



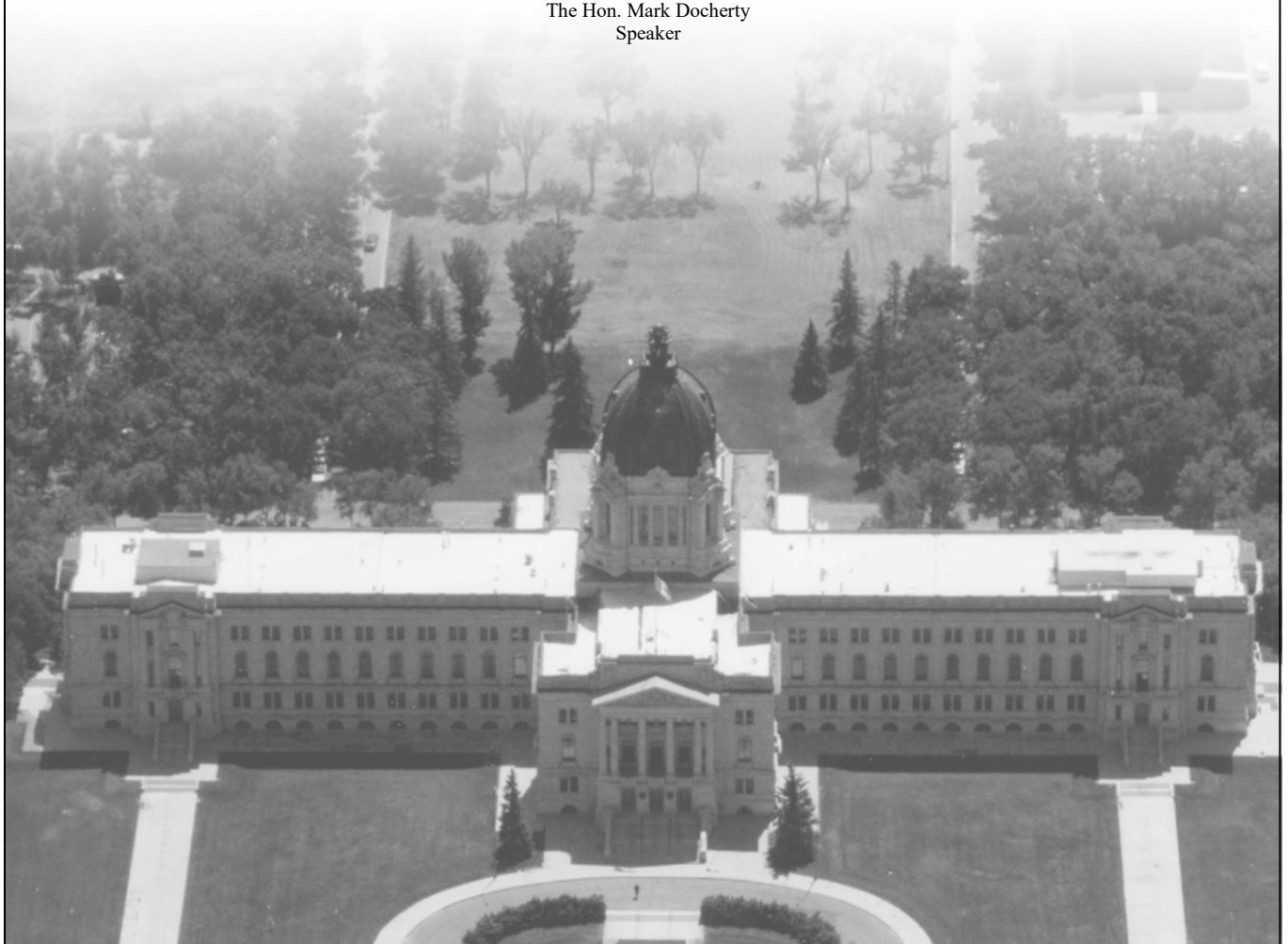
FOURTH SESSION - TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

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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Wotherspoon, Trent — Regina Rosemont (NDP)
Wyant, Hon. Gordon — Saskatoon Northwest (SP)
Young, Colleen — Lloydminster (SP)

Vacant — Regina Walsh Acres
Vacant — Saskatoon Eastview

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

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[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this afternoon I have two introductions.

First of all, to you and through you to all members of the Legislative Assembly, we're joined by some special guests from the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation seated in your gallery. So with us today are Darrell Crabbe, the executive director of the wildlife federation. Accompanying Darrell are Darren Newberry, James Villeneuve, Doug Gibson, Chelsea Walters, Shannon Anderson, Marsha Lowry, and Emma Connell.

Mr. Speaker, they are here as a part of the annual Camo Day in Saskatchewan, which is right around the corner in a couple of days, Mr. Speaker. And that's the day that we recognize each and every year in this province to celebrate Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Heritage Day in Saskatchewan. We'll hear a little bit more from a member on this side of the House in a member's statement.

I do, while I'm on my feet, want to thank them for providing the tie. I'm on the hunt, Mr. Speaker — no pun intended — for a jacket for next year should I be in this position, Mr. Speaker. I have a couple of jackets in mind, and hopefully I'll be able to find one for next year, Mr. Speaker. And so I want to ask all members to join with me in welcoming members of the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation to their Legislative Assembly.

And, Mr. Speaker, while I'm on my feet, seated in the west gallery right at the top is a very special guest, Mr. Speaker. And he is joined by two members of my office, Chaelah Webster and Chris Agar, who are administrative assistants in my office. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce to members of the House, Isho Shamo, Mr. Speaker. Isho was our summer student this past summer. Isho was born in Baghdad, Iraq in the Assyrian community. He was raised in Saskatoon. He is a geology student at the University of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. I know that he's interested and has some ambition of forming his own exploration company when he graduates.

He spent some time in Montana after leaving our office, looking for fossils as a part of a team in Montana. And I think we'll have to take up a boot collection for him because I think he wore out his boots. Mr. Speaker, I think I can speak on behalf of everybody in our office when I say, Isho, I don't think I've met anybody like you in my entire life. He is very much a character. And we certainly enjoyed him in our office this summer, and I hope he comes back and joins us next year. So I'd ask all members to help me in welcoming Isho Shamo to his Legislative Assembly.

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

Mr. Pedersen: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with

the minister in welcoming Darrell and Darren and James and the others here to their Assembly today to recognize Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Heritage Day, which happens in a couple of days.

I'm sure if they stay for question period they know that occasionally we in the opposition are hunting for a story. But you'll recognize as well that when the ministers are responding in question period that there might be a few fish stories in there that are bigger than reality. And I hope that you will notice that, in your own minds anyways, that we rack up more points. So, Mr. Speaker, I ask all the members to join with me in welcoming these people to their Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Kelvington-Wadena.

Mr. Nerlien: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you and to all members of the House, I'd like to welcome 60 grade 7 and 8 students from Wynyard High School. And accompanying these great students are teachers Walter Fielding and Marcy Davies-Both, and parent chaperones Lynne Neal and Jacqueline Hordos. I look forward to meeting with them after question period, and please join me in welcoming them to their House.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to give a very warm hello to this delegation with the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation and Darrell Crabbe, the executive director. This is an incredible organization within our province that supports hunting and fishing throughout our province. They also go to great lengths to protect habitat, Mr. Speaker. They're real leaders across Saskatchewan, and it's an honour to have them here.

And it's a pleasure to recognize the heritage day recognizing hunting, fishing, and trapping in Saskatchewan. Certainly, these are heritage industries in our province, and very important industries from an economic perspective as well. I believe more than 250,000 people hunt or fish or trap in Saskatchewan each and every year, Mr. Speaker. And as many know, I'm proud to count myself as one of those avid hunters and fishers in our province.

And I think Heritage Day is actually the same day as opening whitetail in southern Saskatchewan here this weekend. And I'll be looking forward to getting out into the field with my dad and my son as well. But I want to simply say, on behalf of the official opposition and all in this Assembly, thank you so very much for your leadership in this very important sector.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I too want to join in welcoming our southern champions of the fishing and trapping and hunting battle that we all wish you very well in. In northern Saskatchewan, as you know, we've got a lot of trappers and fishermen and hunters. I'm not one of them. A lot of people I've fooled over the years thinking that I'm from the North that I'm this great trapper, fisher, hunter-gatherer. It's

much too cold out there for me, so I don't do any of that.

But I'll point out, Mr. Speaker, in northern Saskatchewan the trappers in particular are very, very active. I know that they have had associations in the past with our southern champions of this particular industry. And in the North, as you see the encroachment of forestry companies, you see the disappearing animals. And I know in the South some of the issues around the trespass Act that affects the industries of fishing, trapping, and hunting, all these changes in our world. And certainly today a lot of northern trappers, fishermen, and hunters are certainly concerned about some of the legislation coming down.

And I would just finally add, Mr. Speaker, that northern Saskatchewan trappers view themselves as the conscience of the land. They are a very good partner in not only protecting the land but making sure we balance all the resources and demands on our lands as well. So welcome to your Assembly.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Cut Knife-Turtleford.

Mr. Doke: — 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.

I'd like to read the prayer:

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

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by the good citizens of Cut Knife, North Battleford, and Rabbit Lake. I do present.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition on behalf of northern Saskatchewan residents: that *The Saskatchewan Strategy for Suicide Prevention Act* was introduced in 2018, but it has not been passed because it has not received support from the Sask Party government; that suicides continue to affect families throughout Saskatchewan; that the rate of suicide among First Nation girls is 29 times higher than other girls.

And the prayer reads:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call upon the provincial government to develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to address suicide in Saskatchewan.

This petition is signed and supported by many people and leaders in northern Saskatchewan. I so present.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise once again today to present a petition to the Sask Party on behalf of concerned citizens, businesses, and 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 to hike the PST and expand it, actually doubling the take of the PST — a billion-dollar tax hike, Mr. Speaker.

And of course as you can expect, this has kneecapped the economy. It's the epitome of a job-killing tax. Permits are down all across the province. Projects have been shelved. Jobs have been lost. Sadly thousands of hard-working tradespeople have lost their jobs. Many have been forced to move outside Saskatchewan in pursuit of employment. And this massive tax hike has been a hard hit for the average household who is now paying \$800 more per year than they were just four years ago because of the hike by the Sask Party.

The prayer reads as follows:

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

These petitions today are signed by concerned residents of Lipton and Southey. I so submit.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today again to present a petition calling on the Sask Party government to call by-elections in Regina Walsh Acres and Saskatoon Eastview. The undersigned residents of this province want to bring to our attention the following: that the seats in the Legislative Assembly for Regina Walsh Acres and Saskatoon Eastview are currently vacant, and that's because of a loophole in *The Legislative Assembly Act* that by-elections are not legally required to be called in Regina Walsh Acres and Saskatoon Eastview because the former MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly] did not resign before August 6th, 2019. Mr. Speaker, they resigned just a few weeks later in September.

Now unless a by-election is called, the constituents in Regina Walsh Acres and Saskatoon Eastview will go without representation for nearly 14 months until the next provincial election. But we know the Premier has the power and authority to call by-elections in Regina Walsh Acres and Saskatoon Eastview.

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

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

And, Mr. Speaker, I'm presenting petitions from people living in the ridings of Regina Walsh Acres and Saskatoon Eastview. Thank you very much.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I'm rising to present a petition to reinstate and expand SaskPower's net metering program. The folks who've signed this petition would like us to be aware of the following: an unprecedented number of residents want to take part in renewable energy opportunities. The SaskPower net metering program was very successful — too successful, I guess, because they shut it down early in September 2019 rather than expanding it. As a result of the abrupt shutdown of the party, up to 800 jobs will be lost and federal rebate dollars will be left on the table.

The Sask Party government's failure then to plan for transition from a carbon-intensive economy to a low-carbon economy is short-sighted and detrimental to our economy and our future. And the Renew Saskatchewan energy transition program would expand net metering to reduce emissions and save people, businesses, and municipalities money on power bills.

I'll read the prayer:

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.

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

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

[13:45]

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition in support of obstetrical services at Flin Flon General Hospital. On November 16th there's going to be a march happening in Flin Flon at the Pioneer Square on Main Street at 2 p.m. And this is being put on by the We Want Birth committee.

And I know that myself and the Leader of the Opposition have been in contact with them, the member from Cumberland as well as the member from Saskatoon Riversdale. We've been speaking with them throughout the year and also had a chance to meet with them this summer when we were up in Creighton. There are a number of concerns about being able to give birth close to home, so I'd like to be able to bring some of those concerns forward today in the Assembly.

These citizens wish to bring to our attention that the Manitoba Conservative government has recently cut obstetrical services — not recently anymore, Mr. Speaker; it's been a year now — at the Flin Flon General Hospital, forcing families in northeast Saskatchewan who utilize services in Flin Flon to plan their delivery elsewhere; that families in northeastern Saskatchewan want to be able to give birth close to where they live in a safe environment surrounded by their loved ones; that it will be difficult for expectant mothers to travel further away from home without being accompanied by a family member, and this causes expectant mothers increased stress and fear about where they're

going to deliver their baby; that there's currently no planned timeline to reinstate services for Flin Flon General or to actively recruit the appropriate personnel to deliver babies; and that there is no guarantee that mothers and their escorts will be fully reimbursed for the extra travel expenses in Saskatchewan.

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 work with their provincial counterparts and restore birth services to Flin Flon so that families in northeastern Saskatchewan can deliver babies close to home.

This is signed by individuals from La Ronge and Deschambault Lake. I do so present.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Premier's Leadership

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if political leadership is the art of uniting people in pursuit of a common good, then what we've seen in recent weeks is a shocking failure of leadership from this Premier. Instead of acting to fix our crowded classrooms and emergency rooms, he's pointed fingers to distract from his failures. Instead of coming to the table with practical proposals, he makes all-or-nothing demands, backed only by the threat to break up the country we love.

Instead of putting people first, he's let people down by stoking the fires of separatism — a shocking failure of leadership, Mr. Speaker — all to distract from the very real problems in Saskatchewan today, problems that are very much this premier's responsibility and record. The lowest minimum wage in the country, mortgage arrears three times the national average, rising rates of eviction and homelessness, falling growth predictions, deeply damaging the construction industry with the addition of the PST and downright killing the solar energy industry, crowded classrooms and emergency rooms, hospitals where you can't drink the water.

Mr. Speaker, after a dozen years of this government's failed leadership, this Premier should understand that the people of Saskatchewan are frustrated. He's wrong to feed that frustration, but he'd be right to fear that frustration as it will find its rightful home in his inaction, distraction, and division.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Lloydminster.

No Stone Left Alone Remembrance Day Ceremony

Ms. Young: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On November 2nd I attended the No Stone Left Alone Remembrance Day ceremony once again in my constituency.

The No Stone Left Alone Memorial Foundation was inspired by a young girl. Each year her family would go to the cemetery and pay respects to her grandmother who was a veteran herself, and

lay out a poppy on her headstone. She began to wonder why the other headstones did not have poppies laid upon them, knowing that many of them were veterans also. She wrote a letter to the then minister of Veterans Affairs who gave his blessing and encouraged her to begin bringing out her community to lay a poppy for every veteran.

No Stone Left Alone was launched in 2011 in recognition of the sacrifice of the Canadian men and women who have lost their lives in the service of peace at home and abroad.

Mr. Speaker, my father served in the RCAF [Royal Canadian Air Force] during World War II. Thanks to this little girl's big heart, communities like mine gather each year to lay out a poppy, row on row, to honour those who have made the ultimate sacrifice and to say thank you for their service. Having our youth lead this act of respect ensures that our future generations will always pause to pay their respects each Remembrance Day. I thank the No Stone Left Alone Memorial Foundation for their active leadership and thank them for continuing to educate our youth on our veterans. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

50th Anniversary of the Saskatoon Friendship Inn

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Saskatoon Friendship Inn, which is located in the heart of my constituency of Saskatoon Centre. The Friendship Inn has evolved from a soup kitchen into a community centre that provides a safe sanctuary for vulnerable people.

Mr. Speaker, 50 years ago a small group of concerned residents provided six men with bowls of soup, as they recognized the growing needs of individuals and families experiencing poverty in Saskatoon. The Friendship Inn began with just one staff member but has grown to a team of 20, along with many volunteers and community partners. In its first year 1969, about 22,000 meals were served. Fifty years later they offer more than 10 times that, as almost 300,000 meals will be served this year.

It's also important to have judgment-free spaces where people are welcomed, provided a hot meal, a helping hand, and most importantly, friendship. By serving the needs of Saskatoon's most vulnerable and marginalized people, the Friendship Inn strengthens our growing community.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to congratulate and offer thanks to the dedicated staff and volunteers at the Friendship Inn for a fantastic 50 years of service to our community. I ask that all members join me in celebrating the important work done by the Friendship Inn and its volunteers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Weyburn.

Rediscovered Wartime Letters Unite Family

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, I'd like to share with the House a story of a house, of letters lost and closure found.

A constituent of mine, Derek Madigan, was renovating a house in Weyburn. Behind a wall, he discovered several letters dating

back to World War II written by a soldier to his wife and children. He put them aside for a time, and then on October 31st, Derek turned the letters over to Connie Nightingale, the manager of our local Legion branch.

Around the same time, Connie Regier, a well-known local writer, approached Mayor Marcel Roy asking if the city had a poet. Hearing one of her poems about her father's coming home from the war, the mayor encouraged her to talk to the Legion about the poem. At that meeting, the two Connies discovered that the letters found behind that wall and delivered to the Legion just days prior were written by her father, Corporal Sidney John Robert Wilson.

Mr. Speaker, war is traumatic for those who serve and for those who are left behind. Connie Regier read in those 75-year-old letters what she never really heard her father say. One of the letters, written on New Year's, concludes with this, and I quote:

I have been thinking about you and the kids all day and wishing I was spending this New Year with you and wondering how many months would go by in '45 before I was with you. Not many, I hope.

I was showing the people your picture and the kids. They think the kids are swell and say it's a shame that I've been away from you and them so long.

All my love, Darling. Love to the kids.
Your Sid

I miss you, honey.
Dad XOXO

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Saskatchewan Literacy Awards of Merit

Ms. Ross: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On November 6th I, along with the MLA from Melfort, attended the 2019 Saskatchewan Literacy Awards of Merit. These awards celebrate the hard work and dedication of those who are committed to promoting literacy in Saskatchewan. This year's award winners were Sarah Simison, Freda Lawrysyn, Kiarra Ann-Marie, Adrian Halter, Lety Zereselasie, and the Regina Library.

Mr. Speaker, these awards reminded us of how important literacy is to all of us. It is so easy to take for granted how fortunate we are when we know how to read.

And at the awards ceremony, I was reminded of a story of a past recipient. Mr. Speaker, he spoke about how he had difficulties reading and how he had to fake it because he was embarrassed of his limited reading abilities. His career wasn't advancing and he was holding back himself from his career growth because, Mr. Speaker, he just couldn't read. He decided he needed to learn to read, not only to further his career but also to be able to read to his children. Mr. Speaker, he said the most fulfilling part of being able to read was being able to see the positive effects of his reading ability upon his own kids. The Literacy Awards truly tell the story of how being able to read is life changing.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in congratulating all the winners of this year's Saskatchewan Literacy Awards of Merit. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Cypress Hills.

World Under-17 Hockey Challenge in Southwest Saskatchewan

Mr. Steele: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Some of the world's best young hockey players could be seen hanging out in southwest Saskatchewan last week as we played host to the 2019 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge. Swift Current residents were fortunate enough to be treated to a week of world-class hockey without even driving any further than the local iPlex arena.

But Shaunavon residents in my constituency were even luckier, as they did not have to even walk more than two blocks or three blocks to see more hockey. Mr. Speaker, one of the pre-tournament games was held in the Shaunavon rink between Canada Black and Team Finland, and of course, Canada won.

What's special about southwest Saskatchewan is the incredible support we see from our communities and all other Saskatchewan communities. They are always eager to step up, help, volunteer, and organize these world-class events and host fans, spectators from all around the world as if they were family.

Mr. Speaker, I now ask the members to join me in congratulating the teams and coaches on their successes in the tournament, and a big thanks to the organizers and volunteers who took part in the U-17 World Hockey Challenge. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Heritage Day

Mr. Bradshaw: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise today to highlight the significant contributions that hunting, fishing, and trapping make in our province. Hunting, fishing, and trapping have always been an important part of Saskatchewan's history. These are traditions passed down over generations. Hunting, fishing, and trapping play a role in everyone's lives, both socially and economically.

Mr. Speaker, last year these activities contributed more than 600 million to Saskatchewan's economy. In 2009 *The Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Heritage Act* was passed. Since then, the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation has been our partner in recognizing the significant economic, cultural, and social contributions that these outdoor pursuits have in our province.

This Friday, Saskatchewan residents and visitors across the province will celebrate Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Heritage Day. Mr. Speaker, people are encouraged to wear camo and share their stories with friends and colleagues. As you can see, we're also celebrating Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Heritage Day — or as it's fondly known as, Camo Day — in the House today.

Mr. Speaker, by working together we will ensure the ongoing success of this relationship as we continue to raise awareness and promote the integral role that hunters, anglers, and trappers play

as stewards of our environment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Well on this special day, I'm sure everybody's locked and loaded.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Provincial Relationship With Federal Government

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Premier huffed and he puffed and he let this House down. And he let down the people of Saskatchewan as well. The needs and concerns of Western Canada are real and they need to be represented by real leadership. They won't be solved by belligerence and grandstanding from this Premier, and they won't be solved by condescension and dismissal from the Prime Minister, Mr. Speaker.

Real leadership recognizes that we do better when we recognize our common goals, when we recognize that a strong Saskatchewan means a strong Canada, and that a strong Canada means a stronger Saskatchewan. You know, I've got all kinds of time for those who are willing to work for positive solutions. I've got all kinds of time for those who want to see a stronger Saskatchewan, a stronger West in Canada. But I've got no time at all for those who would talk of secession and separation, Mr. Speaker.

So will the Premier make it 100 per cent clear today that there is no room in his party for any talk of separating Saskatchewan from Canada?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, that question is a marked difference from the tone of the member's statement that came just previous to that, Mr. Speaker, where the Leader of the Opposition got up for 90 seconds straight and ran down the current situation here in the province of Saskatchewan, ran down the province of which he is a member of, Mr. Speaker, and a leader of a provincial party.

[14:00]

Mr. Speaker, most certainly yesterday, where I yesterday was representing the people of this province, representing the people of this province with the Prime Minister of this nation, Mr. Speaker, I was there to follow up on his comments on election night, given the outcome here in this province and in other areas of the nation, his comments with respect to understanding the frustration in Western Canada, and his comments with understanding that he was there to support the people of the province, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I had put forward three issues that are important to the people of this province, Mr. Speaker. We had an opportunity, and I showed up in good faith to engage on those topics, to find real solutions to ensure that we can continue with a strong Saskatchewan inside a strong nation of Canada.

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

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Premier should be a leader, and leadership in this moment would mean denouncing outright any talk of secession or separation. Leadership isn't being the loudest blowhard at the table, Mr. Speaker. Leadership isn't saying that you'll break up the country if you don't get your way, Mr. Speaker. Leadership means taking control of what's in your power and making a real difference in the lives of Saskatchewan people.

Today we have classrooms in crisis. We have our emergency rooms in crisis. We have an economy that's struggling, and this Premier's response is to shut down growing industries.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we agree on this side of the House that equalization is flawed, and we've waited and waited for this Premier to do anything about it. He's finally come around to asking for a rebate for grain drying. We agree on this side of the House that the federal backstop is flawed.

When will this Premier come up with a plan that will work for Saskatchewan people? When will this Premier do more than huff and puff and point fingers elsewhere, and actually lead the way?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, the record of this government has been clear over the course of the last dozen years, Mr. Speaker: 11,000 new jobs over the course of the last year; the third-highest job-rate growth in the nation, Mr. Speaker; almost 80,000 jobs that are here today that were not here under the days of the NDP [New Democratic Party], Mr. Speaker. That's leadership in the province of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, with respect to the carbon taxation policy, I would put forward that nobody in the nation, no organization in the nation has been more clear — regardless if whether it was under the previous leader or myself, Mr. Speaker — has been more clear as to this province's stance when it comes to an ineffective federally imposed carbon tax on the industries and families in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, it is the Leader of the Opposition that has decided to flip-flop recently, and we welcome that. We welcome that, Mr. Speaker.

[Interjections]

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

Hon. Mr. Moe: — We welcome this new-found support of our agriculture industry, Mr. Speaker. We have been there for years now. We have been there since the carbon tax has been talked about. I would point to October 23rd of 2018 when the federal government said they would exempt the carbon tax from agricultural fuel. Not the fuel used in fertilizer production, not the fuel used in getting our products to market, but the fuel . . . But, Mr. Speaker, the minister of the Environment at that point in time had indicated that this was going to be a problem when farmers are out drying their grain, Mr. Speaker, in a year just like this year.

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

Saskatchewan Immigrant Nominee Program

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once again the Premier has failed to denounce the idea of western separatism or succession. That is a dangerous game from a Premier who is constantly putting politics before people, putting his political ambitions before the future of this country, Mr. Speaker. It's embarrassing.

And speaking of putting politics before people, Mr. Speaker, we once again heard nothing from the former minister of the GTH [Global Transportation Hub] yesterday. We asked the former minister for the GTH to take responsibility for the immigration scam at GTEC [Global Trade and Exhibition Centre], a scam that that minister has promoted along with Bill Boyd, along with Brad Wall himself.

Will the Premier show better leadership than that member today? Will he stand up and commit to sharing the secret agreement that was signed between this government and Brightenview? Will you share that agreement today and finally commit to a judicial inquiry into all of the wrongdoings at the GTH?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, we'll continue to show the leadership on behalf of the people of this province that we as a government show, caucus and cabinet show each and every day when we arrive at work, Mr. Speaker, including yesterday when we arrived in Ottawa to engage, to engage with the hopeful outcome of some fruitful policy development with our federal government, with the Prime Minister when it comes to carbon taxation, when it comes to unfair revenue-sharing programs like equalization, and when it comes to getting our products to market, Mr. Speaker.

We will always stand with the export-based industry here in Saskatchewan. We will always stand and we'll stand with the member opposite when it comes to ensuring that we can remove the carbon tax from our agricultural industry. We think it should be across the board, Mr. Speaker. We have always stood with our agricultural producers.

We welcome the new-found support because we go back just six years ago, many of those producers, Mr. Speaker, were in this city at a rally that the Leader of the Opposition denounced. And I would quote his comments from this room, Mr. Speaker, and I quote referencing those farmers at that period of time: "Far-out-there conspiracy theories, climate change denial, anti-immigrant, anti-Muslim, anti-Semitic sentiment — this is what the yellow vest movement has become, Mr. Speaker." He denounced me for standing with farmers at that point, and this is what he thought of them then.

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

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That confused ramble was just another example of the giant failure on the part of this Premier to answer simple questions. Simple question about separation, he wouldn't touch it, wouldn't go near it. Why? Does he want to stoke those feelings? Does he want to make sure that those who would break up the country are on his side?

And he wouldn't answer that very simple question when it comes to GTEC. Why did this government change the rules to allow that immigration scam to take place? Why did they fail to fix the rules until this story was going to break in the media? And when will we see that co-operation agreement made public?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, with respect to the SINP [Saskatchewan immigrant nominee program] program here in the province of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, this program does not give preferential treatment to anyone that is applying or any corporation that is applying to that program, Mr. Speaker. It has been a successful settlement tool, Mr. Speaker, and a very large part in communities across this province. I have seen it, Mr. Speaker, in communities near where I live.

Mr. Speaker, programs like the SINP program are constantly under review and will continue to be constantly under review so that they can always be improved to ensure that they are benefiting all of those involved, benefiting the economic reality of the province, benefiting, most importantly, the communities where these individuals are residing — and as I said, I represent a number of those communities — but most importantly, Mr. Speaker, benefiting those families that choose to make Saskatchewan their home.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday the Minister of Immigration refused to answer a simple question about the secret deal the GTH signed with GTEC. We just asked them to release that agreement, but instead the former GTH minister rambled on in an incoherent screed full of hallucinatory statements without even a passing resemblance to the truth, Mr. Speaker. So I'm going to ask him again. Will the Immigration minister release the secret co-operation agreement signed with GTEC in 2016?

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

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As I said yesterday in the House, the overriding objective of the Saskatchewan immigrant nominee program is the successful settlement and integration of newcomers. We want those who are coming to this province to be set up for success, Mr. Speaker. We of course don't give preferential treatment to any applicant. All are treated, Mr. Speaker, all applicants are treated the same. Their applications are based on the merits of that application against the criteria of the program.

And as the Premier earlier indicated, Mr. Speaker, we're constantly looking at ways we can make the program more efficient, better, processing times improved. And I think that there is a wide view that we have one of the very best programs in the entire country, Mr. Speaker, and that is precisely because of the fact that we are always looking at ways we can make it better. We're taking feedback from those who are directly involved in the system, from our officials who are managing the program, and to that end we regularly make changes, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Furthest thing from an answer I've heard in a while, Mr. Speaker. I'll try it again. Will the Immigration minister release the secret co-operation agreements signed with GTEC in 2016?

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

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Of course we don't comment on matters that are before the courts, which is well known to that member who is a lawyer. But what I can talk about, Mr. Speaker, is the success of the immigrant nominee program.

We have seen that literally tens of thousands of newcomers that have arrived in this province through this program, whether it be through the entrepreneurship stream, whether it be through other streams of the program, Mr. Speaker. What that has all resulted in is a rate of growth in this province, population-wise and economic over the course of the last decade, that has not been seen since the 1920s and '30s, Mr. Speaker. It's largely due to the international in-migration through SINP, which we as a government have grown markedly, orders of magnitude greater than the members opposite, Mr. Speaker.

We're very proud of this program. We're very proud of those who have been able to . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Well the members opposite can denounce the SINP all they want, Mr. Speaker. But you know what? There are tens of thousands of newcomers to this province who live here, who appreciate it, who think that this is a great thing, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, the only thing we're denouncing is this government's approach to the GTH, and the reason that it's before the courts is because they refuse to release it, Mr. Speaker. So that's a ridiculous answer.

Now this government doesn't have a plan for the GTH. They're just making it up as they go along. Just look at the change they made on the fly to bar GTEC from this SINP. On one day GTEC was their GTH darling and they were happily accepting applications, but after a couple of questions from the media they changed their minds, Mr. Speaker. GTEC was out.

Why did the Minister of Immigration change his mind about GTEC specifically — not the SINP program; we're talking about GTEC — only after reporters came asking questions? And, Mr. Speaker, how many people have been scammed out of their savings in the meantime?

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

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Of course the premise of the member's question is entirely wrong. The programs are constantly being looked at, Mr. Speaker. The particular change being referenced has been under consideration for months, Mr. Speaker, and that change was announced last week.

And with regard to multi-unit business condos, this was a change that we felt — on the basis of feedback, on the basis of advice from officials who are managing the program — was a type of

business that was not necessarily setting newcomers up for success in the way that they could be through other entrepreneur opportunities, Mr. Speaker.

So there are many categories of business that are on that list of categories who are not applicable through SINP, including things like co-operatives, including things like investments into business operated primarily for the purpose of deriving passive investment income, professional services, or self-employed business operators . . .

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

Ms. Sproule: — More rambling, Mr. Speaker. Let's see if this one he'll answer. The GTH has hung around this government's neck like an albatross from day one. They overbuilt the bypass to accommodate Bill Boyd's pipe dream. Well-connected Sask Party donors made millions and small business owners and nuns were ripped off, Mr. Speaker.

The GTH has dismally failed to meet its land sale targets year after year. And now we're learning that more and more people are being ripped off in irrigation scams promoted by Bill Boyd, Brad Wall, and the Sask Party government, Mr. Speaker. And it isn't just the GTH clients who've been scammed. It's the people of Saskatchewan.

So how much more does the Sask Party need to hear before they'll finally call a judicial inquiry into the whole GTH mess?

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

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Well, Mr. Speaker, she wants to talk about the economy. I can tell you about the economy, Mr. Speaker. We have seen population and job growth in this province over the course of the last decade that is unprecedented. We also know what their record is, Mr. Speaker: the absolute worst rate of job growth in the entire Dominion of Canada during their time in office.

We also know what their policies are going forward, Mr. Speaker. We heard it again today from the Leader of the Opposition. What is his policy towards Justin Trudeau? It is the white flag, Mr. Speaker. Wave the white flag. Why won't you guys just do what Justin Trudeau tells you to do, Mr. Speaker?

I can tell you, on this side of the House we're going to fight for the interests of this province. This Premier is going to stand up to the Prime Minister even if that Leader of the Opposition wants to wave the white flag to him.

[14:15]

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

Review of Emergency Health Care

Ms. Mowat: — Mr. Speaker, that's factually incorrect and the minister knows that.

Last week we learned about the tragic loss of a patient in a

Saskatoon hospital. The minister told us after the initial review the findings would be sent to the ministry to determine what to do next. Considering this incident happened in the midst of what the region itself described as an extreme over-capacity crisis and considering that staff at the hospital believe a patient died because of delays in treating them, will the minister commit to calling for a coroner's inquest to make public the circumstances surrounding this death?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned last week when this was brought up, the member opposite said that staff say that it's because of the crowding situation. Mr. Speaker, we know there's a serious crowding situation our emergency rooms right now. But as I told the member last week, the critical incident report was filed. The review was done. That includes doctors and other medical professionals, Mr. Speaker. And the outcome was that it was not a result of the care that was received. That report now goes to the ministry and ministry officials will review it at that point.

Mr. Speaker, this is in no way to diminish, obviously, the loss of life, or for that matter the overcrowding problem we're experiencing in emergency rooms. As we've discussed many times on the floor of this Assembly over the past week, senior officials in the Saskatchewan Health Authority are taking every possible action. They're looking at repatriating people back to their home community hospitals, making sure that discharges and admissions are done appropriately, Mr. Speaker. They're grappling with what many major hospitals around the country are grappling with, Mr. Speaker. I have faith in our officials that they'll get the job done.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Mr. Speaker, surely the death of a patient in an emergency room during an extreme over-capacity crisis warrants an independent set of eyes. People across this province are rightfully concerned about whether they will be able to get safe emergency care when they need it.

Instead of sweeping this matter under the rug the minister needs to send a clear signal that this tragedy is being taken seriously. We need to canvass this fully to ensure dangerous conditions are known and to prevent unavoidable deaths. Will the minister commit to calling a coroner's inquest today?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I understand the coroner's going to be here later today, and the Minister of Justice will be meeting with him at that time, Mr. Speaker.

But understand the action that has been taken. The critical incident investigation was completed. That's now in the hands of ministry officials, Mr. Speaker, though if they deem that further action should be necessary, Mr. Speaker, they'll recommend it at that time.

And as I've said many times, that certainly is not to diminish the

problem that we're having in our emergency rooms with overcrowding. We're taking action, both short-term and long-term, Mr. Speaker. Many times I've stated what that action is, Mr. Speaker, but there's long-term goals as well.

Right now obviously there's serious problems in RUH [Royal University Hospital] in Saskatoon and St. Paul's, Mr. Speaker. We're adding a 36-bed medicine unit that should be available early next year, Mr. Speaker, just one of many actions we're taking that we think will help to alleviate the congestion.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't hear a clear answer to my question. While the coroner is here today, will the minister ask for a coroner's inquest into this death?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I indicated, the critical incident report is now with ministry officials for a review. I look forward to their recommendation.

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

Condition of Saskatchewan Hospital Building

Ms. Mowat: — Mr. Speaker, this patient died in hospital in the province's care during an extreme over-capacity crisis. Nothing short of full transparency on this issue will do.

And we continue to seek full transparency on the extent of the issues at Sask Hospital North Battleford as well. We're asking about a brand new facility that Saskatchewan people are paying more than \$400 million for, and we still haven't heard the full scope of the issues plaguing the hospital. Will the minister table a comprehensive list of these issues today?

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

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you for the question. As I indicated to the House yesterday, Mr. Speaker, it is that member's right to bring questions to the floor of the House, but I ask and I implore her to bring accurate statements and accurate questions.

Yesterday, on November the 12th, the member for Saskatoon Fairview said that "we've . . . heard that the hospital's entire electrical system has had to be rewired." Well, Mr. Speaker, once again that just isn't correct. There is no electrical issue at the SHNB [Saskatchewan Hospital North Battleford] facility and no active work on the electrical system is under way.

As I've indicated, the process for an audit is taking place. We have a hospital. We have a wonderful hospital that wouldn't be there if the members opposite were in government. We're going to do our best to get this hospital operating to full functionality.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maybe if the minister read the entire quote, "we've . . . heard that the entire electrical system . . ." needed to be replaced. That is correct. I'll repeat the question because the minister didn't seem to answer . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. I recognize the member.

Ms. Mowat: — I will allow the minister to shed full light on the comprehensive list of issues. Will he table that list today?

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

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thanks again for the question. Again this is a state-of-the-art facility, a facility that is designed to help in many ways. And it is facing challenges right now; as we said, the roof is being repaired and the water analysis is being done. At the end of the day when all of this work is completed, and I can assure members of this House that it will be completed shortly, we will have a state-of-the-art facility, one that can help in the area of mental health. It can help in many ways. The last hospital was over 100 years old. The time is now to have it built. It is being built, and again it's being done, something that members opposite didn't get around to doing.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Mr. Speaker, the minister needs to dispense with the talking points because people in this province deserve answers on this topic. Details about this issue have been slowly leaking out for weeks and it's beyond belief that this minister hasn't received a comprehensive briefing on the issues of that hospital.

So again to the minister: will he update this House on the full list of issues that have arisen with the construction and operation of the hospital, and will he commit that the infrastructure audit will be fully public?

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

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm happy to talk about this hospital and all the value that it brings. It is a P3 [public-private partnership] facility. It has saved many millions of dollars, but more importantly, it's addressing the needs of the people of Saskatchewan. The previous hospital, as I have indicated, was over 100 years old. It was long overdue to have this. And as I've indicated, it has its challenges. There are some challenges that are taking place. Immediately upon being advised of those challenges, we requested an audit, a full audit take place, and that is what's happening.

So at the end of the day, these problems will be fixed and we'll have a facility that, you know, again is state of the art. It has an industrial arts and woodworking lab, a recycling facility right in it, music and art therapy centre, library, education centre, a state-of-the-art cafeteria, museum and gift shop, a gymnasium, Mr. Speaker. I understand the recent Remembrance Day service was held right at that facility.

Again we're really very proud of this facility. It has its challenges. They will be rectified, and the people of Saskatchewan will be better for it.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again refusal to answer simple questions. How is this brand new hospital such a mess? How is it that the public has to rely on hearing rumours? And why won't the minister release the full list to tell us the truth?

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

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Again, Mr. Speaker, the members have heard many things from many people, and again it's their right to bring the questions to the floor of this House. I'm here to talk about the facts. Upon learning about the concerns that are taking place there, we've requested a full audit. The process for that audit is under way. The information will be shared with the House and with the people of Saskatchewan.

But again, Mr. Speaker, and I say it again, at the end of the day we will have a state-of-the-art facility that was long overdue, that members opposite didn't get around to doing. They had a Health minister right from that area that promised it and promised it and promised it, but they never got it done, Mr. Speaker.

So I'm very proud of the fact that this government gets it done and the people of Saskatchewan again are better for it. And that's why they will stay there.

The Speaker: — Order, please. Order.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 189 — *The Coroners Amendment Act, 2019*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 189, *The Coroners Amendment Act* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 189 be now introduced and read a first time.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

The Speaker: — When shall this bill be read a second time? I recognize the minister.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Next sitting, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

Bill No. 190 — *The Expropriation Procedure Amendment Act, 2019*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 190, *The Expropriation Procedure Amendment Act, 2019* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 190 be now introduced and read a first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

The Speaker: — When shall this bill be read a second time? I recognize the minister.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Next sitting of the Assembly, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Hindley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the answers to questions 7 through 11.

The Speaker: — Tabled answers 7 to 11.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

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 Speaker: — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Centre.

Mr. Forbes: — Yes, thank you very much. It's a pleasure to introduce, getting to the Bill No. 179, *An Act to amend The Apiaries Act, 2005*. And it is one that I find a good one. It's always time to modernize our work that we do in terms of beekeeping. It's one of the oldest professions, of course, that when you see in terms of agricultural production the original thing about keeping bees and honey. Obviously people are looking forward to all sorts of puns and all of that and I'm trying to stay pretty straightforward on this because this is important work that we have before us.

But at any rate, Mr. Speaker, I looked and I read the minister's remarks, the Minister of Agriculture, and he actually went into it quite detailed, which is quite good because quite often we don't have that kind of information from the ministers. They tend to minimize this, and so well it'll be interesting as we go forward.

And I look forward to particularly our member from Regina Northeast who has more experience in this beekeeping than I do, at this particular moment. Because I know he does keep bees. In fact I think he keeps bees in the city if I'm not mistaken. And so this is all very interesting that we have this before this, and he'll certainly bring his expertise to this.

But we know the industry has had its challenges, particularly with different kinds of diseases that have affected beekeeping. I know it's become a bit of a niche market but also one at the commercial level that we've had people work hard at this over the years here in Saskatchewan. And you know, it's really grown in many ways particularly when we get into the different specific types of flowers and the types of honey you can have and all of that type of thing.

[14:30]

Now I know that we are tempted, in terms of when we talk about beekeeping, to keep a distance of this. And my granddaughter had the wonderful opportunity just a year ago to go out with her aunt to examine a beehive. And of course she was only three at the time, and she was all done up in her outfit. And I was just amazed at the picture that a little three-year-old would be out there beside a beehive as they were taking it apart and examining for the different things that might be in it. I was just so impressed that she did that. And I was talking over the weekend at a family gathering to another niece of mine who takes her daughter out, who is just four or five years old. They have a beekeeper's outfit for her and she feels quite at ease with the bees. And that's something that I think is very, very important.

Of course bees play such an important part of our health environmentally in terms of making sure that the pollen is spread and crossed over with other flowers. It's an important thing. And we're seeing different introductions of different things that may interfere with that, the neonicotinoids, I think is what they're called.

There's lots of challenges that we have and I think it's important, and I want to thank the Minister of Agriculture for bringing this forward because we need to be talking with the industry and making sure that we do the right thing. Now it's interesting that he talks about, for example, and I quote, the implementation of Saskatchewan's premise identification regulations ensuring that all livestock in the province register their livestock in the PID [premises identification] system so that they can make sure they keep track of where these things are and that type of thing.

It was interesting, if I recall correctly, that in fact we had some beehives stolen in the last couple of years. That it was really quite unusual because you would not think that would be one thing that would be easily taken. But it was because there was some value in it, and when people think they're of value they will go after it. So this is important that we talk about this.

I would say that one of the things when I look through the bill,

though, that does . . . And I hope my friend in agriculture will ask this question though. And I don't know what the answer is currently, but we talk about new sections 3 and 4 in the Act:

"Registration required

No person shall own or have in the person's possession or control any bees, honeycomb or brood comb unless that person is registered in the prescribed manner.

So I'm not sure if there is . . . Does this go right down to one hive or two hives? And is that a good thing? I'm not sure. Because I know of many people who do this as a bit of a hobby, try it out a year or two, find it's their thing that they've . . . or it's not their thing. You have to have an aptitude for being a beekeeper. And so I'm curious about that. That is something that I don't know if that has always been the case, you know. Because, Mr. Speaker, I know many people in the past who've kept bees, who've tried it out, you know, taken a class at the community college, got a couple of beehives and tried it out and seen how it went.

But I think that they're looking at . . . I think what I see here is a little bit more control. And maybe that's good. Because particularly when we talk about the diseases, they want to get a handle on what they call feral hives or colonies and what does that mean for the health of the bees in this province particularly when it comes to disease.

So all of this is much more serious, and of course again this is something that we think . . . And I'm going to be looking forward to the member's speech. Because if this has any kind of effect in terms of climate change as well, as winters may get warmer or may not, we see increased warming spells in the middle of winter which may cause bees to, as they say, kind of wake up from their hibernation. And if that's a helpful thing, I'm not sure because that can cause all sorts of problems for beekeepers who are trying to manage the health of their brood. And if that's going to be a problem that can be an issue.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think that we have lots of concerns on this side of the House. We want to know more, and of course the big thing is in terms of unintended consequences. And we hope when they talk about consulting the industry, they have consulted with the small operators as well. We know there's large operators, but have they consulted with the small operators, the hobbyists, that type of thing, to make sure this is a doable thing and that it's affordable. And in this government's zest for eliminating red tape, they're causing bee operators of one hive or two hives to engage in stuff that is it really worth it.

So we understand that a lot of it's housekeeping amendments. We want to make sure it's consistent right through the Act. It talks about American foulbrood, making sure it's a notifiable disease; increasing the maximum fines from 10,000 to 25,000. Pretty straightforward.

But we really want to know the two questions we have before us. What is the minister's plan in terms of trying to boost honey production in this province, both, I think, at the farm gate where you see farmers' markets. This is very interesting. People love to go to the farmers' market in the fall, buy fresh honey that they know has been produced in the area. It's a very important thing. But also at the industrial level. We know that there's some very large honey producers in the province and could there be more?

Could we be producing more and exporting that as well?

But as I said too, we have to also make sure that we understand the increased use of pesticides and what's happening with that. What's the impact on bee populations here in Saskatchewan? There has been a rise of real concern about that across North America, that this has had a real impact on the bee populations and therefore on the health of the local ecology. Not only in honey production, but a fact, that as a natural way to encourage that maintains sustainability in the ecology, it's having a major, major impact.

So we'll look at it. I know others will want to get on their feet and talk about other bills today. So we'll take a look at this as this is important legislation, and I look forward to hearing what others have to say. But at this point in time I'm going to adjourn debate on Bill No. 179. 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. 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 Speaker: — I recognize the member for Prince Albert Northcote.

Ms. Rancourt: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's always a pleasure to join in the debate discussion. And today I get an opportunity to put my remarks on the record with regards to Bill No. 180, *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Government Relations — Transfer of Gas, Electrical and Plumbing Functions) Amendment Act, 2019*. Big title and a lot of information actually within this piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker.

I was particularly interested in some of the changes with regards to this piece of legislation because of my prior work with SaskPower. I got to know a lot of the gas and electrical inspectors quite well and they provided an important role in SaskPower with providing that service.

And so when I was reading the changes within this legislation, the minister indicated that this will be a transfer of responsibility for gas and electrical and plumbing licensing and inspection functions to the Technical Safety Authority of Saskatchewan, which we usually refer to as TSASK, which is a non-profit organization, Mr. Speaker, that was organized in 2010 to look after some of this licensing and inspection regulations for a lot of different licensing and inspection Acts that we have within our legislature here.

And so what they want to do is place all the regulated legislation under the responsibility of TSASK to be doing the licensing and inspections, but also to have everything placed under the

Government Relations portfolio because this previously, I believe, was under the Ministry of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing. And so to have all of the different types of licensing and inspection regulations for all different kinds of Acts being placed under Government Relations, that in a way makes sense, Mr. Speaker.

But I do worry about this, potentially these changes taking jobs away from government organizations, Mr. Speaker. Like I said, SaskPower was the organization that provided the gas and electrical inspectors prior to this, but my understanding is that they're hoping by 2020 to have all of the licensing and inspection done by TSASK. And so I don't know how many jobs that means will be lost, government jobs that will be lost, and we know how this government really likes to get away from the public sector and go into the private sector. And so that would be something I would be concerned about and I would encourage the critic responsible for this file to dig a little bit more into that and find out some more information about that.

Also we know that the plumbing licensing, inspection, and regulations was previously done by the Ministry of Health also, so that's another area or ministry that we're going to be transferring services from. So I would suspect that that means, again, more jobs impacted, Mr. Speaker.

So I was also wondering, will TSASK be able to handle this load? The new organization developed in 2010. How many more employees will this mean? We had full-time electrical and gas inspectors across this province. That was their full job. That was what they did regularly. So is TSASK going to be able to maintain the same level of services and provide that same level of expectation that we have? Because we know that the work they do is so imperative, because safety is number one and we want to ensure that nobody's impacted by a safety concern because of the changes of this legislation. And so that would be one thing I would want to ask some questions about.

I would assume that the government will be then providing a contracting service and funding to TSASK with regards to that. So I think it would be important to find out how much they are expecting to pay on that front as well, and is this going to benefit the public sector? So again, Mr. Speaker, lots of questions to have about this piece of legislation and changes to it.

It will change a lot of the existing legislation that we have, some of it being *The Gas Licensing Act, The Gas Inspection Act, The Electrical Licensing Act, The Electrical Inspection Act, The Technical Safety Authority of Saskatchewan Act, The Passenger and Freight Elevator Act, The Public Health Act, and The Uniform Building and Accessibility Standards Act*.

And so one thing I wanted to point out, Mr. Speaker, is that the minister also said there's "... no substantive changes are being made to the licensing or inspection requirements or processes or the codes and standards contained in these statutes." But they didn't say that there was going to be no changes, so I would want to know what kind of changes would we be expecting. And we wouldn't want to minimize any of that. And we know that that's a pretty subjective statement there, Mr. Speaker.

So I know a lot of my colleagues will have a lot of information that they'll want to add with regards to remarks on this piece of

legislation, the changes to it. And I know the critic will do their due diligence with talking to stakeholders and finding information out and asking the good questions at committee with regards to this. So, Mr. Speaker, I am going to adjourn debate on Bill No. 180. Thank you.

[14:45]

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. 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 Regina Rosemont.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thanks, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to enter into debate this afternoon briefly with respect to Bill No. 181, *The Mineral Taxation (Modernization) Amendment Act, 2019*. Certainly in some of the aims that have been laid out by government and the brief remarks, there's some pursuit of improvement in this bill, but there's some concerns that we're noting here as well.

And this is the kind of bill that is really important to understand all of the implications, all of the consequences, certainly the intended ones as expressed by the minister but the unintended ones as well. And we as the official opposition certainly invite all stakeholders at this point to engage with us and certainly with government, to speak up and make sure that all the potential consequences and impacts of these changes are well understood.

I understand that there was a bill in the spring by the same name that was introduced. Certainly we'll be seeking clarity as to why this bill is now being brought forward at this time and what changes might be in this bill as well. Certainly this bill does change a lot of things with regards to the ownership of a mineral title, the area of mineral titles, and the mineral production tax rate. So we will really be thorough in our analysis on this front.

We've seen a Sask Party that's really run roughshod over an industry on this front. Our mining sector is incredibly important to Saskatchewan. And this is a government that has failed to listen and consult, which can certainly create adverse effects for the industry. We saw just this last spring, Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party government bring forward a massive hike and change to potash royalties in this province without a stitch of consultation with the actual potash sector, Mr. Speaker, those incredibly strong and important companies in this province, Mr. Speaker, and at a time where those companies were facing pressures as well.

The American Midwest was underwater and were very clear that that was going to impact purchases of some of our potash, Mr. Speaker. And had this government consulted the industry, they

would have been able to hear that directly from those companies. Had they consulted the workers, they could have had an understanding of that, Mr. Speaker. But this very important industry is in a weaker state than it should be, Mr. Speaker. Sadly we see actual mines that have been shuttered, Mr. Speaker. We see hundreds of workers that have lost their jobs, Mr. Speaker. And that's why it's so important to get things like royalty structures and regulations and rates around mineral taxation right, Mr. Speaker.

So this is a very important piece of legislation to make sure that all stakeholders are engaged in reviewing. We invite their participation and their input to help us review the changes that are brought forward by the Sask Party government on this front. But just judging by the history of the Sask Party with their treatment of the resource sector, Mr. Speaker, and the recent changes to the massive hike that was brought to the royalties for potash companies without any consultation, we just simply don't have a lot of faith in this Sask Party government to have done that work, to have worked with those stakeholders, and to make sure that this legislation makes sure that these industries and the very important jobs within it are in a strong position, not just today but for generations going forward, Mr. Speaker.

Too often we see the Sask Party government push forward with changes that are sort of in their own partisan interests or in a very short-term or short-sighted interest, Mr. Speaker. When we're dealing with things like our resource sector and with our mining sector, it is critical that we have policies that will serve us for generations, Mr. Speaker, because it's so important to our province on so many fronts.

With that being said right now, we'll be consulting with industry. We invite folks to connect with us. We encourage them to do so with government as well. But I'll adjourn debate with respect to Bill No. 181, *The Mineral Taxation (Modernization) Amendment 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.

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 Fairview.

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to enter into debate today on Bill No. 174, *The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Amendment Act* of 2019. There is a few different things that this bill does. I know that as we work in our constituency office to serve folks in our community, the issue of maintenance enforcement comes up quite regularly. We have a number of folks that come forward that have challenges with this.

And it's an unfortunate reality that relationships don't always last. And there are children involved in those mixes and it leads to situations like this that touch people very closely and impact their livelihood.

So we do have a lot of folks that have come forward to our office and raised concerns, so I know it's an issue that touches a lot of people. So we should be ensuring that changes to the Act are made in a spirit of enforcement and ensuring that there can be a reasonable result in these situations, Mr. Speaker.

Some of the changes that this bill proposes to do are to do an update of language throughout the Act, allow the court to collect banking information for an accurate calculation of the payment that's due in terms of the assessment, revises the definition of "maintenance order" to include maintenance awarded through arbitration and orders recalculated by the office in charge.

So I think this is a particularly important piece of the amendments, Mr. Speaker. We know that there have been recent changes that have brought about arbitration for family law matters and that it means that more folks are taking this route rather than having to go through court, but that those rulings have the same implications as the court would. And so in terms of maintenance it would certainly make sense that there would be subsequent changes to allow for this here as well and in the recalculation.

So those certainly seem to make sense, Mr. Speaker. The main questions that I have about this Act and that we'll need to explore further in committee is with if there's any additional measures with regards to enforcement of the legislation that the ministry is planning to put in place. When I was in Public Accounts this fall, Mr. Speaker, there was a conversation based on the Provincial Auditor's report about enforcement of maintenance orders. And the public officials that were there indicated that they have a pretty good success rate on enforcement and that they're always looking at ways that they can work to find compliance with enforcement orders. So I do know that there are a lot of hardworking people in this office and I do hope that the changes that are being made are ones that they have been able to fully participate in as well, Mr. Speaker.

We've also heard that recipients of income assistance have seen their benefits reduced and some were not allowed to keep their child support payments, so we will probably be asking about this in committee and trying to dig into it a little bit deeper, Mr. Speaker. And I know that several of my colleagues will want to weigh in on this bill as well and that we will have more questions in committee. But with that I would move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 174 for today.

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 Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, to join on Bill 175, *The Marriage Amendment Act, 2019*. There is a number of changes, proposed changes to the legislation. I guess it updates the language used throughout the legislation. That's just one area I want to talk about. There is a number of different points. And I know talking to one of my colleagues who will be taking this when it goes to committee, will ask some questions and clarification on. But having that, there's some other stuff that's being put into here, prohibits the marriage of a person under 16 years of age. So I know she's going to, in committee, be able to ask on what reason was it brought in. There must be obviously reasons why you're bringing in changes and stuff. So I don't know if they were . . . if it's existing legislation, if the age changed. I'm not sure of it. But obviously the minister will and officials will . . . You know, when we're in committee, our critics and members may have more questions about that. That's just one area.

One other piece I noticed in here. It allows, if there's a marriage commissioner and the parties getting married want to negotiate, and he or she, a commissioner wants to charge a fee, they can do that as long as the parties agree. It looks like for the marriage service there's a fee that can be arranged as long as it's mutual is what my understanding, and they . . . [inaudible].

The other thing there may be some, you know, significant consequences resulting from amendments to *The Wills Act* with this. So I'm not sure exactly what changes will be coming through and where they are. But I know our critic will definitely have some questions and ask, you know, the minister and the officials what are some of the challenges or consequences that may arise to some residents of our province because of the changes in the legislation.

And we don't know who was calling for some of that and we want to make sure — and I think it's always important that we ask — that you have the public, and the public is consulted to make sure on some of these changes, how it will impact residents of our province. So I know my colleagues, I know the critic will be asking the minister some questions making sure that those, again, that are going to be impacted have been consulted.

Now on changes like that are being proposed in here, I know my colleague who's a critic, and obviously I'm no lawyer, and obviously she is a lawyer as a critic and will ask the right questions and have probably experience with the legislation, you know, going through.

But I will allow them to do the good work that they do as a critic and, you know, being that she is a lawyer, will be able to ask some questions of the minister and get exactly where this is coming from, who was consulted, who's requested some of these changes. Maybe there's been organizations, I don't know, residents. It'll give an opportunity if there's support letters for the changes that are being proposed, they will have that opportunity in committee to do that.

So at this time I don't have any more further comments on this

bill, so I'm prepared to adjourn debate on Bill 175, *The Marriage Amendment Act, 2019*, Mr. Speaker.

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. 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 Riversdale.

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my pleasure to wade into the discussion on Bill No. 176, *The Fiduciaries Access to Digital Information Act*. Mr. Speaker, this is a brand new piece of legislation, and it's always good to take a look at the minister's second reading speech to get a sense of where the government is coming on this. But this particular bill confirms the power of certain fiduciaries to access digital assets on behalf of a person who lacks capacity or is deceased.

[15:00]

So just for a definition here, “fiduciary” in this case, in Bill 176, will be:

an executor or administrator for a deceased account holder;

a property guardian;

a property attorney; or

a trustee appointed to hold in trust a digital asset or other property of the account holder;

and includes the Public Guardian and Trustee when acting in one of those capacities.

The minister points out that when an individual isn't able to manage his own personal property because of incapacity or death, someone needs to step in to do so on the person's behalf. But what isn't clear in law right now, and the purpose of this bill, is the fiduciary's ability to access and manage digital assets, which is a relatively new phenomenon, Mr. Speaker.

So the “digital asset,” Mr. Speaker, is defined here in the legislation as “. . . a record that is created, recorded, transmitted or stored in digital or other intangible form by electronic, magnetic or optical means or by any other similar means.”

So when we talk about digital assets, just for an example, they “. . . can include cryptocurrency, electronic records such as documents, emails, and social media accounts, and audio

content.” So I don't know when we talk about audio content, maybe that's someone who has a podcast perhaps, Mr. Speaker. I'm not sure what falls under the purview of audio content, but I suspect that might be it. And the digital assets “. . . also include digital data stored on personal computers, laptops, portable media players, tablets, or storage devices.”

And the minister points out that it can be difficult to access digital assets, and expensive and time consuming, particularly if a family member has passed away or has lost capacity to make their own decisions. I know just in thinking about this bill a little bit, my dad recently passed away, and just flipping through . . . I don't even know how we discovered this as family, but my dad had a Facebook account. Come to think of it, I may have been the one who set it up for him many years ago. I don't know the password and nor do I have access to that, but I was just thinking about that.

I do have friends and know people who have lost loved ones who have Facebook accounts and sometimes they choose to keep those Facebook accounts up as legacy accounts so their loved one doesn't disappear, and on other occasions they want that content down. There's still occasions . . . I have one friend whose mother passed away and she basically knew her mom's password and took over the account and still posts as her mom on issues that she was very passionate about, Mr. Speaker. So it's an interesting area of law. And I know that when you've lost a loved one or have someone who's lost capacity, it can be difficult and challenging on the digital asset side.

And so the Uniform Law Conference of Canada in 2016 adopted uniform legislation. So the Uniform Law Conference of Canada recommends best practices or legislation that they're recommending that all of us can benefit from or the jurisdictions should adopt, Mr. Speaker. So this is where this particular piece of legislation . . . They saw a gap, and they're recommending that legislation governing fiduciaries and access to digital content is important.

It's important to note that this is the first — apparently the minister had commented — that this will be the first of its kind in Canada based on the Uniform Law Conference of Canada's recommendation, and it creates clear provisions respecting the rights of fiduciaries to access and manage digital assets. And he points out that the bill will also establish the scope of the Acts and which fiduciaries it will apply to, namely executors, administrators, property guardians, property attorneys, and trustees, which I had already mentioned. And finally it permits those fiduciaries to access digital assets.

So it's interesting that this is the first of its kind and we're here in Saskatchewan breaking new territory. So it will be interesting to see if other provinces and territories follow suit, Mr. Speaker. It's always good, well it's good . . . We lead in lots of not-so-great ways here in Saskatchewan when it comes to interpersonal violence or HIV [human immunodeficiency virus] rates, those kinds of things. But this, Mr. Speaker, seems to be a good area to be leading in. And it will be interesting to see if other jurisdictions find better ways, or take what we're doing here and look at their own population and best practices elsewhere, and decide to include amendments or make other changes as legislation is always evolving. And sometimes when you implement legislation, it's important to think of unintended

consequences and who the bill may or may not impact in certain ways. And so this, I think, will be a learning experience for us here and help other jurisdictions along the way. But I wish that we could say that we were leaders in other positive ways.

As the critic for mental health and addictions, I would like us to be leaders, not laggards, in that regard, Mr. Speaker. We are way behind the eight ball when it comes to addressing the mental health and addictions crisis. So I'm glad that we seem to be leading here in this regard when it comes to digital assets and a fiduciary's ability to access that in the event of a death or a person's incapacity.

I think some interesting things to note too, with respect to the bill:

. . . a request must be made in writing and include a copy or original of the court order or other document . . . [that grants] authority to the fiduciary. Once this request is received by a custodian, such as Gmail, Facebook, or Instagram, the custodian will have 30 days to provide access to the account holder.

I'm not sure how that works, Mr. Speaker. And if most custodians, even if we have this legislation in place, will most of them be willing to do this? The minister points out that the right of access isn't absolute:

The . . . bill provides that the right of access is subject to any restrictions set out in the will, the power of attorney, or a court order appointing the fiduciary. The right of access of a fiduciary can also be limited by the account holder by agreeing to terms in a service agreement if the requirements set out in the Act are met.

So I think that there's more questions to be asked there, Mr. Speaker. It's an interesting bill and definitely there is a gap with changing technology, ever-changing technology, to try to stay on top of this. And I think perhaps we're all, in this country, a little bit behind and so it's good to see a bill coming forward. Over the next few months I know our caucus, the critic responsible for this area, will be reaching out and talking to stakeholders to make sure that there aren't any changes or anything that needs . . . that there aren't going to be any unintended consequences or are there ways even that we could do this better, Mr. Speaker.

But I know that I have colleagues who will be making comments on this bill in the coming days, Bill No. 176. So with that for today, I would like to 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. 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 Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, to join on Bill 177, *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Electronic Register) Amendment Act, 2019*. Looking at this and what I think, moving into modernization, it's going to allow organizations, from what I can see, the ability to put membership online, for the public to have a look at it, seeing who their members are. And there's about 40 different organizations that might use this, where they could put on who's the members of their organization coming forward, who would have an opportunity to say, well you have members that belong to an organization. You want the public to be able to see them. From my understanding you'll be able to put that online so the public has access to knowing who the members are.

Now having said that, part of it — and I was looking at this — was would this be mandatory? I don't believe so. And I know we're going to be asking some questions. Of those organizations that fall under this legislation, will they be mandatory that they have to? Or they can opt out of it if they don't want to go put their directors or their members online and showing the public and having access? So we'll see. And I know my colleagues will have questions in committee and asking that.

I've taken it that . . . and I'm just assuming this, and maybe in committee we'll find out. I believe organizations have been calling for it. And if they haven't been, we always get that opportunity in committee and, you know, the critics and colleagues asking in committee, who's been calling for . . . and who did you consult with?

And that's all so important when we bring in legislation that's going to affect organizations or a citizen of our province. You want to make sure that organizations, individuals, are consulted and government's done the due diligence that they're supposed to do to make sure that those individuals, again as I say, are impacted, have the opportunity to say, yes we support this, no we don't — whether that's letters, whether that's going through the opposition, whether it's going through the critic.

And we've had some reach out to us when legislation comes forward who will say they're concerned about parts of the legislation. And sometimes you can remind government that there is issues, and sometimes it works out well. Sometimes it doesn't. Legislation that we introduce here . . . and I think about it, you know, different times, whether it's the government side. Sometimes we work together and you can move legislation forward, really simple and quick. And it works because we're co-operating and we can do that.

And sometimes we introduce a bill. When I think about a bill, the suicide prevention Act, 2016 that I, you know, introduced first reading and we're waiting for the process to go through. I'm hoping, you know, we'll reach out to government. And it's a suicide prevention strategy. You're hoping legislation like that and other legislation, where governments will come together and members on both sides will do what's right for Saskatchewan residents. And I'm hoping that will happen, that that's one piece of legislation.

But I don't want to take away from what's before us. But sometimes it's important, Mr. Speaker, to talk about legislation and stuff where we've come together and we've co-operated.

And it's unfortunate the Sask Party government wouldn't co-operate with us so far. And I'm hoping in a positive way, we will on some of the legislation. And I'll get a chance to talk to that soon.

But having said that, Mr. Speaker, I'll go back to the Bill 177, *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Electronic Register) Amendment Act, 2019*. Like I said, my colleagues will have more questions. The critic will have a chance with the minister and officials to find out exactly who was consulted, who they talked with. So at this point I don't have more to say on this bill and I'm prepared to adjourn debate, Mr. Speaker.

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 Regina Rosemont.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will enter in briefly with respect to Bill No. 178, *The Miscellaneous Statutes Repeal Act, 2019*. This repeals a number of Acts. I suspect these are either redundant or deemed obsolete now based on changes with the respective organizations. But those are questions for government.

Certainly you know, some of these Acts, *The Family and Community Services Act*, would have had a lot of intent and purpose when it would have been brought about. So it'll be important for us to make sure that the repeal of this bill is appropriate and that legislation and regulation and protections are in place elsewhere to govern this important response from government. But those are questions we'll have for the minister and government in the coming days through the legislative committee process and here in this House.

Certainly we invite all stakeholders involved with the Acts that are being repealed to connect if there's any concerns or any unintended consequences with the decision of the Sask Party to repeal these pieces of legislation. It may be a very straightforward and common sense exercise where indeed these are either redundant or obsolete, no longer required. But with the Sask Party, you simply can't take them at their word on many of these fronts based on, you know, experience. Too often they fail to consult those who know the consequences of their choices all too well.

That being said, I will adjourn debate with respect to Bill No. 178, *The Miscellaneous Statutes Repeal Act, 2019*.

[15:15]

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. 183

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Duncan that **Bill No. 183 — *The Fisheries (Saskatchewan) Act, 2019*** be now read a second time.]

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I again stand in my place in the Assembly to speak very briefly about the bill that's before the House, Bill No. 183, the fisheries Act, 2019. Now, Mr. Speaker, this bill certainly has a lot of implications and complications, if you will, as it pertains to the commercial fishing industry in northern Saskatchewan.

Some of the changes, when we look at the bill itself, it talks about aquatic invasive species. It speaks about some changes to the definitions of "wild fish," and it also talks about authorizing the minister to designate fishery officers. It talks about the procedures for issuance and transfer of licence. And the list goes on about giving the minister power to determine designation of wild species at risk, authorize the minister to implement a recovery plan to protect endangered species, and it certainly sets out levies to be charged for offences in relation to the aquatic species at risk component of this particular bill.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I want to spend the majority of my time on this bill speaking about the commercial fishing industry in northern Saskatchewan and how important some of the aspects of that industry . . . for the people of southern Saskatchewan to understand how important, that they know exactly what is happening when it comes to our commercial fishing activity in northern Saskatchewan. This bill obviously would have some implications on that particular industry but it's important for people to know and in the context of what the commercial fishing industry looks like in northern Saskatchewan.

Once the mining sector exited from the North and basically what we hope is their plan to mothball the operations at Key Lake and several other mine sites in northern Saskatchewan . . . And I say mothball because they're simply being maintained at this time and there's no production at these northern uranium mines. We hope that the word "mothball" is something that's temporary, that the mining sector does indeed come back. But until the mining companies do come back, the uranium mining and gold mining and copper mining and so on and so forth, the North needs alternative opportunities to look at job creation and to sustain our northern communities and to hold up the economy in the meantime.

And that's one of our criticisms in the past when we talk about the mining sector. And the former premier and the former leader of the Sask Party, basically when somebody mentioned a job in northern Saskatchewan, he made a reference to Cameco. And like the former premier, I am a fan of Cameco. I think Cameco has done a lot of work in northern Saskatchewan, employed a lot of people, and I really wish them well.

The problem with him making that reference to Cameco as the only company in the North that is creating jobs is it really highlighted his failure as a premier at the time to invest in northern Saskatchewan, to diversify the economy so that there isn't only one-stop shop when it comes to employment opportunities in northern Saskatchewan. And that's why when he mentioned, when it comes to northern Saskatchewan, our economic development strategy is Cameco, is what he said.

And that's why a lot of people were upset over that because obviously all the pressure's on the mining sector. And when you put all your eggs in one basket hoping somebody else does your job, what happens now is Cameco shut down a few mines and many people are out of work. And this is the frustrating part that many northern people and families have expressed over the last several years with me as a northern MLA. And I'm sure my colleague, the member from Cumberland, has been subjected to that same anger and criticism.

So, Mr. Speaker, it's all about the economy when we talk about this particular bill and how the interaction of tourism, mining, commercial fishing, and the list goes on as to what northerners really rely on for the creation of their particular job opportunities in northern Saskatchewan.

So this bill, as it looks at the commercial fishing perspective, how does this bill affect the commercial fishing industry? And I think, Mr. Speaker, we have to make sure that we draw the parallel to other industries in the North to explain to the people of Saskatchewan how important the commercial fishing industry is and why this bill must take into account some of their aspirations and their perspectives as to what could help or what could hurt their industry.

Now the commercial fishing sector itself, Mr. Speaker, employs many, many people. On one occasion we tried to build the industry from a four-and-a-half-million-dollar industry to a \$9 million industry. And this was a number of years ago. We undertook as government to double the opportunity, to create employment in the commercial fishing sector, Mr. Speaker, all the while trying to balance out the tourism opportunities attached to fishing, to sport fishing.

But really, Mr. Speaker, we wanted to open up new markets. We wanted to open up new lakes. We wanted to restock lakes. There's a number of initiatives that we tried to undertake to stimulate the commercial fishing sector. Now what happened, Mr. Speaker, is the provincial government changed. And of course the Sask Party come and they made a number of changes that were contrary to stimulating the commercial fishing sector. And some of the changes really hurt, like exiting from the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation. Some within the commercial fishing sector wanted to exit and others didn't, and there was a bit of confusion as to why the exit happened.

And then there was also the cancellation of the fish freight subsidy, Mr. Speaker. The government at the time indicated people were not using that fish freight subsidy. Well, Mr. Speaker, it's very difficult to use the subsidy if your government is actively trying to do away with the commercial fishing file and not doing anything to help it along. And that's why people weren't using that freight subsidy to the extent that they should have. And, Mr. Speaker, I also beg to disagree with the assertion

at the time that it wasn't something of value, Mr. Speaker, and it was indeed something of significant value.

So the commercial fishing industry itself, Mr. Speaker, they're at a crossroads right now as you look at all the operations, whether it's a family-based commercial fishing operation or whether it's a seller, a private seller, or whether it's the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation. There's a lot of pulls and tugs and pushes. And what we want to do is make sure this legislation isn't doing anything to harm nor challenge the commercial fishing industry any further.

They've got to deal with the high cost of fuel. They've got to deal with the incredible distance they have to make sure that their product gets to in as fresh a state as possible. They have to worry about the lakeside packing facilities. The amount of jobs that they create with fishermen's helpers is tremendous. And all the while they've got to maintain their equipment, Mr. Speaker.

They're no longer a member of the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation so they don't get a dividend cheque at the end of each year. Because the FFMC [Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation] operates almost like a co-op, where you take your fish and you sell the fish to the FFMC and at the end of the year they send you a rebate based on the fact that they've sold all their volume of fish at the end of their sales season. And they in turn give the fishermen what they call a final payment.

Well northern Saskatchewan fishermen don't get that anymore because the Saskatchewan Party exited from the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation agreement in which Saskatchewan was a signatory. Well they exited on their own, and the commercial fishermen as such did not receive that final payment that they had been accustomed to receiving at the end of each season from the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation.

That being said, there was still a lot of questions about FFMC. And this is where I think good consultation and discussion was important to the commercial fishing industry.

So, Mr. Speaker, we look at the bill itself. There are implications to the fishing industry overall. We want to ascertain what specific measures within this bill could hurt the commercial fishing industry because they can tell the people in Saskatchewan that the commercial fishing industry employs many commercial fishers' helpers, if you will, and they work out in the cold weather and they harvest a lot of fish.

It is an industry that the Indigenous and Aboriginal communities benefit the most from. So if you were to look at my home community of Ile-a-la-Crosse, there's probably 15 to 20 commercial fishermen that do this for a living. Like they obviously, during the winter season, they go out and they set their nets. And some set as many as 40 or 50 nets. They have to deal with things like not having any fish freight subsidy available. Like I said, the high cost of labour, the high cost of maintenance, the high cost of fuel. And yet they have to brave the elements of minus 35, minus 40 weather in the middle of the lake trying to get their annual catch.

On top of that, they've got to work with the biologists in terms of seeing what the total catch would be for that particular lake. The challenge of going to other lakes to get more fish is costly

because the further you travel, the more maintenance, the more fuel you consume. And the list goes on as to the challenges that the commercial fishermen face.

So that being said, Mr. Speaker, one has to really be careful that some of these bills don't impact the commercial fishing industry as such. So you take the average fisherman or fisher, as they call them, the correct political term, and many times they'll hire seven or eight helpers. And these helpers, they obviously pay them. They pay into the employment insurance program. And after six months — they're seasonal workers — they apply for their employment insurance benefits for the summer months when the commercial fishing season is no longer in effect. And this sustains many, many families.

So the commercial fishing industry is a vital industry to northern Saskatchewan, and we all always offer our support to them as northern MLAs. And I know they've got a tough job ahead of them of trying to balance the aspirations of the biologists and trying to make sure that the books are maintained. They're trying to make sure that the men are paid, to make sure that there's a profit at the end of the day, and to make sure that there is nothing on the horizon that threatens their industry. And that's why it's important to pay attention to these particular bills because there may be issues there that would impact negatively the whole industry of commercial fishing.

I would also point out, Mr. Speaker, two particular issues that I want to raise before I take my seat. Number one is when the final payment plan was no longer afforded to the commercial fishermen of Saskatchewan because the Saskatchewan Party exited from FPMC with very little consultation, the response from the minister at the time was that, well it's okay, we're not going to collect the royalty on that fish. Well, Mr. Speaker, what I would consider pennies on the pound from royalties that the Sask Party would give to commercial fishermen, they clawed back tons more from disrupting and ending the fish freight subsidy. But more so, Mr. Speaker, by exiting FPMC, they made sure that the commercial fishing industry never got their final payment or their co-op equity final payment at the end of the year, and that further hampered their business.

So despite the fact that the Indigenous and northern communities are trying to sustain their economy to the commercial fishing industry . . . Because they are the ones that are now holding up many of the families in these northern Saskatchewan communities because commercial fishing is a good industry if you do it right, like any other industry. And that's why it's important to pay attention to these particular bills. And I would urge the minister and certainly the entire government to co-operate with the commercial fishing industry because they create jobs in our local communities and they create opportunity. And that's why it's important for us to share this message with them.

So I would close on this note, Mr. Speaker. As usual we are very defensive when it comes to the Saskatchewan Party providing new rules and regulations as it pertains to this. The fishing overall for Saskatchewan, the fisheries Act is something that we pay very close attention to. And I would encourage all the fishers to go on the website, look at what is being proposed, and to contact the opposition or the government to express their concerns because that's what this process is all about.

So it's important to know what's going on, to be engaged. And as I've pointed out on many occasions, we are only a phone call away if you have any clarification required or if you have an opinion you want to share or a position that you want us to present. That's the role of the official opposition. And we would gladly defend and support our commercial fishing industry of northern Saskatchewan.

So on that note, I move that we adjourn debate on Bill No. 183, the fisheries 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.

[15:30]

Bill No. 184

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Duncan that **Bill No. 184 — *The Fisheries (Saskatchewan) Consequential Amendments Act, 2019/Loi de 2019 corrélative de la loi intitulée *The Fisheries (Saskatchewan) Act, 2019**** be now read a second time.]

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. When we look at the consequential Act that's attached to the first bill I spoke about, it's important for people to know that there are certain aspects of the legislation that impacts other Acts and it's important to make sure that the terminology is right. So many times these Acts are co-joined, and although they have to be separate in their presentation, they're meant to complement and co-join their efforts to deal with some of the matters that I spoke about earlier when it comes to the fisheries Act, Bill 184.

So there are some attachments to this particular bill, as has been indicated. But as I've said before, and I digress to the point where I would encourage the people of Saskatchewan to pay attention to the value of the commercial fishing file and the trapping file as well. Because these industries are very, very valuable to northern Saskatchewan communities. And even though the bill itself is consequential in nature, the attachment to the main bill, Bill 183, that's where all the rules and regulations and changes are being proposed. So it's important for people out there to pay attention.

And I would also point out for the people that may be listening, as I've done on numerous occasions, what typically happens is the government brings in their legislative agenda. So suppose they want to change a law or change a bill — in this case change how they're managing the fisheries Act — that they have to present that information to the Assembly here first. And then what we do as politicians is we look at the bill and we review the bill and then we begin to debate the bill.

Following this fall session, which ends in the first week of December, we will do the original analysis of the bill. And then once we break for the winter, we will go out and we'll seek

advice from the different groups that are being impacted by these proposed bills. And then we would bring their concerns back to the legislature, in the spring of 2020 in this case, and share some of the insight and the advice and the input of some of the people that are being impacted by some of these bills.

So the process is straightforward. We get the information from the government. We make initial comments about the bill. We take it on a road show and ask questions of people and give them the opportunity to give us advice on these bills. And come spring, we bring the arguments back. We debate these bills and bring these issues forward and the concerns forward, and then we vote them. And either they're amended or they're processed as presented, and then they become law.

So it's quite clear, Mr. Speaker. The process will take three or four or five months, and this is why we encourage people to come forward with information and to share with us their perspective on any bill that's being presented by the Government of Saskatchewan.

So on that notion, Mr. Speaker, I move that we adjourn debate on this particular bill.

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. 187

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 187 — *The Administration of Estates Amendment Act, 2019/Loi modificative de 2019 sur l'administration des successions*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Pedersen: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As always it's a privilege to rise and participate in a debate on new legislation before our province. Now this isn't brand new legislation, of course. This is amending an existing bill, an important piece of legislation though and one which, in my previous capacity as lawyer, which I had some dealings with. Now most of this bill is pretty non-controversial I expect and could be put into the category of housekeeping.

But there are a couple of changes that I'm curious about, and one is — there's a section here — new section 14.1 that's being added on removing executors and administrators. And I'm a little curious as to what's driving this because this isn't new. You know, the courts have had the power to remove executors and administrators in the past. And there's a body of case law out there that, you know, that judges refer to when they're being asked to remove an executor or administrator. So I'm curious as to why now. You know, we've been a province for well over 100 years and I'm curious as to why now we think that this should be in the legislation, as to what the reasons are.

I must confess, I'm a little concerned that there isn't what I call

a catch-all category in the section. So a lot of times when we are empowering the court to, say, remove an executor or administrator — and that's just an example — we might have a . . . We've got several listed problems there. So for instance, where an executor's failed to comply with the court order, where the executor's refused to actually deal with the estate, where they lack capacity, where they've been convicted of an offence, you know, these type of things.

Normally I would expect to see a clause there saying in any other case where the court considers there's good reason to remove an executor because it's entirely possible that we haven't thought of all of the reasons that come up and we need to give judges the discretion and authority to remove executors and administrators for other reasons. And that's not there in this current wording.

And so I do have a little bit of concern with that. That could be resolved as easily as changing the very last "and" in paragraph (a) of 14.1(1), changing that "and" to the word "or." So then the courts would have the power to remove anybody where it was deemed in the best interests of the beneficiaries of the estate. Very simple change. And so that is one change in this bill that does give me a little bit of concern.

Now there's another change and it's more referred to in the minister's remarks than in the language of the bill itself, that you know, I was just a little curious of. And the minister in his comments — let me just find it here, Mr. Speaker, so I can specifically refer to it — the minister said that the proposed amendments would enable an application fee to be charged, ". . . for every application for letters made pursuant to the Act to cover the cost of processing these applications."

Now that was a bit of a surprise to me because we already charge probate fees, or some lawyers call it a probate tax, equal to 0.7 per cent of the value of the estate, \$7 per 1,000. That's no change. That is to cover, among other things, the cost of administering these estates for the courts.

Now the interesting thing, Mr. Speaker, is there was a Supreme Court decision that said, if you're going to charge a fee or tax, it has to be in legislation, and probate fees . . . Or the difference between a fee and a tax was when a fee is in proportion to the cost of administering — you know, the government providing that service — whereas a tax doesn't have to bear any relation to the cost of the service that's provided. And so in that case the court found that probate fees were, in fact, a tax because assessing the fees on the basis of the value of the estate really had no relation at all to the cost to the public of administering that estate.

So in all provinces probate fees were moved into legislation. But you know, the basis is that probate fees are supposed to cover the cost of administering estate. So now to hear the minister saying that there might be additional fees levied to cover the cost of administering estate, well that just means that the probate fees we've been paying to date are being moved into the category of pure . . . basically a pure wealth tax on deceased people. And so I was a little curious to hear that in the minister's remarks because of course this government, you know, they like to talk about tax cuts, not tax increases, and this would be in the realm of a tax increase.

Other than that, Mr. Speaker, you know, these changes are pretty minimal. They would fall into the category of housekeeping. And I'm just going to check my notes here, Mr. Speaker. Yes, really everything beyond what I've mentioned just seems to fall into the category of housekeeping and, you know, fairly mundane shuffling stuff around, moving some stuff to *The Public Guardian and Trustee Act*, moving stuff from there into this legislation, changing a few names. Pretty routine stuff. But I was curious and did have a little concern about that provision dealing with the removal of executors and administrators.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I think what I'll do is I'll take my seat and move that we adjourn debate on this bill to the next sitting.

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. 188

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 188 — *The Public Guardian and Trustee Amendment Act, 2019*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thanks, Mr. Speaker. I'm going to be very brief here. This is an important piece of legislation. We will be engaging stakeholders to consult on this front because we just can't trust the Sask Party to get that sort of consultation right, Mr. Speaker. And this legislation certainly pertains to, you know, a very important relationship through *The Public Guardian and Trustee Amendment Act*.

But with respect to Bill No. 188, at this time I'll simply adjourn debate of Bill No. 188, *The Public Guardian and Trustee Amendment 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 10 a.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 15:43.]

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