries (Saskatchewan) Consequential Amendments Act, 2019*.

And with that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I will now move second reading of Bill 184, *The Fisheries (Saskatchewan) Consequential Amendments Act, 2019*.

The Deputy Speaker: — The Minister of Environment has moved that Bill No. 184, *The Fisheries (Saskatchewan) Consequential Amendments Act, 2019* be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Regina Douglas Park.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's my honour to rise this afternoon and enter into the debate around Bill 184 as the minister just said, unfortunately not in French. I was hoping I could hear him practise his French again, another time, for the pleasure of the Assembly. Since he didn't, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I won't and I will just continue to speak in English.

This is a piece of legislation that just makes minor consequential changes as a result of the legislation we spoke about previously, Bill 183. So as a result I'll keep my remarks brief. Anybody that wants to know about the substance of this legislation should be looking at Bill 183 and our remarks around that.

To allow for further debate on this legislation, I am now at this time prepared to adjourn debate on Bill 184.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Regina Douglas Park has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 184. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 187 — *The Administration of Estates Amendment Act, 2019/Loi modificative de 2019 sur l'administration des successions*

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I rise today to move second reading of *The Administration of Estates Amendment Act, 2019*. Mr. Deputy Speaker, this bill will amend *The Administration of Estates Act* to reflect amendments recommended by the Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee. These amendments will ensure the role of the executor and administrators in the administration of an estate are clear. It will also ensure that the role of the Public Guardian and Trustee as administrator is clear.

The bill will move the official administrative provisions to *The Public Guardian and Trustee Act*. Since 1992 the Public Guardian and Trustee has been the official administrator for the province and administers estates where there is no one else to do so. Amendments to *The Public Guardian and Trustee Act* will occur in a separate English-only bill. Perhaps that says something about my French-speaking skills.

Similarly a provision in *The Public Guardian and Trustee Act* that applies to all executors and administrators is moved to *The Administration of Estates Act*. The provision requires that notice of an application for letters be given to the Public Guardian and Trustee where a minor or person who lacks capacity has a claim against an estate. Currently executors and administrators may not know to look at *The Public Guardian and Trustee Act* provisions respecting administration of an estate and as such may fail to comply with this requirement.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the proposed amendments will add a provision providing for the removal of executors or administrators. While the current Act allows for the revocation of letters probate or letters of administration, it does not establish a process for the removal of an executor or administrator. A new provision will set clear guidelines for when an executor or administrator may be removed, including where the executor or administrator first, fails to comply with a court order; secondly, refuses to administer or settle the estate; thirdly, fails to administer the estate in a reasonable and prudent manner; fourthly, where they lack capacity; and finally, where they have been convicted of an offence or as an undischarged bankrupt.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the proposed amendments will update the provision respecting notice to claimants. The current Act provides that notice to claimants be provided through publication in a newspaper once a week for two consecutive weeks. This practice has become more difficult with some newspapers printing less frequently and others folding entirely. The amendments will prescribe the manner of notice in the regulations to allow for other methods of notification, for example through a website to be added as needed. The proposed amendments will also amend the will registry provisions to make the acceptance of wills by a local registrar permissive instead of mandatory.

Finally, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the amendments include changes to the fee provisions as the final part of the court review project. The proposed amendments do not increase probate fees but will require an application fee for every application for letters made pursuant to the Act to cover the cost of processing these applications.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, it's my privilege to move second reading of *The Administration of Estates Amendment Act, 2019*.

The Deputy Speaker: — The Minister of Justice has moved that Bill No. 187, *The Administration of Estates Amendment Act, 2019* be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I take my place this afternoon to, as is the custom here, to do the initial assessment of the bill that's being presented by the Government of Saskatchewan, Bill 187, *The Administration of Estates Amendment Act, 2019*.

Mr. Speaker, this bill certainly adds a definition of "capacity" to the list of defined terms in the previous Act. Obviously it changes reference to "official administrator" to "public guardian and trustee" and certainly specifies that the Public Guardian and Trustee may be granted letters of administration if no letters have been granted to another person as set out in section 13 and finally, it provides a reason for removing an executor or administrator of a will.

[14:45]

Now, Mr. Speaker, there's applications that are also being applied to this particular bill, and probate fees for grants of letters. So on many fronts, Mr. Speaker, as is the custom here, we look through some of the bills for making sure that the intent of the bill is certainly understood by the public, more so, but to ensure that there is a good transition of what is being changed from the previous bill. And we would encourage people out there that are watching television — and if they don't have much of a life, watching this particular channel, Mr. Deputy Speaker — is that a lot of these bills, we would reach out to different groups and organizations to encourage them to participate in the process of democracy to make sure that they look at this particular bill and, if they have any particular concerns, that they would certainly get a hold of the opposition.

When you look at the whole notion and the incredible challenges of dealing with executors, dealing with public guardianship, trusteeship, Mr. Deputy Speaker, you're fully aware of the fact

that this is a very, very, very trying process as families on many occasions may be involved with wills of their parents or their family members. And when you have trustees and guardianships and all these different rules and regulations around the whole notion of the administration of some of the estates throughout the province of Saskatchewan, it can become complicated. It can become very challenging for a lot of people to understand how this particular process works.

So it's important to pay attention to what part of the legislation is being changed on this particular bill. And, Mr. Speaker, that's the whole process of democracy and that's why we would encourage people to pay attention, as we are in the official opposition, and that many of my colleagues that are much more learned in the process and application of law, Mr. Speaker, and there's many within our caucus that can provide that insight. We simply wanted to make sure that the opportunity for people to participate and to learn about this bill and how it may impact their estate in later years and their estate planning as well, that this is something that they ought to pay very close attention to.

So I think with that, I would also point out that there isn't a place that . . . People know that it's custom of the Saskatchewan Party government, wherever it's possible for them to add on fees and to collect more revenues for things like probate fees and fees for application, well, Mr. Speaker, we've grown accustomed to that. There isn't a tax that the Saskatchewan Party, nor a fee that the Saskatchewan Party doesn't like. And, Mr. Speaker, I think the people of Saskatchewan are tired of this government looking for every nickel and dime they can for any of their legislation to try and cover up the massive deficit that they're leaving the people of Saskatchewan in.

And once again this bill doesn't disappoint on that front, because obviously there's fees and there's also application fees and probate fees that are attached to this particular bill. But, Mr. Speaker, the sad part is Saskatchewan's accustomed to that particular action by that government. But certainly we would continue paying attention to what those fees would be and certainly what the intent of this bill is all about.

So on that notion, I move that we adjourn debate on Bill 187, *The Administration of Estates Amendment Act, 2019*. I so move.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Athabasca has moved to adjourn debate on Bill 187. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 188 — *The Public Guardian and Trustee Amendment Act, 2019*

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — I rise today to move second reading of *The Public Guardian and Trustee Amendment Act, 2019*. Mr. Deputy Speaker, this bill will amend *The Public Guardian and Trustee Act* to implement recommendations made by the Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee. Together with the bilingual amendments to *The Administration of Estates Act*, the proposed

amendments will move the Official Administrator from *The Administration of Estates Act* to *The Public Guardian and Trustee Act*. The Official Administrator provisions apply exclusively to the Public Guardian and Trustee. Moving the provisions will ensure that all of the provisions related to the Public Guardian and Trustee acting as administrator of an estate are in one location and that the Public Guardian and Trustee can rely on the immunity provision of *The Public Guardian and Trustee Act*.

The proposed amendments will also update the term “official administrator” and replace it with “public guardian and trustee,” as the Public Guardian and Trustee has been the official administrator for the province since 1992.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the proposed amendments will also update the unclaimed assets provisions to permit real property such as mine and mineral rights to escheat to the Crown if it is unclaimed after six years. Certain heir-locator companies have been taking advantage of prospective beneficiaries. In response, other jurisdictions such as Ontario and British Columbia have introduced provisions to address this. Similar provisions are being added through this bill to oversee the interaction between heir-locator companies and beneficiaries in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Public Guardian and Trustee is also recommending additional amendments to ensure the Act corresponds with the current practices of the office. These amendments will permit the Public Guardian and Trustee to bring a dependants’ relief application on behalf of a minor dependant adult; secondly, to grant the Public Guardian and Trustee the discretion not to act on circumstances where there is another suitable individual; and thirdly, to authorize the Public Guardian and Trustee to renew a suspension freezing assets for an additional 30 days.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I move second reading of *The Public Guardian and Trustee Amendment Act, 2019*.

The Deputy Speaker: — The Minister of Justice has moved that Bill No. 188, *The Public Guardian and Trustee Amendment Act, 2019* be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I again stand in my place to offer the initial comments and assessment of Bill No. 188, *The Public Guardian and Trustee Amendment Act*. As the minister alluded to, there are a number of changes being looked at. It certainly talks about the definition of “letters administration,” to the list of defined terms in the previous Act. It also provides the Public Guardian and Trustee may act as a litigation guardian, Mr. Speaker. It talks about the powers of the Public Guardian and Trustee as an applicant for letters of administration, and it also talks about the “. . . compensation agreements between prospective beneficiaries and heir-locator companies and limits compensation to 10% of the distributable value of the estate,” And finally, Mr. Speaker, amongst other things, it repeals some sections of the Act and moves it into *The Administration of Estates Act*.

Now, Mr. Speaker, as we understand some of these laws and certainly some of the challenges, as we look at the estate

settlement throughout the province of Saskatchewan can become very daunting and complex and unknown for many families. And I’ve witnessed on many occasions, Mr. Speaker, where there’s no will, for certain families a lot of times there are challenges that remain as to how the estate is being resolved.

And so it’s important to note that as we look at some of the changes to Bill 188, how does this affect and, certainly in my limited experience, how does it affect some of the families in northern Saskatchewan whose parents are older and never really moved forward with any kind of will or estate planning? And as a result of that, a lot of times these processes have to go through the courts, and the net effect is that there is sometimes confusion and sometimes hurt feelings between family members.

So it’s really, really important to pay attention to how the estates process works, what’s being changed in this particular bill itself, and how the Public Guardian and how the Trustee acts on behalf of the family, acts on behalf of a deceased person. These are some of the rules and processes that I think a lot of people normally don’t follow, but I would encourage them to take some effort to try and understand what is being proposed and what is in place prior to this particular bill being presented.

So again, as I pointed out, we can look at the estates and settlement of the estates and how the courts may become involved. And once the courts are involved, there’s a long process of engagement; whether it’s a guardian, the Public Guardian, the Trustee, it just goes on and on in terms of the options that are out there that people have to and should pay attention to.

And, Mr. Speaker, it’s very difficult for many families to navigate through that particular process so, as the official opposition, we would take our time to look through what is being proposed, try our best to explain when we’re asked about these particular bills as we are visiting various communities, and try and understand as best we can how this impacts our constituents back home and, of course, throughout the province.

So we need to take the time to understand the bill. It’s obviously here for us to read and to digest. And as I pointed out, we’ve got a number of lawyers within our own caucus that are very adept at understanding how the justice system works, and that they would have more profound statements and understanding and explanation of the bill than say a person like myself or the member from Regina Elphinstone might try to provide.

On that note, Mr. Speaker, I think it’s important that we keep those channels of communication open, that we encourage people to participate, give us your advice, your input, and some direction on these particular bills. There is time allotted for that, and we certainly want to make sure that that offer is open on a continual basis. So on that note, Mr. Speaker, I move that we adjourn Bill No. 188, *The Public Guardian and Trustee Amendment Act, 2019*. I so move.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Athabasca has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 188. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 179

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Marit that **Bill No. 179 — *The Apiaries Amendment Act, 2019*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Good to take my place and join debate on Bill No. 179, *The Apiaries Amendment Act, 2019*. Now, Mr. Speaker, being a city kid and, you know, being reminded of that fact from time to time by both my mother and my father growing up, Mr. Speaker, I know that matters apiary are generally out there in the countryside. But that is changing, Mr. Speaker. And there is certainly a friend of mine producing with the . . . She's got some bee nests, beehives, bee colonies in her back yard, Mr. Speaker, and that certainly adds a lot to the Christmas gift offerings.

Now I just want to assure members off the top, Minister of culture, we're not going to get into any kind of lectures on the birds and the bees. I don't know what kind of buzz there's been around this speech coming into it, but also I've been dying to make that joke since, you know, lunchtime, Mr. Speaker.

But in seriousness, I think the record will show, and if I haven't had a chance to put it on hitherto, Mr. Speaker, I love honey. I'm a big fan of honey, Mr. Speaker. I like the buckwheat honey. I like the wildflower honey. I like the purple loosestrife honey. I like the alfalfa honey, all the honeys, Mr. Speaker. Anything that goes to the well-being of the bees in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, I'm interested. You've got my attention. You had me at honey production, Mr. Speaker. So it's good to take my place and join this debate, as uninformed as I am, Mr. Speaker. But I do come with a pretty significant love for honey.

And again I know this is a big part of the value-added, the fine agriculture production that ushers forth from the great province of Saskatchewan. Depending on how this morning went or not, Mr. Speaker, I don't know where the honey production's going to fit into the international treaties that we're going to be pursuing, Mr. Speaker, but I guess that all awaits the negotiations. But again lots of buzz, lots of buzz on this one, Mr. Speaker.

But certainly in terms of the bill that is before us, coming forward, is it housekeeping? Is it beekeeping? I mean, you know, that's probably too much splitting hairs, Mr. Deputy Speaker. But certainly given that the bill came forward last before this House in 2005, there would be some updating to be undertaken with the legislation, Mr. Speaker, both dealing with the sector internally to make sure that our regulatory regime is up to date, Mr. Speaker, observing the best practices on offer around this great country of ours, Canada, and indeed internationally because you can learn a lot looking around the world, particularly at this stage of the game in the global village, Mr. Speaker.

But again coming forward with measure such as the implementation of Saskatchewan's premises identification regulations, wherein it was made mandatory for all livestock producers in the province to register their livestock in the premises identification system, PID system for my friend from Saskatoon Centre. And again that this should include honey bee keepers, that it should duplicate the beekeeper registry under *The Apiaries Act, 2005* and that the PID system has been combined with the beekeeper registry to reduce administrative work and red tape. That's all fair enough, Mr. Speaker.

[15:00]

And as well in terms of keeping up with the science, wherein back in 2005 — again referring to the minister's second reading speech, which I find to be with abundant merit, Mr. Speaker, certainly the speech from the Minister of Agriculture — but wherein the Minister of Agriculture referred to the fact that it was thought that attracting foraging bees to honeybee feeds would spread disease among bee colonies, there having been since no published risk proving that to be true, Mr. Speaker.

Wherein the new Act will allow beekeepers to utilize time-saving techniques such as open feeding over a particular time period, which has the added benefit, Mr. Speaker, of minimizing the risk of contaminating honey with foreign sugars . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . I'm getting some assistance from Carrot River Valley, Mr. Speaker. He's moved right into the front benches there, and now he's got a lot to get off his chest, which is, I can only imagine, as it befits the occasion, Mr. Speaker. But with thanks to the member, I'll carry on with my remarks. Not long to go on this one. And then he can get me behind the bar or by email or perhaps he's got some carrier bees he can send a message over with, Mr. Speaker. We'll see how that goes.

But in terms of utilizing time-saving techniques of open feeding bees and, Mr. Speaker, better managing disease outbreaks that do occur amongst the bee colonies, that's again a good thing to keep an eye out for, Mr. Speaker. And updating the Act to include and define American foulbrood as a notifiable disease whereby you've got to get to the authorities with that, Mr. Speaker, again helping the regulatory regime be more responsive and contain various disease outbreaks when they should occur.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, wherein the seeking of regulatory compliance where a provision will be put in place wherein beekeepers must remove abandoned equipment, this type of equipment, Mr. Speaker, is a potential nesting site for feral honeybees. This is a disease concern for beekeepers, as feral honeybees can carry diseases that they then pass on to managed colonies. Again, Mr. Speaker, that's totally a concern that is worthy of the regulators and we're glad to see action on that.

The fines involved, Mr. Speaker, will move the maximum from \$10,000 to \$25,000. Again, Mr. Speaker, considering that this was last addressed in 2005, that would seem to be appropriate.

But, Mr. Speaker, as regards to the industry itself and the impacts of these regulatory changes, Mr. Speaker, I don't think it's any secret, but I'll be certainly looking forward to with great interest, the speech for the member from Regina Northeast who's got not a passing interest in these matters, Mr. Speaker, but certainly a lifelong devotee of matters apiary, Mr. Speaker. So I'll look

forward to his remarks. And certainly, Mr. Speaker, when this bill should get to committee, the greater in-depth discussion that can take place at committee should also prove to be quite interesting.

And as well, Mr. Speaker, as ever we'll be making certain to reach out to the sector and to the producers and interested citizens to make sure that this is all straight ahead. But with that, Mr. Speaker, I should move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 179, *The Apiaries Amendment Act*.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 179, *The Apiaries Amendment Act, 2019*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 180

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Carr that **Bill No. 180 — *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Government Relations — Transfer of Gas, Electrical and Plumbing Functions) Amendment Act, 2019*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise on this debate and it's one that I find very, very interesting in terms of some of the issues that we have before us.

And you know, just right even off the top, you know, the title, miscellaneous statutes Act, it's a bit of a Trojan horse that we have. It sounds innocuous enough. And who could be against a single contact for customer relations? Nobody wants to make things any more complicated than they should be, but at the same time, Mr. Speaker, one of our most important responsibilities in this legislature is the safety of the people of Saskatchewan.

And you know, we don't have to think very much or go very far just to think about the hearings that have been happening in the States around the Boeing 757, the two accidents that happened, the Boeing 757, the Max, where it killed 346 people. And it appears to be largely because of an engineering problem that nobody thought would ever create a problem like it did. And yet people knew about that and decided that they would take the easy path forward and not really be committed to people's safety.

And so this is one where I have to ask a lot of questions, and we've been aware that TSASK [Technical Safety Authority of Saskatchewan] . . . And I would believe, I have no reason to doubt the professionalism and the commitment to the people at TSASK, now an arm's-length organization to the legislature. We are not sure of how they're held accountable, whether they would come through Public Accounts. Or do they come through estimates? It's not very clear. There seems to be a connection with the Government Relations, but we know some of these agencies are set up that they're not held . . . or are required to appear before the House to justify some of their work.

Now we know that TSASK, we see it on the elevators and we see them doing their good work around the amusement rides and that's very good. But now that we're expanding into gas and we're into electrical, plumbing, especially natural gas and electrical, that work that used to be done by Crowns and now is done by an arms-length organization that's very vague in terms of its relationship, not really clear at all with what their relationship is to the Legislative Assembly, leaves me with a lot of questions and some deep concern about this. I mean we saw this with the Environmental Code that was developed by this group, and then we saw the horrible fiasco that happened with the Husky pipeline and questions that arose around that, around proper inspections and what was really happening there. We have those questions about pipelines inside Saskatchewan. Who's really inspecting those pipelines? Who's on top of that? And there's not a really good answer about that, one that the public can really be comfortable with in saying, we know that things are in good hands. I'm not sure if that's the case.

So you know, we understand that this was something that was announced a couple of years ago and that's fair enough. And it's a one-stop shop and who could argue with that? Who could argue with that? I mean nobody likes to have more red tape than possible, but I do tell you what we saw in I believe it was Hamilton this summer where we had a house blow up. A house blow up — natural gas. Who wants that to happen here in Saskatchewan? Who wants that? So when we have this one-stop shop, are there going to be four or five people behind it?

Things are getting more and more complicated all the time, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in terms of effective ways of doing plumbing, natural gas, electrical. It's one of those things where we have a strong history, and I hope we'll continue to have a strong history, of apprenticeships and journeymen experts in those areas. I hope we don't get to this place where we get wall to wall, you're an expert in all — a general labourer who's going to be out there inspecting. I hope that's not the case.

But I do want to say to the people at TSASK, we respect your work and we understand that. But we want to make sure that this is not an ideological thing that's being driven. My worst fear, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is that we're seeing a trend of moving regulations and inspections out of government, where they're accountable and people can be brought forward to the legislature. Ministers can be held responsible. My worst fear is that we might see this in occupational health and safety. What would be the next step? To say WCB [Workers' Compensation Board], instead of giving that money to the department of Labour to do occupational health and safety inspections and say, we're going to hire a third party to do this. We're going to do that.

Well then, and it's a privatization agenda and, you know, this government, it came to power, being accountable and transparent. It's becoming actually more and more, or less and less accountable, less and less transparent. We saw that in question period where the minister responsible for Battlefords hospital hid behind an audit. We sure hope that audit gets released publicly. It's a way to dodge, to stall, stall as that hospital . . .

You know, if I had a new house and there was problems with the roof leaking, the water you couldn't drink, and the plumbing didn't work, you would have . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . The

member from North Battleford yells out, it'd be fine. He's a real estate agent on top of that. I hope he hasn't sold houses like that. I hope he hasn't sold houses . . . He said it'd be fine. It'd be fine if the roof leaks, just live with it a bit. You'll learn to love it, I guess. I don't know. I don't know about that side over there.

And the minister says, hey, you know, you just . . . We'll wait for this audit and we'll find out what's going on. You know, that's not the answer people from Saskatchewan want to hear. They want a government that acts quickly and responsibly and, you know, treats the people of Saskatchewan's money with some respect — some respect is all they're asking.

And so when we have a situation here where . . . And I think, Mr. Speaker, if you want to make a real difference, this is one, when it goes to committee, should call experts to the committee because we need to hear from the experts in plumbing, electrical, gas inspections. Is this the right process to go down? Now maybe it is. Maybe it is. And that would be good to hear from those people.

But I've got to tell you, hearing from the Minister of Government Relations, who was a former Minister of Highways who wouldn't release the deficiencies on the bypass. And she characterized hitting an aquifer as a minor thing. You think I should trust her? We should trust that person? Should I trust her?

Those guys over there . . . We have people over there who say, hey, I'd trust anybody. I mean really, Mr. Speaker, is that the case we should have? We think we should be listening to the experts in the field. We should listen to the experts. Those guys are afraid of bringing the experts to committee. We've seen that over the years, where the committee structure hasn't worked because these guys are afraid of hearing from experts in the field.

So why not this time? Why can't we have the experts in the field come forward and say, hey, this is a good idea; we can do this or this is how we would do it? We have questions about that, you know. How do you do it? How do you ensure — with a one-stop shop when you're talking about electrical, gas, plumbing, all the mechanical — that that will be inspected and people can have confidence in the safety of that? I think that's a fair question to have. That's a fair question and I see why we couldn't have that. So that would be my recommendation when we get to that stage when we're talking about committees. Let's have the experts come for this bill.

And as I was saying, you know, it doesn't have a very splashy title, miscellaneous statutes Act, but it's like a Trojan Horse, has a lot of stuff inside it. And what does it mean further down the road? And I've said, you know, like I'm worried about what this means for other areas — occupational health and safety, food safety, all the things that government's in charge of inspecting to make sure they're safe for the public.

Now I would like to know from the minister responsible, when she talks about the consultations that have happened, contractors and industry, how did she do the public consultation on this? Was there public consultation on this? I think that's a very important question because at the end of the day the contractor will finish the work, industry will have the building or whatever, but it's the public that will be impacted by this decision. And, Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier, this is one of our most important responsibilities

here in this legislature, is to ensure safety.

[15:15]

And we heard them say that about the bypass, how they were willing to spend nearly \$2 billion to ensure safety to get around and through Regina. Fair enough, fair enough. Are they willing to say and do as much in terms of this? Are they willing to let the experts come to committee and talk about this? Because I think that's an important commitment. If they can make that kind of commitment to spend \$2 billion with a French company to do the bypass, fair enough, but let's see if on a day-to-day situation where we're talking about building inspections, let's really make sure we've got this done right.

And as I said with the Boeing 737 — I think I may have said earlier 757 — 737 Max, that we want to make sure we get it right and we're not going into a situation of groupthink where we think there won't be any problems at all, won't be any problems at all. Well we saw the problems that happened with Husky oil, the pipeline there, you know. And I sure hope there's no other situations that arise where we look back and we say, we could have done that better; we could have done better work. So, Mr. Speaker, with that I would move adjournment of Bill No. 180. Thank you.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. Why is the minister on his feet?

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — What's your point of order?

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Mr. Speaker, the member from Saskatoon Centre is a veteran of this House here, Mr. Speaker, and used the phrase that you cannot trust the Minister of Government Relations, referring to her role. Mr. Speaker, this is well known that you cannot say this in this House, Mr. Speaker, and I'd ask the member to withdraw and apologize.

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

Mr. Forbes: — I withdraw and apologize.

Bill No. 181

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Eyre that **Bill No. 181 — *The Mineral Taxation (Modernization) Amendment Act, 2019*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Rancourt: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like always, it's a pleasure to be able to put my remarks on the record with regards to some of the changes to the legislation coming forward. And this piece of legislation, Bill No. 181, *The Mineral Taxation (Modernization) Amendment Act*, is a really interesting one for

myself, Mr. Speaker. When I had the opportunity to be the critic for municipal relations, I know, talking to municipalities, this was an area of interest to them with regards to the mineral taxation that's being implemented within the province. And I know they were looking at having some changes as well to this piece of legislation. So I know they'll be consulted prior to committee, when this is brought to committee, to have more discussion.

And also we know that this particular piece of legislation is 36 years old. And so I think pieces of legislation should be looked at on a regular basis, and 36 years is a long time for a piece of legislation as important as this one to have not been amended. So it's important that this piece of legislation is reviewed. There will be a lot of information that'll need to be evaluated and a great deal of people to consult because, Mr. Speaker, we know that the mineral rights tax is on roughly 40,000 mineral titles in Saskatchewan, and so that's a large group of people who are impacted by this piece of legislation. And it's right across the province because our mineral rights are right across the province in different mineral components. So we know this also generates 9.4 million in revenue just of last year. So when we look at this piece of taxation, it accounts for a lot of revenue for this government, so making sure that it's modernized and ensuring that it's up to date.

And part of the discussion when the minister brought forward her remarks with regards to changes to this piece of legislation, there was some discussion with ensuring that there's an updated electronic system to input information and back up information. And as we know, Mr. Speaker, in the 36 years our technology has really expanded. And so I'm sure there is much more efficient ways of keeping this information together and making sure that it's recorded properly and bills and everything that's administered is done more efficiently. And I think one of the new definitions in this piece of legislation even is "electronic signature," which we know is a way we do a lot of our business nowadays in this modern society. And I believe maybe it was last session that we passed a piece of legislation with regards to real estate, changes to the real estate business and allowing them to have electronic signature as well, because we know that people are busy and we do a lot of our communicating through technical bases like email or other forms. And so ensuring that it's up to date is really important. So again it's important to modernize and reflect the changing times with regards to this piece of legislation.

Some of the information . . . I was reviewing the minister's remarks and she indicated that the mineral rights tax rate will remain the same, as well as the exemptions and processes. So I think it'll be important to have a discussion within committee on, when you have this opportunity to open up this piece of legislation, why was that decided? The mineral rights tax rate, is it comparable to other provinces? We should maybe do a little bit more research on seeing how this reflects on the processes of other jurisdictions, and are we keeping up with what potentially is best practices? So looking into that.

Also she indicated that a lot of the components within this piece of legislation will be moving into regulations. That raises a little bit of alarm for myself, Mr. Speaker. And I'm sure the critic will ask a lot of questions relating to that because once you move a lot of the components out of the Act or the legislation into

regulations, we know that that allows the government to make some changes without having to go through this formal process, which becomes less transparent when those changes are needed to be made.

And so again, the reasons to why that decision was made and what was the history between why those pieces, those components were in this piece of legislation in the first place, there must have been a reason for that. And why is the decision, moving forward, to having them in the regulations? Again it would be also good to look at what other jurisdictions are doing and if this was in best practice also. So a lot of it will be about consulting with other industries that are impacted by this piece of legislation and see how they feel about that.

So also, Mr. Speaker, one thing I look to is it indicates that the owner of mineral rights will pay a tax calculated at a prescribed rate, Mr. Speaker. And I was wondering, what does "prescribed rate" mean and how is that explained within this piece of legislation? And when I look at the definitions, it doesn't have prescribed rate but it has "prescribed," and prescribed means prescribed in the regulations. So again this is putting a lot of emphasis into the regulations, and to me that's not a clear definition. And I think people would want to have a more clear definition on what that means, Mr. Speaker. And I think that we owe them that very much, because we know we have many people who are relying on this piece of legislation.

We know people pay mineral rights tax even if they're not utilizing the mineral rights or collecting funds on it. So they may have the mineral rights and they'll be paying taxes on something that they're not collecting a revenue on. And so we want to make sure that whatever rate is prescribed on here will reflect that as well, Mr. Speaker.

So also I think to note was that a bill with the same exact name of this bill was introduced in the spring. And I think there needs to be an explanation of why they had to reintroduce this same piece of legislation, and what occurred between April and now that made them change their mind on what the changes were going to be. So those are going to be some good questions to ask.

This bill changes a lot of things with regards to the ownership of a mineral title in the area of mineral titles and the mineral production tax rate. So again that is quite a bit of a change that can impact many people or many organizations or businesses that rely on this revenue. And so why was those decisions made and how will that impact these organizations?

And this legislation is full of unknowns, like I was saying, a lot of questions that need to be had in committee. This is creating a lot of uncertainty rather than precision. So owners of mineral rights need to know exactly what kind of rights that they have, Mr. Speaker, and they have to . . . Then that gives them an opportunity to decide what they want to do with their mineral titles, whether they want to sign them over to the Crown or if they want to keep them for themselves. So how's that information being provided to them?

And I think it's really important to know, who did the government consult with? What stakeholders or industries and what areas are going to be affected by these changes? And so having that kind of information in committee will be important.

And I know the critic with regards to this portfolio will definitely do their due diligence and research and consult with the stakeholders and the industries that will be impacted by this piece of legislation.

And so I know my colleagues have a lot more information that they would like to add to this piece of legislation, and so they really enjoy putting their remarks on the record as well. And I know, like I said, the critic will do his due diligence as well with regards to this file. And so with that, Mr. Speaker, I'm going to cease my remarks on Bill No. 181, *The Mineral Taxation (Modernization) Amendment Act, 2019*. Thank you. I move to adjourn debate.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 174

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 174** — *The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Amendment Act, 2019/Loi modificative de 2019 sur l'exécution des ordonnances alimentaires* be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's definitely my honour to be able to rise in House today. This is my first opportunity to enter into a debate on any of the proposed bills this fall, and I must say it's a scintillating legislative agenda, Mr. Speaker. I can barely contain my excitement seeing the kinds of bills that are coming forward in this fall session. This is the session before an election, and you would think this government would be able to lay out something much more interesting.

Most of the bills that I've seen so far are housekeeping bills that are dealing with legislative changes that the bureaucrats need to function more efficiently, and certainly there is nothing wrong with that, Mr. Speaker. But you would look to a government of this maturity for something more substantive in their legislative agenda and something more meaningful that would show us the vision that they'd like to take forward going into the next election. And there really isn't just a whole lot there right now, Mr. Speaker, and this bill is one of the examples of that.

[15:30]

This is *The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Act* from the 1997 . . . This was when the bill was first introduced. The minister gave some introductory comments about the changes that we see here, very minor changes overall, changing the year of an Act from 1984 to 2012 for example, making some changes in the French version where they substitute the word "exiger" and they put in the word "réclamer." So those kinds of things are being corrected. I also noticed that there was a reference to interest being calculated on a maintenance order under section 11(1) in the Act. When I looked up section 11(1), it didn't exist, so naturally that reference needed to be removed. So these are

really correcting things that needed to be corrected.

There's one change, Mr. Speaker, in terms of the definition of "maintenance order." They've rearranged the section to make it flow from an A to a B now, which is fine, but I really like how they always get a chance whenever they can, the legislative drafters, to slip in "any other prescribed item." So this allows now the list of things prescribed in the Act itself in terms of what can be in a maintenance order and how that calculation can be made. It can also now be done by an order in council, by the cabinet, by the executive government, without any scrutiny whatsoever in this House.

And I talk about this often, Mr. Speaker, because I know for legislators it's a convenient tool so you don't have to come back to the House and go through the whole process here in the Assembly where we get an opportunity to comment, we get an opportunity to raise this with the public to see if there are any concerns. And when you move into that kind of realm where it's government by regulation, I think there is a concern for scrutiny and really the role of this Assembly when it comes to legislative proclamations and managing the affairs of the public, Mr. Speaker.

So even the section 40.2(2) is being amended to add in the prescribed form, which again is a reference to the ability of cabinet and the Lieutenant Governor in Council to pass regulations without scrutiny. And I think that's something we really need to be vigilant for.

Finally in clause 72(b) there is a new addition there, and if you look at 72(b), Mr. Speaker . . . I'm sure you're on the edge of your seat wondering what that section might be. I'm going to pull it up here. 72(b) is of course the regulations section, which is already quite long. There's a number of things, but we are adding to the ability and regulations to prescribe other items under the definition of "maintenance order."

So overall I think these are just minor changes that have been brought forward by the bureaucrats and the officials in order to make the work . . . Oh yes, there was one other thing that was about arbitration awards and the recalculation office being able to include those as well under *The Arbitration Act* and . . . sorry, *The Arbitration Act* calculations and the recalculation amounts that come under the family maintenance regulations, Mr. Speaker. And this bill is also changing that section in *The Family Maintenance Act*. So recalculation office is going to be able to do its work more efficiently. Nothing wrong with that, Mr. Speaker. But overall that's about all there is to say in my review of the bill, and so I would move that we adjourn debate on Bill No. 174, *The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Act, 1997*.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 175

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 175** — *The*

Marriage Amendment Act, 2019/Loi modificative de 2019 sur le mariage 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 to rise this afternoon and enter into debate on Bill No. 175, *The Marriage Amendment Act*. I do believe this is my first opportunity to speak to legislation this session, and feeling a bit rusty, but hopefully it will come back to me.

Of course as the title of the bill would suggest, this is a piece of legislation that looks to amend the current marriage Act in the province of Saskatchewan. I think we had some recent, if I do recall, amendments to the marriage commissioners Act in the province. This bill undertakes some housekeeping provisions.

Some of the things that are contemplated here is to permit an interested person to challenge the validity of marriage in the Court of Queen's Bench, if there is a presumption that one of the parties to a marriage did not provide valid consent to enter into the contract of marriage. Of course, Mr. Speaker, that would be important in instances where there's some concern that one of the parties in a marriage perhaps didn't have capacity — be it for reasons of dementia or other ways that capacity might be compromised — that this would allow for a challenge to the validity of that marriage. And of course it certainly is important that we have measures in place to protect those who might be vulnerable entering into marriage, and of course within that marriage, but also when it comes to the settlement of estates, Mr. Speaker, which I think this bill is about as well to a large degree.

There's a number of updates to language used throughout the legislation. One that's commonly used through this is an update of the language around the courts. I think the old language was the "Court of Queen's Bench" now has been consistently changed to refer only to the "court" as is common through the Act.

There are a number of provisions that update the legislation to ensure that no child under the age of 16 is able to enter into legal marriage. It might surprise some folks. I know that it was a bit of a surprise reading this bill that we still have on the books in Saskatchewan the ability for a judge to allow a child under the age of 16 to legally marry. It does seem reasonable that that age and that provision has been updated with these changes.

There are some changes to amend section 25(2) and (4) to update references to "in-patient facility." This term is no longer used and is no longer a defined term under *The Mental Health Services Act*, Mr. Speaker, so that does appear to be a bit of simply a housekeeping measure.

As I noted before, there's some provisions about marriage commissioners, and this allows marriage commissioners to charge a fee agreed upon by both the parties and the commissioner for the marriage ceremony. I think that currently there's a standard fee that is charged throughout the province. This is something that I was aware of. I think I've mentioned here before, my mom is someone who is legally able to perform marriages under the marriage commissioner Act in the province. That has been mentioned.

I know my colleague the member for Regina Rosemont mentioned that in other provinces that is something by virtue of being an MLA that you're entitled to do. Not here in the province of Saskatchewan, although I'm not sure if we're looking for extra duties as a marriage commissioner. It might be interesting at some point, but no one's come knocking. I'm looking at colleagues around. I don't know if anyone's knocking on our door yet to be performing, to perform . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Oh, my colleague tells me that she was able to do one just this summer in Alberta. Well live and learn, Mr. Speaker. This is why we have discussions about legislation.

Also in this bill there is — maybe this is the most substantial change — it establishes that in the case of the validity of a contract if marriage is challenged, the court may require either or both of the parties to the marriage to be examined before the court or submitted to medical examination. That certainly seems to be a significant change and one that I know that the critic, the member for Regina Douglas Park, and a number of members on this side of the House have some significant concerns about and would be seeking clarification as it does propose a substantive change, that medical examination. Of course it is important that we protect the vulnerable, and it's also important that we get the balance right here, Mr. Speaker, that we ensure that the balance between parties is reasonable and that it's not imposing any undue or unexpected hardship.

This bill also amends *The Wills Act* to nullify an existing will if a spouse wants to change their will after the marriage. And there are a number of changes here that are proposed. Currently once a marriage is entered into, there are legal benefits, for lack of a better word, to that spouse. This allows the family to challenge that will. And again I think maybe here more than even the other place, Mr. Speaker, it is important that we get the balance right.

Certainly we can think of instances where there is a concern that someone with diminished cognitive capacity has entered into marriage and perhaps there's a belief that that person has been taken advantage of and that should be protected. I think that is reasonable for the courts to enter into, but it's also important that we get the balance right.

With the family, of course, when we have a loved one pass away, there's often acrimony, reasonably expected and sometimes unforeseen. It's very important that the courts have the ability to make assessment in a way that doesn't unduly favour or disadvantage either of those parties.

And so, Mr. Speaker, that's not something that I feel equipped to be able to judge, but I know that there are a number of experts who would like to have a look at this legislation and ensure that we get the balance right here, including, as I noted, the member for Regina Douglas Park. And I know that she will have a lot more to say when we do have opportunity to look at this bill a little closer. Perhaps this would be one where it would be appropriate to call on witnesses or at least have some consultation by those who are doing the work of family law, will and estate planning every day, Mr. Speaker.

So with that, I think I will leave us with questions and leave hopefully those answers to the experts. And we'll move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 175.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 176

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 176 — *The Fiduciaries Access to Digital Information Act/Loi sur l'accès des fiduciaires à l'information numérique*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to enter into debate today on Bill No. 176, *The Fiduciaries Access to Digital Information Act*.

So this bill determines the conditions under which the fiduciary may have access and manage the digital assets of their clients. It establishes that the duties of the fiduciary regarding digital assets are not different from those related to tangible personal property, outlines the duties of the fiduciary. It determines that a fiduciary has the right to require access to digital assets in case these are later managed by a custodian. It determines the right of access in fiduciary is subject to any restrictions set out on the will of the deceased owner and provides protection against liability for custodians who provide access in accordance with the Act.

[15:45]

Mr. Speaker, the minister in his second reading speech provided a little bit of background in terms of why this legislation is coming forward. I understand that this uniform legislation was adopted in 2016 by the Uniform Law Conference of Canada and that that's the basis of this proposed bill, but I also understand that this is the first of its kind in Canada. So I think when we're taking that into consideration, we should make sure that there aren't any unintended consequences that come out.

Certainly it makes sense, you know, when we talk about the fiduciary's authority over real and personal property being very clear, but that not being clear when we talk about digital property. It makes sense that we would bring into place a new piece of legislation that would address what digital property we have on the occasion of individuals not being able to act on their own behalf or when they pass away.

So you think about all kinds of digital or electronic information that we all possess. And it's becoming more and more important now as we look at things like cryptocurrency, which has been in the news quite a bit over the past year or so with folks losing access to their cryptocurrency when one individual passes away or sort of goes under the radar.

So I think that we know that cryptocurrency certainly changes the landscape for us, but there are many other pieces of digital information we all possess, such as social media accounts, which are becoming the norm, Mr. Speaker. I don't know if you're on

all of the different social media platforms. It raises a lot of questions about what happens to that information and whether others can access it when you lose the capacity to do so.

We know that the current law doesn't consider how trustees, guardians, attorneys, executors, and administrators will access digital assets, so the goal of this legislation is to clarify that. It certainly seems like it is time. But we need to make sure that it's being done right so that folks are protected in the interim as well.

There was an interesting point that was raised by my colleague from Regina Elphinstone-Centre in terms of passwords and how these accounts can be accessed. And so I wonder what that's actually going to look like and how that information is protected as well, especially because we're changing our passwords it seems every five minutes on a lot of these platforms. So I wonder how it will work and function.

But I think it is time for some of this legislation. I know many of my other colleagues will want to enter into debate on this and that the critic will also certainly have a number of questions in committee. But with that, I would move that we adjourn debate on Bill No. 176 for today.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 177

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 177 — *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Electronic Register) Amendment Act, 2019*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to wade into the discussion on Bill No. 177, *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Electronic Register) Amendment Act, 2019*. This is the time of the legislative session, Mr. Speaker, where bills come forward and this is our first opportunity really to start to get a look at them and talk to folks to make sure that all is well, that people aren't flagging concerns.

It's a pretty basic bill, Mr. Speaker. It amends more than 40 Acts to permit occupational and professional organizations to make their register or their list of members available to the public in any manner, including in an electronic format. So the minister points out, that with the over 45 occupational and professional organizations that are regulated here in the province by legislation setting out self-regulation and giving the organizations authority to create bylaws, some of them have in their legislation the ability to share those electronically, but for the most part . . .

And it's important for the public to be able to know who belongs to professional associations or occupational associations. So what this bill does, it will allow the public to be able to determine

who is a member of a professional organization more easily. This doesn't, as the minister points out, and in the bill . . . Right now most organizations, most of these 45 organizations, it's required that the list of members or the register is available at the head office or the main office of the organization during business hours, which, if you live in a different city, can be difficult to access, or even if you're in the same city but happen to work during those hours, Mr. Speaker. So this bill doesn't compel sharing that electronically but allows it. And it still allows for that physical access in those head offices, Mr. Speaker, or the main office.

The minister in his second reading comments, which is always the place where it's good to go to get an impression of the bill and where the government is coming from, the minister points out that several organizations have indeed expressed their desire and the need to make the register available in other formats, including on the organization's website or through a phone app. So it sounds like this isn't being called for by organizations, but again this is the time in the legislative session where we reach out to stakeholders to find out. Even the most simple legislation, sometimes you never know what might come up. Is there an unintended consequence? There might be a very valid reason for changing the legislation even further, making other amendments. But that will be the due diligence that takes place over the next few months with the critic talking to impacted organizations and individuals, Mr. Speaker, which is always important when you're making legislation, that you talk to those who are impacted by that legislation.

As the minister pointed out in his remarks, there are over 40 Acts that are going to be amended in this. And some of the organizations, for example, it's quite a mixed bag of professional and occupational organizations: *The Accounting Profession Act*, *The Agrologists Act*, *The Midwifery Act*, *The Medical Profession Act*, *The Licensed Practical Nurses Act*, *The Land Surveyors and Professional Surveyors Act*, *The Dental Disciplines Act*, *The Dietitians Act*. All of these and many more will be amended with this legislation.

So as I said, it's a fairly . . . The minister's remarks were fairly brief. It actually isn't a brief bill but that's simply because there are 40 different pieces of legislation all being amended in the same way to allow for the electronic register or that electronic list of members to be accessible, Mr. Speaker. But I know that our critic will ask questions of stakeholders, and when it gets to committee we'll have questions as well.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, for today I'd like to move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 177, *An Act to amend certain Statutes respecting the Electronic Registers of Professions*. Thank you.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 178

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 178** — *The*

Miscellaneous Statutes Repeal Act, 2019 be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's again my pleasure to wade into discussion on Bill No. 178, *The Miscellaneous Statutes Repeal Act, 2019*. This particular bill, Mr. Speaker, repeals the following Acts. It repeals *The Family and Community Services Act*, *The Veterinary Services Act*, *The Water Appeal Board Act*, *An Act to incorporate International Bible College*, *An Act to incorporate Les Soeurs de Notre Dame de la Croix*, *An Act to incorporate Prince Albert Exhibition Association*, and *An Act to incorporate The Regina Exhibition Association Limited*.

And often bills are repealed when they're considered obsolete or when they've been replaced by other legislation, Mr. Speaker, and the minister points out that this is simply housekeeping. But again, due diligence is a part of our job here in the opposition and it's important to reach out to impacted stakeholders to find out if the words of the minister match the concerns of the public or of the impacted organizations, Mr. Speaker.

He pointed out that this “. . . legislation such as *The Family and Community Services Act* and *The Veterinary Services Act* have been confirmed as being outdated and obsolete.” I guess the question is, who has confirmed that, Mr. Speaker? This isn't legislation with which I'm familiar and I know the critic for this bill will make sure that some of those questions are asked. And another piece of legislation, the minister points out the “. . . Water Appeal Board have been replaced by entirely new Acts.” So it's important to make sure that that is in fact the case, Mr. Speaker, and that there aren't any unintended consequences of a piece of legislation that might be before us.

But with that, I would like to move to adjourn debate for Bill No. 178, *The Miscellaneous Statutes Repeal Act, 2019*.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that this House do now adjourn.

The Speaker: — It has been moved that this 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 15:57.]

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