



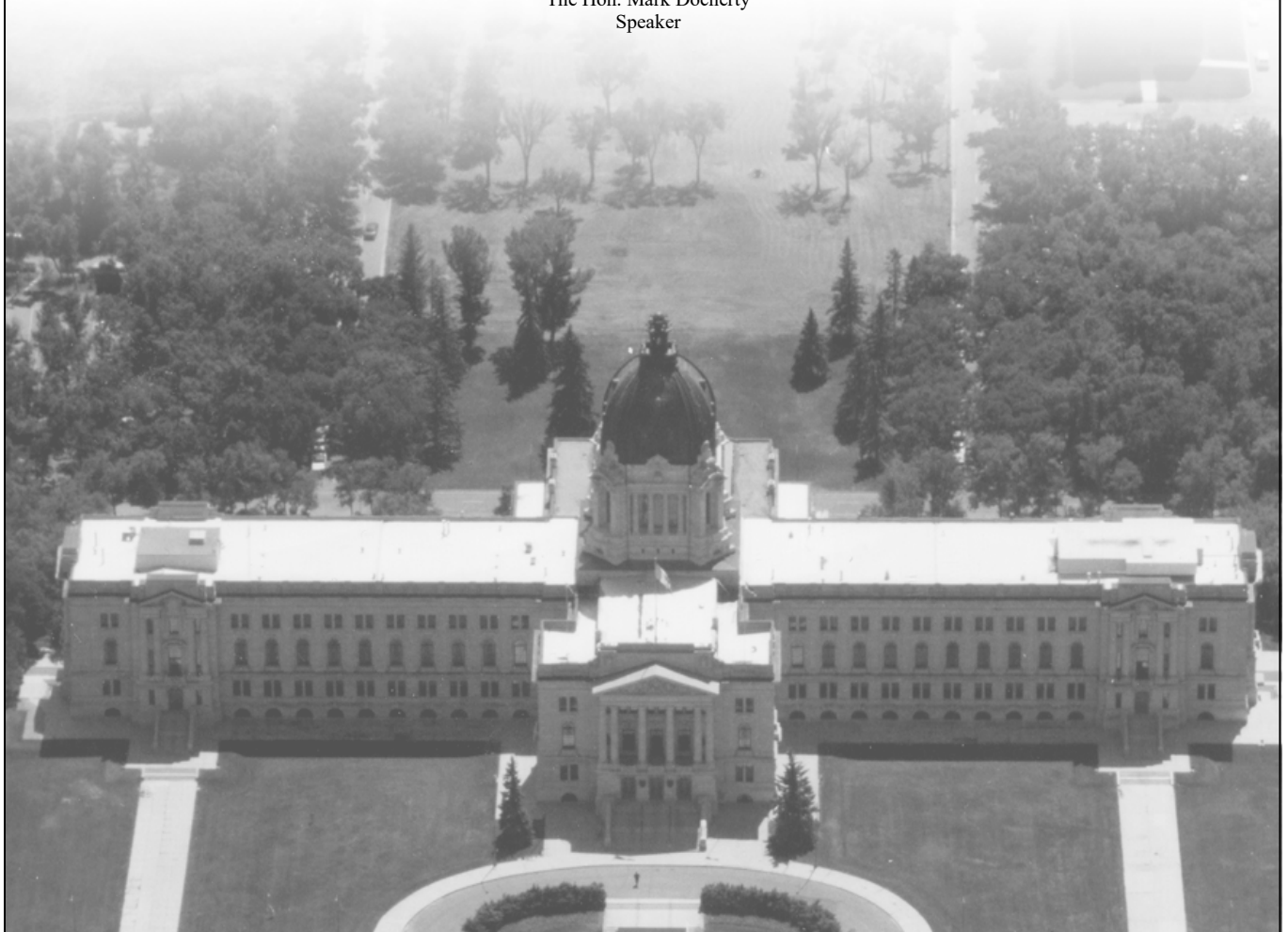
FOURTH SESSION - TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

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

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

Clerks-at-the-Table

Clerk — Gregory A. Putz

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

Principal Clerk — Iris Lang

Clerk Assistant — Kathy Buriannyk

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[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — I've got some guests to introduce. I request leave for an extended introduction. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Thank you . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . The member for Rosemont, yes. You're all over this.

Members of the Legislative Assembly, it's my honour today to introduce the 2019 teachers who are participating in the 21st annual Saskatchewan Teachers' Institute on Parliamentary Democracy. The institute began on Saturday, November 16th and will conclude on Wednesday, November the 20th. This group has already had a very busy schedule meeting with the judiciary, Elections Saskatchewan, the Clerk's office, caucus staff, the Legislative Library, and the Information and Privacy Commissioner's office. They will be in the building until Wednesday when they'll be doing a model parliament in the Chamber.

I would ask that the teachers and guests give us a wave as I introduce them. Brian Warren from Campbell Collegiate; Carlana Bulicz from St. Brieux School; Lloyd Laliberte from Pleasant Hill Community School; Erin Roberge from Ponteix School; Jeff Martinuk from Grenfell High School; Perry Fehr from Punnichy High School; Donna Davis from Father Gorman Community School; Ryan McAllister from St. Mary's; Brianne McFetridge from École Harbour Landing; Danielle Stinson from École Harbour Landing; Justine Angell, the intern from Fairhaven.

I'd like to make special mention of our steering committee composed of three teachers who have attended past institutes, as well as an official from the Ministry of Education. From the Ministry of Education, Ms. Delise Pitman, the curriculum coach. The steering committee: Ms. Shayna Zubko from Esterhazy High School; Mr. Andrew Kitchen from Fairhaven School in Saskatoon; Mr. Riley Sharp from Swift Current Comprehensive High School.

I ask all members to welcome the SSTI [Saskatchewan Social Sciences Teachers' Institute on Parliamentary Democracy] 2019 participants to their legislature.

I recognize the Minister for Parks, Culture and Sport.

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

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the minister.

Hon. Mr. Makowsky: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. This week is Multicultural Week here in Saskatchewan. On Saturday I, along with yourself, were able to attend the annual Multicultural Honours Awards. It was held at Government House and put on by the Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan.

In the gallery this afternoon is executive director, Rhonda Rosenberg is here. President Neeraj Saroj is here as well. And I would like to introduce some of the nominees and the winners from that awards ceremony who are able to join us this afternoon. The nominees for the Multicultural Youth Award included Jiazhi Ding, who's a student refugee who's passionate about speaking up for marginalized groups. Golden Njoku — Golden is a second-year social work student who's passionate about advocating on sharing anti-racism perspectives. Jinhang Chen is also here.

And, Mr. Speaker, the recipient of the Multicultural Youth Leadership Award is Nicholas Bage, who's also here this afternoon. He's a third-year elementary education student with SUNTEP [Saskatchewan urban native teacher education program]. He's an engaging leader who brings attention to Indigenous cultures and issues through volunteerism, community outreach, and anti-racism workshops.

The nominees for the Betty Szuchewycz Award for outstanding contributions to multiculturalism are in the House today. Many of us in the Assembly will know Nelson Eng, who has a long history of community service here in Regina with the Chinese Freemasons. And in addition many will know Sandy Wankel, who is the recipient of the award this year. Sandy founded the North Central Family Centre 18 years ago. The centre offers programs to bring Indigenous and newcomer residents together to build connections across cultures and support employment.

Congratulations to all the nominees and recipients, and thank you for your positive contributions to our province. Thank you for being here today. And I ask all members to help me welcome them this afternoon.

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

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to join with the minister, on behalf of the official opposition, in welcoming these very special people to their Legislative Assembly to help us celebrate Multicultural Week here in Saskatchewan in a good way. And again for a province whose motto is "from many peoples, strength." Mr. Speaker, these are individuals that give us so much of that strength, and that they have been recognized, for that is only right, Mr. Speaker. So it's very good to see them here at this Legislative Assembly, their Legislative Assembly, and to see the recognition that has been made.

But I'd be remiss if I didn't say a very special hello and congratulations to my long-time friend and neighbour and someone I've seen, you know, real up close all the great work that gets done. I'm speaking of course of Sandy Wankel. And she's such a good person, Mr. Speaker, and again, it's just, you

follow her around from award ceremony to award ceremony is essentially how it goes. The recent recipient of the Citizen of the Year with CTV [Canadian Television Network Ltd.], which again was very well deserved. So, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the official opposition, I'd like to join with the minister in welcoming these very important people to their Legislative Assembly.

And, Mr. Speaker, if I could, with your indulgence, just say a quick word of hello. I know some folks are going to get introduced very shortly here and that will take place more fully. But I just want to say a very special *tânisi tawâw* to my friend, Margaret Kisikaw Piyesis, a long-time servant of the people. And as well I see my cousin, Lillian Piapot, and Ntawnis Piapot, I think is up there as well in the gallery. And it's very good to see you here today at your Legislative Assembly.

So again to them we say *kinanâskomitin tinawow hay-hay*, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Mr. Speaker, I must further provide honourable mention to a friend and a constituent of mine, Nelson Eng. All of us on both sides of the Assembly here today have been to numerous events that have been put on by Nelson. He is a consummate community volunteer and, quite frankly, a great character. It's my pleasure to know you.

And I also must mention Sandy Wankel. Sandy and I have done some initiatives together, and it's always a pleasure, knowing you're in the community giving back as you do to all of Regina. It is so appreciated. To both of you, thank you.

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

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you I would like to, on behalf of the official opposition, also welcome all of those attendees to the 21st annual SSTI who've been in town this weekend.

I know this has been one of the most anticipated weeks of the year when SSTI is in town, and of course culminating with a banquet on Wednesday. I have to say thank you to each of you for your dedication to your profession, to the work that you'll . . . I know I've been told many times that this is a great PD [professional development] but it also is a lot of work that you've engaged in over the weekend. So I want to thank each of you for taking your very precious weekend hours and time away from your classrooms to be here, to learn, and to engage with other educators from around the province. So, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the official opposition, I want to say thank you and welcome to all of these teachers.

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

Hon. Mr. Kaeding: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you and all members of the Legislative Assembly, I would like to introduce, sitting in the west gallery, 24 grade 12 students from Langenburg Central School. It was a new school opened in 2016, home of the Langenburg Screamin' Eagles. They are accompanied today by their teachers, Jessica Stangier

as well as Fallon Prince, who is a teacher, a young mom, formerly a neighbour of mine, was very active in her school and her community, and was also the lead singer for a cover band, Stuck On Red.

So I am looking forward to the intense questioning and observations that I expect will be coming from the grade 12 class of Langenburg Central School. And I'd like to welcome them to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Mr. Pedersen: — Seek leave for an extended introduction.

The Speaker: — This member's asked leave for an extended introduction. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member.

Mr. Pedersen: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, it's my honour and privilege to welcome organizers of the recent gathering, *mamawe! mekowishwewin-miyomachowin*, which translates to Being Together Gives Us Solace. The gathering was for the families of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and two-spirit and other sexual identities. They are seated in the east gallery. So I ask that they give a wave as I introduce them: Elder Lillian Piapot, who's a respected elder who served as adviser for the gathering; Margaret Kisikaw Piyesis, CEO [chief executive officer] of All Nations Hope Network, who was instrumental in bringing this event together; Danielle Ewenin, a community developer with Kawacatoose First Nation and an organizer who helped organize the gathering this year. And I want to mention with Danielle that she is wearing a ribbon skirt that her daughter made. And her daughter ended up making 150 identical skirts, and each of those skirts was presented to family members of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls.

Cheryl Gopher will be the lead organizer for next year's gathering, which will take place in North Battleford, and her husband, Mansel Stone; Ntawnis Piapot, a journalism graduate student at the University of Regina and former CBC [Canadian Broadcasting Corporation] reporter who did the communications and publicity for the gathering, and Leona Quewezance, who is also with All Nations Hope Network.

Mr. Speaker, the work of healing for the families, it's important. It's important for the families of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, and it's important for our province. The loss of a person is like a stone thrown in the water: the ripples extend far beyond the point of the initial impact. When you lose someone to violence, when you lose someone to suicide, when you lose someone prematurely, when someone goes missing and that wound never heals, those ripples go far and they last a long time.

Mr. Speaker, the work that these women do — for themselves, for their families, and for their communities — it's important for all of us. So thank you. Thank you for the work that you do. Please keep letting us know what we can do, what we need to do, to be part of the healing. So I ask all members to join with me in

welcoming these powerful women to their Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

[13:45]

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to join with the member opposite in welcoming these individuals to their legislature. I think the work that they're doing, raising awareness and providing support and solace to people that have lost a loved one, is something that we can only say thank you to them for doing.

On behalf of the government, we also offer them our sympathy and our support for the personal agony that they've gone through. The loss of a loved one is something most of us can only comprehend just from a distance, but you can't get close enough to have any kind of deep understanding. And to have somebody missing for an extended period of time or maybe indefinitely is a burden that most people never want to live with. So to them I offer our sympathy and our support.

I can tell the members that are here today that we have received the report on missing and murdered indigenous women and girls and are working our way through it. It's complex, and we will continue that work.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you, I want to briefly join in the very warm welcome of some of the guests that are seated in the Speaker's gallery. In your gallery I want to welcome Rhonda Rosenberg and Neeraj, the Chair of the multicultural association of Saskatchewan. Of course Rhonda serves as the executive director.

These two and the board of directors and the team involved in the multicultural association are a remarkable group and preside over such important work in our community. Because of the work they do, it feels like we typically see both of these individuals once or twice a week at community events, but they bring so much good to our community.

I also want to recognize Nelson Eng, who's here today. Nelson is a friend, and their family is a friend of ours, Mr. Speaker. He's somebody who's given back so much and raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for the neonatal intensive care unit here in Regina, through the Hospitals of Regina and their Chinese Freemasons new year event, Mr. Speaker. He's involved in Spring Free from Racism. He's involved in Mosaic. He's involved in supporting the settlement of so many Chinese Canadians that build a better Saskatchewan. So certainly I want to offer a very warm welcome to Nelson Eng and thinking of his wife, Shirley, as well, who is a full partner in all that work.

And I want to give a very warm welcome to Sandy Wankel, somebody who leaves a mark on anyone that she comes across, somebody that I've gotten to know and witnessed her work in the community for many, many years as an educator before coming into this Assembly as an MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly]. But quite simply the heart and care and support that Sandy puts into her work through the North Central Family

Centre has changed lives.

And on behalf of the official opposition, to Sandy and to all of the nominees and all those that are here, we say thank you. But to Sandy, thank you so much for extending hope and opportunity and support to so many within our community. We're so very thankful for it.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I too want to join the minister and my colleague in welcoming the ladies and the gentlemen that are here to help address the challenges of missing and murdered women. There's no question that your work is highly valuable.

Like many families, Mr. Speaker, my colleague spoke about the ripples that affect the many family members of murdered and missing Aboriginal and indigenous women. I lost two first cousins to murder, and their family was quite torn apart when they were younger. The family was apprehended by Social Services. They were taken out of our community of Ile-a-la-Crosse. And the challenges were great for them to leave the community and to leave their mom and dad behind. But they were taken from the community. And two of them years later were both murdered, and to this day many questions continue to remain.

And from my two cousins, my uncle, Harry, and my aunt, Philomene, lost her family. And that was traumatic enough for them and for the kids. And after they left the community of Ile-a-la-Crosse, as I mentioned, that family was torn apart. And after the two girls were murdered, nobody really recovered. Although my oldest cousin Nancy was very strong in her fight and continues to be strong to this day, many of the family suffered over the years. They had a big family, but all the family suffered with the not knowing what happened, not knowing how this thing would ever get solved. And it continued to plague the family for years and years and years.

So I want to point out that the ripples that my colleague spoke about in the pond, in the water, it does have the drastic negative effect, and your work and your lessons that we should never devalue life in any way, shape, or form. And I thank you for your work. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, I'd like to introduce a guest that's in the Speaker's gallery. Gary Viteri is here today. I just want to welcome him from northern Saskatchewan. He's here to raise some concerns, and he's looking for some answers. So I hope today we can do what we need to do to help those that he's advocating for. So with that, I would like to welcome Gary to his Legislative Assembly and ask all colleagues to please join me in welcoming him to this Legislative Assembly.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Mr. Buckingham: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am 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 Saskatoon and Denholm. I do so present.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to present a petition today calling on the provincial government to develop and implement a suicide prevention strategy. The undersigned folks point out or want to draw to our attention that *The Saskatchewan Strategy for Suicide Prevention Act* was introduced in 2018 but has not been passed because it has not received support from the Sask Party government.

They point out that suicide remains the second leading cause of death for young people aged 15 to 34 in Canada; that suicide rates for First Nations people in Saskatchewan are four times higher than that of non-First Nations people; that in 2018 one in three suicides were among children in care. They point out that nearly 2,100 people died by suicide in Saskatchewan from 2005 to 2018. That's larger than many Saskatchewan towns, Mr. Speaker, and that number had gone up year over year as well. They point out that there's a 49 per cent increase in annual suicides in Saskatchewan since 2005, and this amounts to a crisis.

They know a suicide prevention strategy has worked in other places like Quebec and other parts of the world to reduce suicide rates, Mr. Speaker. They know that one in Saskatchewan would be unique to this province. They don't all look the same in every place that they are, but this one could definitely go a long way to saving people's lives here in the province.

I'd like to read the prayer:

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.

Mr. Speaker, this petition today is signed by citizens from Rosetown, Central Butte, and Saskatoon. I so present.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition on behalf of residents of northern Saskatchewan. There is a definite need for a new long-term care facility in La Ronge and area, and according to the Croft report of 2009, shows the area is in code red. There was 500,000 allocated for planning that was spent, and the plan has been ready for years. Seniors are waiting

165 days on average for a bed and are being shipped hours away from loved ones.

I'll read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Saskatchewan Party government treat northern Saskatchewan senior citizens with respect and dignity and immediately invest in a new long-term care facility in La Ronge.

Mr. Speaker, this is signed by hundreds of citizens of 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 on behalf of concerned residents and businesses and communities from all across Saskatchewan as it relates to the Sask Party's imposition and expansion and hike to the PST [provincial sales tax] to everything from children's clothing to construction labour.

Of course the average household is now paying \$800 more per year in just a four-year period annually because of the PST hike and expansion, and that hits families hard, Mr. Speaker.

And as it relates to construction labour and the addition of PST onto construction, it's the epitome of a job-killing tax, Mr. Speaker, and sadly the results speak for themselves. Permits are down all across Saskatchewan. Important projects have been shelved. And thousands of hard-working tradespeople have lost their jobs, Mr. Speaker, many that have been forced to move outside Saskatchewan in pursuit of employment. Of course that's a loss for them and their family, but it's a loss for our province as a whole and our economy and our communities, Mr. Speaker.

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 Regina. I so submit.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise 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 the province of Saskatchewan want to bring to our attention the following: that the seats in this legislature for Regina Walsh Acres and Saskatoon Eastview are currently vacant, and that's because of a loophole in *The Legislative Assembly Act*. By-elections are not legally required to be called in these constituencies of Regina Walsh Acres and Saskatoon Eastview because the former MLAs did not resign before August 6th, 2019. They in fact resigned a few weeks later

in September.

Now we know that 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 is held in late 2020. But the Premier does have the power and authority to call by-elections in Regina Walsh Acres and Saskatoon Eastview, and it would be the right thing to do.

Mr. Speaker, I would 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, the people signing these petitions today come from Regina Walsh Acres and Saskatoon Eastview. I do so present. Thank you.

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

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise again today to present a petition calling on the Sask Party government to fix the crisis in our classrooms.

Those who have signed this petition wish to draw our attention to the following: that the Sask Party government's cuts mean falling per-student funding and fewer supports for students who need them; that the Sask Party government's cuts leave educators without the resources that they need to support student learning; and that the Sask Party government is ignoring overcrowding in our classrooms by refusing to track and report on classroom sizes; also that the Sask Party government's lack of funding for school infrastructure has led to crumbling and overcrowded schools right around the province; and that the Sask Party government's failure to invest in our classrooms is having serious consequences today and will continue to into the future. I'll read the prayer:

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

Mr. Speaker, those who have signed this petition today reside in Moose Jaw. I do so present.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Institute's Central Office Opening

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On November 14th, along with our Leader of the Opposition and the member from Athabasca and several other dignitaries, I had the pleasure of attending the grand opening of the central office for the Gabriel Dumont Institute of Native Studies and Applied Research in Saskatoon. It was a packed house with an inspiring program, hosted by Geordy McCaffrey, the GDI [Gabriel Dumont Institute] executive director, with remarks from Glen McCallum

and Dr. Earl Cook.

The untying of the Métis sash commemorated the official opening of the building. His Honour the Lieutenant Governor brought greetings on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen and spoke of the worth of education and connections to one's culture, which are two crucial aspects in which Gabriel Dumont Institute excels.

[14:00]

The new Saskatoon central office building on 22nd Street is beautifully constructed and full of a variety of important resources, art, and Métis artifacts. The upstairs art gallery features the largest collection of Christi Belcourt pieces in Canada. Her intricate paintings inspired by traditional beadwork are truly impressive.

Mr. Speaker, GDI has promoted Métis culture and offered Métis-specific educational programming and services for nearly 40 years. We are also pleased to see the institute's continued success and wish them the best of luck in their new office building. I ask that all members join me in congratulating the Gabriel Dumont Institute on this delightful grand opening. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Lodge Residents Celebrate Milestone Birthdays

Ms. Lambert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Some of us might like to live forever, but living a long and fulfilling life is the next best thing. On November 5th, I attended the ultimate birthday party at Elim Lodge in my constituency. This year the lodge recognized 36 residents who celebrate milestone birthdays. Twelve residents turn 90 years old: Menno Giesbrecht, Pearle Cristo, Gertrude Wiebe, Lorne Hildebrandt, Isabel MacDonald, Marie Trimble, Audrey Spate, Herb Friesen, Erna Dotschkat, George Marquis, Margaret Exley, and Irene Selk.

Mr. Speaker, six Elim constituents turn 91 this year: Iris Beckett, Emily Bilinski, Kay Robinson, Jackie Brown, Anne Hamelin, and John Letkeman. And six more residents turn 92: Margaret Ewert, Mary Lawley, Tony Schnurr, Margaret Enns, Ethelwyn Cowan, and Racie Headrick.

There are seven Elim constituents of mine who turn 93, Mr. Speaker: Theresa Harvey, Isabelle Kleckner, Mary Lillisaar, Sylvia Regier, Ed Armbruster, Doris Alm, and Jean Potter. And two of the residents turn 94: Walter Heise and Paul Farbacher. Mr. Speaker, Anne Rebalkin turned 96 and Ethel Nelson turned 98 years young. Wilna Haugen celebrated the biggest milestone, turning 100 years old this past June. She had the honour of cutting the first birthday cake.

I now ask members to join me in wishing all residents of Elim Lodge who celebrated their special birthdays a very happy birthday. Thank you.

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

Conference Helps Families Heal

Mr. Pedersen: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Every 66 hours, an

Indigenous woman in Canada goes missing. Some of those women are never found or in some cases only their body is found.

On November 8th to 10th, a three-day conference, Mamawe! Mekowishwewin-Miyomachowin, Being Together Gives Us Solace, took place in Regina. That conference, the first of its kind in Saskatchewan, was organized to help the families of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls to heal, to connect, to share their stories, to support one another, to find support networks, and to talk about what next steps could look like.

More than 300 family members and over 150 children were part of it. It was a huge effort to put the conference on and to assist the families with attending, but this healing is important for our province and it's important that this event take place again. Family members were given identical ribbon skirts, and when they entered it was profoundly moving to see so many standing together and to realize that for each person standing there, there was another person missing.

The organizers presented me, along with the members from Regina Coronation Park and Regina Pasqua, with a sacred offering of tobacco, a request to use our positions to help the families. Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members reflect on what we can do to help, how we can help the families heal and create a province where no family fears the loss of a sister, daughter, mother, or friend. hay-hay.

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

Award Winner Contributes to Multiculturalism

Ms. Ross: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Eighteen years ago Sandy Wankel started the North Central Family Centre with an idea that every child deserves a safe place in which to live and grow. And on November 16th, in front of her peers, Sandy was recognized with the Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan Betty Szuchewycz Award. Mr. Speaker, the award is given each year to someone who has made an outstanding contribution to multiculturalism in our province.

The North Central Family Centre provides programs, activities, and services in a supportive and safe environment to children, families, and seniors. These programs help build self-esteem, self-confidence, and enhance the quality of life. Just a few of the valuable programs provided by the centre include after-school tutoring, cultural programming, boys leadership classes, outreach programs, GED [general equivalency diploma], and ESL [English as a second language] classes.

Mr. Speaker, over the last 18 years the North Central Family Centre has supported our youth in making safe, responsible choices and encouraging their academic success and their commitment to staying in school. Sandy says that through the years, the centre has become a place much more than she originally expected. "It became all these wonderful people from all these wonderful places that joined us. It became a big family."

Mr. Speaker, there's nothing more valuable than that. So please join me in congratulating Sandy Wankel for being recognized with the 2019 Betty Szuchewycz Multiculturalism Award.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Saskatoon

Willowgrove.

Hilltops Win Canadian Bowl

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Well, Mr. Speaker, the Saskatoon Hilltops have done it again. They have won their sixth straight Canadian Bowl title. On a weekend where everyone was talking football in Saskatchewan, the Hilltops reigned supreme.

It was called a six without six, a sixth straight Canadian Bowl championship; however it came without ever scoring a touchdown. Hilltops place-kicker, Rylan Kleiter, provided three field goals that proved to be the difference in an 11 to 6 victory on Saturday over the host Langley Rams in the 2019 Canadian Bowl before a jam-packed McLeod Athletic Park Stadium in Langley, British Columbia. The Hilltops had a lot of trust in their defence. Hilltops legendary coach, Tom Sargeant, said, and I quote:

I couldn't be more proud. My coaching staff did an outstanding job of keeping everybody right. The players had to go out there and make the plays, and that they did. We get to walk away as champs. Boy, that feels good.

With the win, the Toppers now have a record of 22 Canadian Bowl titles and an overall winning streak extending back to 31 games, going back to the 2017 season. Congratulations to all the players, coaches, staff, and fans on a season to remember indeed.

I ask all members to help me recognize the storied football franchise and the contribution they make to our great province. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Diamond Exploration Shows Potential

Ms. Wilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand today to share with the Assembly of my recent experience touring and observing first-hand an amazing project. This project is an incredible opportunity materializing in the Fort à la Corne forest south of the village of Smeaton, in my constituency.

As many people in the Assembly know, the Shore Gold diamond exploration site, now called the Star-Orion South Diamond project, has shown the potential for uncovering some very large diamonds. I was pleased to tour this site in early September, Mr. Speaker. Star Diamond and partner, Rio Tinto, began trenching operation this spring using the largest trench cutter sampling rig in the world, capable of boring up to 250 metres below the surface. The large trench cuttings is currently working on its eighth hole this year and will dig up two more this season.

On my tour I learned that these trenching operations will determine the viability of a possible mines investment at this site. Another highlight is the onsite processing plant, which is manufactured and tested in South Africa before being shipping here to Canada, Mr. Speaker.

I think I speak on behalf of everyone in my community when I say that we are excited at the prospect of a very possible diamond mine operating here in Saskatchewan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Reactions to Growth Plan

Mr. Hindley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Saskatchewan growth plan is a road map for a strong economy, strong communities, and strong families. But what has only been out less than a week, we're already seeing the positive response from across the province. Pam Schwann, Sask Mining Association said, "Saskatchewan and the world would benefit from increased mineral production from Saskatchewan mines. And Saskatchewan's growth plan, the next decade of growth, provides a framework for this success."

Daryl Fransoo, Saskatchewan director for the Western Canadian Wheat Growers said, "I'm pleased that the Saskatchewan government has taken this proactive step to work directly with our current and potential trade partners in an effort to support Saskatchewan agriculture."

But, Mr. Speaker, I believe that Steve McClellan from the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce said it best when he stated last week:

We are a trading nation. We are a trading province. We are more reliant in Saskatchewan on overseas trade than any other jurisdiction, so us taking responsibility for our own efforts will continue to drive revenues in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, we want the absolute best quality of life for our province and for our citizens, and that does come at a financial price. And that is why we are investing in targets and incentives that will grow our economy, which in turn will grow a strong Saskatchewan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Funding for Education

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Teachers across Saskatchewan are raising alarms about the growing crisis in our crowded and complex classrooms, a crisis that is the direct result of this government's failure to fund enrolment growth. We've seen a drop of over \$400 per-student funding. That's a shortfall of over \$80 million in Saskatchewan schools. No wonder the president of the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation said in today's *StarPhoenix* that teachers, and I quote, "... feel like they're pulled in a million different directions and can't do a good job for anyone. Something's got to give. Something's got to change." Something's got to give. Something's got to change.

Will the Premier commit to that change that teachers are asking for, or will they have to wait for a change in government before we see that crisis acknowledged and addressed?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I first just would like to address one of the inaccuracies with respect to the question, Mr. Speaker. Since 2007 the per-student funding in the province of Saskatchewan is up some 23 per cent, Mr.

Speaker. This is due to this government's repeated commitment to educating that next generation, investing in the classrooms, Mr. Speaker, in the classrooms across this province so that our children, our youth, that next generation has every opportunity to succeed.

Mr. Speaker, with respect, with respect . . . Mr. Speaker, with respect to the classroom size, the composition, the minister has repeatedly . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — The member for Regina Lakeview, please come to order. I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, the minister has repeatedly said that he has drawn together a group, Mr. Speaker, a committee to discuss the class size, composition, on how exactly we can move forward — understanding this is a very complex challenge, Mr. Speaker, differing from community to community, from class to class — to ensure that we can come to the very best solutions for those children.

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

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to invite the Premier to the present. In the last five years there's been an enormous spike in the needs and challenges in our classrooms. We hear that from every teacher, every educator we speak to across the province. He wants to talk about what's happened since 2007, when in the last five years during that crisis we've seen per-student numbers drop hundreds of dollars across this province. No wonder people are saying something's got to give; something's got to change.

Teachers are telling us about early-years classrooms with so many kids with so many challenges that they just don't know where to start. That's why, in response to the growing crisis in our classrooms, New Democrats have committed, we've committed that along with addressing the necessary supports for our complex classrooms, we would also provide the resources to make sure that local school boards can ensure that there's no classroom of K to 3 [kindergarten to grade 3] kids with more than 24 kids in that class. So that every kid gets the attention they need to learn.

Will the Premier finally recognize the crisis in our classrooms and make the same commitment? Or is he satisfied with Saskatchewan six-year-olds struggling to learn in classes of 30, 35 kids or more?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, just again to correct some of the premise of the question, Mr. Speaker, and I quote from the most recent document that was provided by the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation who in the first question was referenced as to the source of the need to address these challenges that admittedly we do have in our classrooms, Mr. Speaker. But from this document, and I quote, "The system is not broken, but we need to be bold in making decisions on how to ensure a successful future for our province and for our children."

And we agree, Mr. Speaker. And that is precisely why the Minister of Education, the Deputy Premier to the province of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, has put together a provincial committee on class size and composition that yes, includes teachers. But it also includes parents to sit on that committee to provide their input. It includes academics. It includes professional staff. It will include, Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan School Boards Association members as well as members from the Ministry of Education — a comprehensive group, Mr. Speaker, to come together to ensure that we can come to some real solutions in the future.

[14:15]

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

Mr. Meili: — Mr. Speaker, if the system isn't broken, it's through no lack of trying from the members opposite, Mr. Speaker. The only reason the system isn't broken is because of the efforts of teachers, of all those who work in the education system giving far more than they should ever be asked to keep it together. No wonder those same people are saying, something's got to give; something's got to change.

Mr. Speaker, it's quite possible that the member for Rosthern-Shellbrook would not have been elected leader of the Saskatchewan Party had he not promised 400 additional educational assistants — 400, Mr. Speaker. Well the fact is that today we've got less than 40 more EAs [educational assistant] in our classrooms than we did four years ago. That's less than one tenth of his promise, despite over 10,000 more students in that same time. In Saskatoon the number of students who need an EA is up by 30 per cent in the last four years. The need is pressing. The need is growing.

The question is, will this Premier make good on his broken promise and ensure that Saskatchewan students and teachers finally have the EA support that they need?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, there is part of that question that I will agree with. Mr. Speaker, one of the reasons that we do have a strong education system here in the province of Saskatchewan is because of the people that work in education and schools right across this province, Mr. Speaker — the teachers, the educational assistants, all of those involved in providing that opportunity for our next generation to be all that they can, Mr. Speaker.

Another reason why we have a strong education system here in the province of Saskatchewan is because there's a commitment from this government to provide almost two and a half billion dollars into that system, Mr. Speaker; 1.9 billion of those dollars flowing directly through to the Saskatchewan School Boards Association; 30 million of that, dollars to go directly into the classrooms to hire educational assistants, Mr. Speaker — a commitment, again, made by myself and made by members on this side of the House . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — That's two, Regina Lakeview. I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, in addition to that \$30 million that is annualized, Mr. Speaker, it includes funding for speech-language pathologists, occupational therapists, psychologists, English as an additional language teachers — all supports, all supports to ensure that our next generation has every opportunity to succeed.

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

Mr. Meili: — Mr. Speaker, something's got to give. Something's got to change. And at some point, we've got to see this Premier and this government acknowledge the reality of what's happening in our classrooms, acknowledge that that crisis is real and it can't wait until next year's budget or until after the next election. We need that help now.

Enrolment across Saskatchewan K to 12 [kindergarten to grade 12] is up by over 2,000 students in the last year alone, and those students are simply not receiving the support they need to succeed. When will we get past the lines that everything's fine?

How about this? Let's ask a very simple question. Will the Premier commit today to a mid-year assessment and adjustment to address the shortfall in our classrooms? Or will this government once again ignore the crisis and fail to fund what's really happening in our classrooms?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, to the members opposite and to the citizens of our province, I would say this: per-student funding in our province has increased over \$10,900 per student, a 23 per cent increase from 2007-2008. Our classroom sizes, Mr. Speaker, have remained stable since 2007. Operating grants to school divisions in 2019-2020 are \$1.9 billion, a \$531.8 million increase since '06-07.

Mr. Speaker, the Premier mentioned speech-language pathologists increasing by 40 per cent, occupational therapists increasing by 26 per cent, psychologists increased by 17 per cent, EAL [English as an additional language] teachers increased by 34 per cent. Well the members opposite want to chirp from their seats. They want to talk about it, Mr. Speaker. Those are the numbers. Those are the accurate facts that are there, Mr. Speaker, and that's what we're going to continue to do. We're going to continue to support teachers in our province.

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

Ms. Beck: — Simple question, Mr. Speaker. Will there be a mid-year adjustment and an influx into our classrooms?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, the calculations are done. They're redone through the course of the year. The ministry completes those. The members opposite want to do budgeting on the floor of the Assembly. We'll do budgeting and we'll do allocations in an ordinary and normal course.

Mr. Speaker, the members opposite talk about wanting to do things better. They want to talk about having a plan. They want to do things differently. Well, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of

Education has set up a committee to look at class size and class composition. And I'd like to urge the members opposite to participate in that process. They would rather sit and chirp from their seats than participate in doing something meaningful and something beneficial to the classes and the students in our province. I'd urge them all to participate in that. It's easy to say they don't want to do something and make noise.

Well, Mr. Speaker, classes have changed in our province. We've got changes because we've got new Canadians; we've got more inclusive classrooms — things that we're proud of. And, Mr. Speaker, those are things that we're going to continue to work through and do what's right for the students in our province.

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

Condition of Health Care Facilities

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A disappointing lack of answers from that Premier and the minister.

Mr. Speaker, we've not only been hearing concerns about capacity in our hospitals but the condition they're in as well. Records obtained through access to information illustrate these serious issues. Staff at the Regina General Hospital reported that the infectious disease clinics floor “. . . is in terrible disrepair. There is silver duct tape holding down the lino at nearly every entry in the department and long strips of it through entire rooms.”

In the neonatal intensive care unit, staff reported a “. . . possible infection control issue if the service room was not repaired.” This was reported in February and as of last month had not been fixed. Does the minister think these safety concerns are acceptable?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the health care system in Saskatchewan is immense. It's almost 50,000 employees. It's almost \$6 billion, or over 40 per cent of the provincial budget.

Mr. Speaker, we take maintenance and capital issues very seriously, Mr. Speaker. The incidents that the member opposite is speaking of, of course are very serious. But, Mr. Speaker, we have made health care spending a priority. The members opposite are always criticizing that there's not enough resources, Mr. Speaker. Just as an example, looking at this globally, since 2007 a 60 per cent increase in health care spending in Saskatchewan — this is at a time that the CPI [consumer price index] would be in the neighbourhood of just over 20 per cent, I believe.

So, Mr. Speaker, again we've got much work to do. But health care's a priority for this government. It'll continue to be a priority for this government.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The list of growing needed repairs says something very different than what just came out of the mouth of that minister. There is a very long, very

concerning list of issues in the General which have not been addressed: multiple reports of faulty oxygen outlets, dripping ceilings, and fall risks.

The numbers speak for themselves. A province-wide facility audit found \$2.2 billion in needed repairs in 2014. And in just four years the infrastructure deficit grew to \$3.3 billion, an increase of 50 per cent in four years, Mr. Speaker.

When will this government stop dumping billions into megaprojects like the Regina bypass and the GTH [Global Transportation Hub] and start investing in the health facilities that are providing essential care to Saskatchewan people?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Mr. Speaker, this isn't to diminish the importance of those things. Obviously maintenance and capital are very important. But, Mr. Speaker, let's put it in perspective. The member opposite says capital projects, and she demeaningly talks about the bypass, Mr. Speaker, which is a very important capital project.

But, Mr. Speaker, let's look at some of the health care capital projects. Let's look at the Jimmy Pattison Children's Hospital. It was never done under the members opposite. Let's look at the new hospital in North Battleford, Mr. Speaker. That was never done under the members opposite. Let's look at 14 long-term care facilities around this province that . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. I recognize the minister.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Mr. Speaker, 14 long-term care facilities that never got done under the members opposite. They were done under this government.

Mr. Speaker, maintenance and capital are very important. Mr. Speaker, the members chirp from their seats. What they did do a good job of when they were in government, Mr. Speaker, they did a good job of announcements. I think the Humboldt Hospital was announced — what? — seven or eight times, I believe. It was announced so many times that at one point they had to redo the sign that said, “Future site of the Humboldt Hospital.” Mr. Speaker, we're not building signs. We're building hospitals.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Mr. Speaker, you can't build shiny new buildings and not fix the crumbling health facilities across the province, and expect applause from this Assembly. We have more than \$3 billion in needed repairs out there. The health region reports that, province-wide, health facilities are in critical condition. And this minister doesn't seem to have any plan to address it.

This neglect isn't without consequences. This month staff, patients, and visitors at St. Paul's Hospital couldn't drink the water because brown water was coming out of multiple taps. In 2014 our five major hospitals collectively needed \$600 million of infrastructure work, a situation that has only gotten worse

since then. The staff are doing their best on shoestring budgets, but it's not enough. What is this minister and this government's plan going to be to address the crumbling health facilities across the province?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Mr. Speaker, I'll give the member this. She's right; this didn't happen overnight. This happened also when the NDP [New Democratic Party] were in government, Mr. Speaker.

We have spent hundreds of millions of dollars on maintenance and repair and on building new capital projects, Mr. Speaker. That's going to continue. The issues she's raising obviously are a concern. We'll have our maintenance people look into that, Mr. Speaker. Our maintenance people are trying to accomplish as much as they can.

But, Mr. Speaker, I look back at capital spending. Hundreds of millions of dollars have been spent on maintenance. Billions of dollars have been spent on capital, Mr. Speaker . . . Again the chirping from the seat, the member who was going to do things differently. The fact of the matter is, Mr. Speaker, we won't take any lessons from the members opposite on building health care facilities in this province.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Cumberland.

Long-Term Care Facility for La Ronge

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, today we are joined by Gary Viteri. Gary came to the Assembly almost one year ago to ask this government when they will fulfill the promise to build more long-term care beds for La Ronge so his wife, Nadine, can get the care close to home. And now Gary has come back with hundreds of signatures on a petition calling on this government to deliver. He also has letters of support from the town of La Ronge and the northern village of Air Ronge. Gary's question for the minister is this: will this government actually provide those long-term care beds that were promised? And if not, why not?

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

Hon. Mr. Kaeding: — Mr. Speaker, long-term care needs are a very big priority of this government, as evidenced by the 14 long-term care facilities that have been completed or being very close to being completed in this province. More work needs to be done, Mr. Speaker, evident by the needs that Mr. Viteri as well as the member from Cumberland have identified.

We remain committed to providing the affordable long-term care facility that La Ronge and area needs. This is evident by the \$500,000 that we put into the original planning for the business case as well as \$150,000 of additional funding for planning work in 2016. Mr. Speaker, we remain committed to providing a long-term care facility for La Ronge. Mr. Speaker, we'd be more than willing to speak to Mr. Viteri after if he so desires.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — Northerners are being left behind by this

government. The dollars to study and plan have been spent, but there still aren't enough beds. Elders shouldn't have to leave their families and their community in order to access care they need. Gary, Nadine, and all Saskatchewan people should be able to stay close to home when they get older. Why won't this government commit to build more long-term care beds in La Ronge and the North that are needed by so many people?

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

Hon. Mr. Kaeding: — Mr. Speaker, as I indicated, we remain committed to providing long-term care services for the folks of La Ronge and area. But, Mr. Speaker, northern health has been a priority for this government since 2007. We've provided operational funding to former health regions, increasing up to \$1.3 billion, which certainly a lot of that has gone to the North. It's been a 58 per cent increase in operating funding that's gone into the former Keewatin Yatthé Regional Health Authority.

[14:30]

Mr. Speaker, the number of overall full-time equivalent health care professionals has increased by 94 per cent, 28 per cent since 2007. Mr. Speaker, \$500,000 has been provided to expand the remote presence technology program in communities such as Stony Rapids, La Loche, English River Dene Nation. Mr. Speaker, \$372,000 for the enhanced preventative dental services program to help support oral and dental care in northern Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, northern health care remains a priority for this government. We will continue to provide.

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

Support for Population Growth

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, this government loves to boast about their good fortune and blame others for their bad fortune. But when it comes to actually buckling down and doing what's in their power to make Saskatchewan people's lives better, they've been MIA [missing in action] for far too long on too many fronts.

Take important population growth. This government has failed to ensure that our services and infrastructure can support the growing population. And just last week that government released a new growth plan with no plan to support people or a growing population.

When will we see a real plan from this government to properly fund schools and hospitals — needs they've clearly shortchanged for far too long?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, since forming government, this government has spent \$30 billion in infrastructure. That's new hospitals. That's new nursing homes. That's new schools. That's new highways, Mr. Speaker. And that is major repairs in existing facilities, Mr. Speaker.

And day after day after day, the members opposite have just criticized. Their investment in infrastructure in this province was

abysmal, Mr. Speaker. In fact for the people that wanted to leave the province, they weren't sure that the highway was going to be in good enough shape to go.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Crowded and cut classrooms, crowded and failing ERs [emergency room], crumbling infrastructure — this is what you get from a government that would rather spin and boast than invest in people. Properly funding valued public services is foundational to economic growth. Unfunded growth is not a plan; it's a recipe for further problems, more tragedies like the one we learned of in an ER in Saskatoon this month. More people slipping through the cracks.

Will the Premier finally step up and properly fund our classrooms and ERs today? And will he step up with a commitment to the needed funding to grow our population and support people's needs?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, it is absolute nonsense, and people of Saskatchewan do not believe what that member just said. And that is why there's so few members on that side of the House.

There's new schools in many, many communities in this province, Mr. Speaker, and there is new hospitals in many communities, and new nursing homes in many communities. They're seeing highways being fixed and repaired like never before, Mr. Speaker. There's been \$30 billion of investment made by this government in infrastructure, Mr. Speaker.

So it just flies in the face of what the member opposite is just trying to say, and the people are not going to buy it, Mr. Speaker. They do not want to go back to the days of the members opposite where they closed hospitals, Mr. Speaker, they closed schools, and they let highways become in total disrepair. That is where people in this province do not want to go back to.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, nothing more than tired old lines, more bragging, more boasting from that government instead of focusing on what matters. A goal without a plan is nothing but a wish, and wishing for growth without ensuring the infrastructure and services are in place to support that growth is completely irresponsible and compromises the very growth targets that we're aiming for.

This government not only won't commit to needed funding for health care and education, they won't commit to ensuring that Saskatchewan workers and Saskatchewan companies are the ones that benefit when we build. When will this government get to work shoring up the high-quality, homegrown services and the infrastructure that Saskatchewan people expect and deserve, and finally fix their broken procurement system that continually shuts out Saskatchewan workers and businesses?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, let's begin with \$30 billion of

infrastructure investment over the last 10 years, Mr. Speaker. We heard questions today with respect to our classrooms and whether or not they'll have mid-year funding, Mr. Speaker. This would be a new concept to the NDP because under their reign, Mr. Speaker, there was never any need for mid-year funding because we were losing students each and every year out of our classrooms and out of the province.

Mr. Speaker, we experienced deteriorating infrastructure in health care across this province. Even the signs were wearing out across Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. There was not new health facilities being built. There was not new schools being built, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we had a lack of infrastructure. We had declining services with nurses leaving this province. We had educators leaving this province. We had people leaving this province, Mr. Speaker, to the point on the back of one of those signs was spray painted, "Would the last one to leave please turn out the lights."

Mr. Speaker, thankfully today we have a government that has a vision. We have a plan for growth to create strong communities, strong families, Mr. Speaker, and we're going to invest in that through a strong economy on behalf of the people of the province.

The Speaker: — I'm sure our teachers that are visiting will have plenty of questions for after.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 191 — *The Business Corporations Amendment Act, 2019*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — I move that Bill No. 191, *The Business Corporations Amendment Act, 2019* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 191 be now introduced and read a first time. 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. 192 — *The Legal Profession (Law Foundation) Amendment Act, 2019*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 192, *The Legal Profession (Law Foundation) Amendment Act, 2019* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 192 be now introduced and read a first time. 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. 193 — *The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2019 (No. 2)*

The Speaker: — Hang on, hang on. I recognize the minister.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll get control of the lighting system in here eventually. I move that Bill No. 193, *The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2019 (No. 2)* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 193 be now introduced and read a first time. 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.

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 12 and 13.

The Speaker: — Tabled, answers 12 and 13. I recognize . . .

Mr. Hindley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to order the answers to questions 14 to 18.

The Speaker: — Ordered, 14 to 18.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

SECOND READINGS

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

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I see the light's come on now so it's my privilege to rise today to move second reading of *The Coroners Amendment Act, 2019*.

In October of 2017 Clive Weighill was appointed to undertake a review of the Chief Coroner, now the Saskatchewan Coroners Service. That review resulted in a final report released in 2018 that contained 44 recommendations for improvement. The bill will update *The Coroners Act, 1999* to implement recommendations from the review as well as further improvements identified as a priority by the Saskatchewan Coroners Service. We are fortunate that Mr. Weighill, who now serves as Chief Coroner, was able to play a significant role in the development of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, the proposed changes cover a variety of areas including firstly, granting the Chief Coroner authority to appoint coroners, rather than a minister; secondly, allowing an inquest coroner to make recommendations at the conclusion of an inquest in concert with the jury; thirdly, allowing family members of a deceased to request a review by the Chief Coroner of a coroner's decision not to hold an inquest; and fourthly, allowing coroners to reopen investigations in certain cases where new evidence arises.

In addition to the amendments contained within this proposed bill, many of the recommendations from the 2018 report have been implemented through policy changes. For example, a mass fatality plan has been created and distributed to all coroners, and regular training conferences and sessions have been initiated for coroners.

Mr. Speaker, this bill will enhance the province's coroner legislation and demonstrates government's commitment to working with the Saskatchewan Coroners Service to ensure coroners can provide the best possible services to the people of Saskatchewan. With that, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to move second reading of *The Coroners Amendment Act, 2019*.

The Speaker: — It has been moved that Bill No. 189 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As tradition in this Assembly, I've taken the opportunity to explain to people exactly the process as we look through the agenda of the government when it comes to different laws and different rules and all the processes engaged when they introduce various bills that will obviously become law.

We've indicated to people, time and time again, the schedule. I think it's really important for people to understand how the Assembly works, that as the government comes along and they

provide the information as to which bills they want to proceed, we obviously, as the opposition, would have a first look at that particular bill and we would certainly want to make sure that if you look at the challenges with *The Coroners Amendment Act*, Mr. Speaker, that these are some of the things that people ought to know that are being proposed and are being changed.

Now as we look at the issue around the agenda or the schedule itself, the government introduces the bill in the fall sitting, which of course we're in the middle of the fall sitting, and they introduce the changes that the bill is currently undergoing. And as we look at the bill itself and we see where the specific changes are, Mr. Speaker, we want to make sure that the public and people that are being impacted by any bills, in this particular case Bill 189, that they have the opportunity to review the bill and, as the minister explained earlier, some of the changes that are being proposed. And it's something that we obviously have an interest in as the opposition.

Following the general response to the bill itself, we want to make sure that we reach out to the various groups that are out there. Because as the laws are being introduced in the fall sitting, we get the information as the official opposition, and then we obviously have a break between the fall sitting and the spring sitting. And that break goes in fact probably the middle of December. It goes on to January, parts of February. Sometimes we sit the late part of February, sometimes the early part of March. That two-and-a-half- to three-month time frame allows us to reach out to various groups and saying look, this is what is being proposed by the government, and in this case with Bill 189, and that's why it's important that we give the time to the public to be able to research what the bill is trying to do and to give us their opinions.

[14:45]

Now that part is really important, Mr. Speaker, and we've often pointed out in the Assembly that the engagement of the public and the people that are being impacted, let's say the stakeholders, as what is being changed here, what is being proposed, and what the effects are, what the impacts are, Mr. Speaker, that part is very, very important and it's a vital part of how democracies should work.

So as they introduce the bills in this fall sitting, we have the initial comments on the bills. Certainly it is my pleasure on behalf of the caucus to do so, and we obviously want to reach out to the public. And this is the important part, as we've mentioned time and time again. The public has very good knowledge on how some of these bills will impact their profession, how it'll impact their families because, as we know, some of the services that we're speaking about today are very, very important. Coroners have the ability to do a lot of things, Mr. Speaker. And what those powers and authorities may be and what the changes are to those authorities and those powers in the circumstances, Mr. Speaker, we have to give the public the opportunity to give us their feedback and their information.

A well-informed opposition is really, really vital to the effective implementation of a democracy, Mr. Speaker. We've maintained that time and time again as we get up to speak to some of these bills. So my urging to the public out there, to the people that are impacted by this bill, is to participate. You have the opportunity

and it's very, very easy to participate. You can obviously go online, research the bill yourselves, and provide your input and some of your information, some of your opinions on the changes to the Act itself. And that'll really help give your input as to how these bills will impact your family or your profession.

So again I think the really important message is that you participate in the process, educate your MLAs on both sides of the Assembly, Mr. Speaker, because we obviously want to make sure we get as much information and participation and advice from the people that are being impacted by this bill or any other bill, Mr. Speaker. So I would urge that participation aspect in this democracy. And obviously in the spring sitting we'll have our final votes on this bill and many other bills and then of course the bills, upon proclamation, become law.

So it's really important that we ask the people to look at this particular bill, see if there's any advice that they have for us. Forward that information, forward your concerns to us. We'll make certain that we bring up those concerns so you're able to see for yourself why or why couldn't some of these provisions be altered for your own purposes, and what the logic behind some of the changes are.

So, Mr. Speaker, I move that we adjourn debate on this particular bill. Other members of my caucus will certainly have the opportunity to participate as we debate this bill through this process. So I move that we adjourn debate on Bill 189, *The Coroners Amendment Act*.

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. 190 — *The Expropriation Procedure Amendment Act, 2019*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to move second reading of *The Expropriation Procedure Amendment Act, 2019*. This bill will reset the interest rate that may be awarded to landowners by the court in an action for compensation respecting expropriation.

Mr. Speaker, *The Expropriation Procedure Act* governs the majority of expropriations in Saskatchewan and provides processes for determining the compensation payable by the expropriating authority to landowners. The Act provides for mediation between parties through the Public and Private Rights Board to address both the proposed route or design of a project as well as the compensation payable for expropriation. If the parties cannot agree on proper compensation, the landowner may bring an action for compensation to the Court of Queen's Bench.

Mr. Speaker, under the current legislation a judge may allow interest at the rate of 6 per cent per year on all or a portion of the compensation awarded by the court. The provision was established in an era of high interest rates. At the time, 6 per cent was viewed as a modest alternative to the going rate. Today 6 per

cent is significantly higher than standard interest rates and may act as a deterrent for landowners to resolve claims. Further, having public funds used to pay an interest rate to landowners that is well above standard rates is inappropriate.

The proposed changes will require interest to be calculated in accordance with *The Pre-judgment Interest Act*. This will ensure that interest rates for expropriation cases are determined in the same manner as other civil law cases and are reflective of standard interest rates. With that, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to move second reading of *The Expropriation Procedure Amendment Act*.

The Speaker: — It has been moved that Bill No. 190 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And again I'm pleased to stand in my place to give initial comments around this particular bill, Bill No. 190, *The Expropriation Procedure Amendment Act, 2019*. Well, Mr. Speaker, this is a very, very interesting bill especially at this juncture of how the Assembly works and the scheduling that I spoke about earlier as to the previous bill that I spoke at length about in terms of the procedural timeline in which we have the opportunity to learn about the bills, of course debate the bills and outreach for information on these bills, and of course have the final arguments presented in the spring sitting before they become law.

Now this bill is very, very interesting, Mr. Speaker, because obviously when you look at the expropriation of land . . . and certainly we talk about the challenge of trying to make certain that the government's agenda moves forward. And some of the examples I would share with the public, Mr. Speaker, an example would be around highways. Suppose that there was a highway improvement required in a certain location, that the Minister of Highways would have the right to obviously negotiate with landowners along that highway and if some of them wanted to sell and made it easier to proceed with the project but others did not want to sell, Mr. Speaker, then they would certainly challenge the government. But ultimately the government has the means to expropriate land and pay the landowner the fair market value of that particular land in order to build a highway. And that's the one example that I would use, Mr. Speaker.

And I remember the Dakota Dunes. And one time when we were looking at improving the highway from Saskatoon to the Dunes that we had this particular challenge, as a former minister of Highways, in which I believe that there was expropriation measures that were taken. And obviously that would be one of the options available to the Minister of Highways, and it was an option afforded to me. And I think we expropriated land, if my memory serves me correct, and we paid a landowner who did not want to sell the value of that particular land based on regional sales.

So a lot of times the expropriation tool is not something that governments would like to use but certainly have at their disposal in the event that they wish to actually expropriate land for, in this case, highways. But the different purposes could be far different than highways itself.

So that being said, Mr. Speaker, the minister alluded to the 6 per

cent percentage rate that is being looked at in case of the dispute. And this dispute went on for quite some time because obviously landowners have the right to legal counsel, and they could certainly argue against the expropriation of their land. And of course the whole process takes time and whether there was interest attached to that particular time . . . And as the minister spoke about the 6 per cent, the prejudgment Act, instead of the current 6 per cent, Mr. Speaker, it will be calculated according to the prejudgment Act instead of the 6 per cent. And I want to correct that statement here.

But I would point out, Mr. Speaker, you look at some of the past history of the expropriation process and how the Global Transportation Hub was handled. It was a complete sham, Mr. Speaker. We understood that from how the land sales proceeded.

It was only one thing the Saskatchewan Party had to take care of, Mr. Speaker, besides giving this huge contract to this out-of-country company, Mr. Speaker, and not trusting their own Saskatchewan born-and-bred business community. They had one particular other aspect of the Global Transportation Hub and the Regina bypass that they handled and that was the land sales, Mr. Speaker. And the same process applied that if they had the expropriated land, they could do so.

But we're finding out that there's so many twists and turns and there's a lot of problems with the Global Transportation Hub and the Regina bypass. We're getting tons of information as I speak, Mr. Speaker, about people that have said, well that's not how they did it when they were handling the land sales attached to the Global Transportation Hub and the Regina bypass.

So that information, Mr. Speaker, we know that there are a lot of court cases going on against this current government. There's going to be a lot more information forthcoming around the Regina bypass and the Global Transportation Hub. We're finding issues now with their business community part that we spoke about last week, Mr. Speaker.

So it's kind of concerning to us as the opposition. On one hand they talk about expropriation of land and setting a proper interest rate through the pre-judgment Act instead of the current 6 per cent that is in place now. And, Mr. Speaker, all of a sudden they're trying to, I think, trying to justify what they're trying to do despite the fact that they've had a horrible record in handling the GTH and the Regina bypass land acquisition aspect of the project itself.

So, Mr. Speaker, there's a lot more we want to say about this particular project. We hope that there is some reference to the Global Transportation Hub and which we'll find out later on as to why they're doing this particular bill at this time. We simply do not trust the Saskatchewan Party any further on these mega projects. We've found out time and time again, whether it's construction deficiencies, high interest rates, the manner in which they've handled land sales in this particular case, *The Expropriation Procedure Act* . . . Why didn't some of these issues apply when their buddies were making a lot of money off land, Mr. Speaker? Obviously they weren't thinking of that when they handled the Global Transportation Hub and the Regina bypass.

But the unfortunate reality, Mr. Speaker, the people of

Saskatchewan were thinking of that and the people of Saskatchewan are still thinking about what really happened in the Global Transportation Hub; what really happened with the Regina bypass? We need to get to the bottom of that. And these particular bills, Mr. Speaker, how are they impacted? What is the whole premise behind this bill because their history around the GTH and the Regina bypass is horrible. It is horrible and the people of Saskatchewan are going to find out sooner than later, Mr. Speaker, and that is going to be a major challenge for the Saskatchewan Party, once the Saskatchewan people find out exactly how they handled that.

We need information from the previous Economy minister. We need information from the previous premier. We need information from a lot of the ministers that are now heading out of Dodge on that side, Mr. Speaker. What exactly did they know? We know that there's certain aspects of the GTH and the Regina bypass that they don't want to discuss. Our job, Mr. Speaker, is to try and get to the bottom of it and there are many twists and turns to this but we're staying on top of that, Mr. Speaker, because land was expropriated around the GTH and the Regina bypass. But how the Saskatchewan government did it was radically improper and that we need to get to the bottom of that, and our job within the opposition is getting to the bottom of that.

And that's one of the reasons why we continue to call witnesses forward at the committee level to discuss the Global Transportation Hub and the Regina bypass. And I think it's now eight or nine times that they have simply not co-operated. The government caucus has not co-operated and they have blocked our attempts at the committee level to bring forward witnesses that would give us specific answers to questions around how certain parts of the GTH and the Regina bypass were handled. There is something rotten in the state of Denmark, as the saying goes, but there is something rotten that happened at the GTH and the Regina bypass, and we're going to find out what it is sooner than later, Mr. Speaker. And that has an impact on this particular bill, *The Expropriation Procedure Amendment Act*, Mr. Speaker.

So a lot more is going to be said. We have an election within the year, Mr. Speaker, and questions are still coming out. We're getting a lot of brown envelopes. And if I was the Saskatchewan Party government, I'd be very, very worried about what the future holds when it comes to uncovering the mess behind the GTH and the Regina bypass. So, Mr. Speaker, on that note I move that we adjourn debate on Bill No. 190, *The Expropriation Procedure 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.

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 Regina Lakeview.

[15:00]

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my pleasure this afternoon to rise and enter into debate on Bill No. 179, *The Apiaries Amendment Act, 2019*. Mr. Speaker, I did happen to be in the Assembly when I heard the member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre wax on poetically about bees, giving remarks so remarkable that I think they ended up in their own tweet. So I'm afraid I won't be nearly as eloquent but hopefully can get some thoughtful remarks onto the record about this bill.

Of course we are talking about a bill that seeks to make amendments to the way that beekeeping is undertaken in our province. And I've taken it upon myself in the last little bit here to do a little bit of investigation about that industry in Saskatchewan. Of course you know, whenever we can look to have value-added industry in the province and diversify, I think we are looking at something that is very positive and certainly worth protecting.

So a few things about the beekeeping industry and the honey industry in the province. As of 2016 the province was home to 112,000 colonies and that, Mr. Speaker, is second only to Alberta in Canada. In fact Saskatchewan contributes no less than a quarter of Canada's total honey production. So this is a very significant industry here in the province in and of its own right. We see both in stores, such as stores as big as Costco, carrying local honey but also local farmers' markets and smaller grocery stores and everywhere in between.

I know we had the opportunity to be in Swift Current this year for the farmers' market. At one point we were down there for baseball. And there's a very large honey operation down there that sells, I believe exclusively, at the farmers' market in Swift Current, and of course all of the side products that go along with honey, things like candles, Mr. Speaker, certainly providing extra income on farms and diversity in local economies.

In terms of some of the direct spinoff benefits of having bees in your neighbourhood, there are tales of alfalfa crops, of course, with the help of these amazing little pollinators, that become so thick that it's really hard to even swath them. And a colony nearby your canola field can increase yield up 10 to 15 per cent which is no small amount.

Of course this year we think of those producers who are really struggling with not only production of canola but just getting it off in the field. So, so many reasons that it's important that we provide support to the apiary industry in the province and ensure that we are protecting it in ways that we can.

One other thing that is noted in this legislation is making the pest . . . well more than a pest really. The Act seeks to define American foulbrood as a notifiable disease, Mr. Speaker. This is something that is very concerning. I think of it being along the lines of clubroot for the canola crops. American foulbrood is a spore-forming bacteria that can not only weaken but in most cases completely knock out whole colonies and is something that really needs to be kept an eye on.

So there are some proposals in this legislation that would ensure reporting of American foulbrood and also ensure that some measures that are taken can be taken more readily to ensure that it doesn't infect and spread throughout the industry.

Unfortunately this is one of those diseases for which there is no cure. And honey being something that is able to stay stable for many years, unfortunately so is the spores that cause this American foulbrood. Spores can remain viable for over 40 years in honey and in the equipment. So there are some measures that are proposed here that would encourage, would require producers to take extra caution around their equipment and of course registering equipment so that any places that that spore might be hiding would be hopefully well known and could be regulated and watched over so that if there were an outbreak of American foulbrood, it wouldn't spread right across the province, which of course would be devastating.

And the industry, although thriving in the province, has not been . . . It's not been all smooth sailing. After the 2018 winter we saw a very, very difficult winter on colonies right across the province. There was a lot of freezing and thawing and below-normal cold snap near the end of the season when bees were waking up, I believe. I see a report from May of 2018. This is from Global News, May 30th, 2018, talking to a producer near Grandora, Saskatchewan, Sara Comerford, talking about her operation which employs four employees. That season they had their worst in the history of beekeeping, she says, in the province. Her operation alone lost about 43 per cent of their hives. Of course 43 per cent of anyone's operation is going to be devastating. So anything that we can do on the side of preventing further harm to this industry is something that I think would be worth looking into.

There are some measures in here of course, Mr. Speaker, that would do that. I know that those who know more about the industry than I have some additional questions about what might not be in here. I wasn't privy to the conversations with the industry, but things that are noted in this Global article, for example, in 2018, include the impact of pesticides on colonies. That's not something that is readily apparent in this legislation, so I'm sure that the critic would have some questions about that, which measures are taken to ensure that we don't see die-off due to accidental poisoning. Of course hopefully I will have but those in the industry will have established the need to protect this industry and the benefit that we see from it.

And also just, you know, what measures will be taken to boost honey production across the province as the industry has faced significant issues? Again this is an industry that not only has direct benefit but very significant side benefits as I've noted, like the increased yield for canola crops and alfalfa crops which seems to be a very helpful relationship between honey producers and agricultural producers producing canola and hay crops.

I think that these questions and more will be on the mind of the critic and hopefully will be questions that we'll have opportunity to ask in committee. But with that I think I will leave the questions and those concerns and hopefully that love for the industry on the record and move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 178. Thank you.

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

Bill No. 179. 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 Saskatoon Nutana.

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and as always I'm pleased to enter into the debate on Bill No. 180 in this particular instance. This is a bill that reflects, I think, the approach of this government in many ways to outsource, to privatize, to create non-profit corporations to do the work of government. And it's kind of concerning when you see these things happen, Mr. Speaker. In fact if you look at the number of authorities and Crowns and agencies that this government has created — and authorities like the GTH Authority or in this case TSASK, the Technical Safety Authority of Saskatchewan — we see a government that continually wants to move away from the responsibility of the government and push it onto either private entities, or in this case they've actually created a not-for-profit corporation, Mr. Speaker.

And when you think of non-profit corporations and the intention of that, it's usually for the point of doing the work of the community and the work of the people of Saskatchewan. It's weird to see it being used for a government to form a non-profit corporation to do the government's own work. So you've got to question the motivation behind this bill, Mr. Speaker, and this continual sort of outsourcing and passing on responsibility for government's actions to the private sector, to the not-for-profit corporate entities, Mr. Speaker. And so I really would hope that we will be able to understand the motivation that this government is using to create these kinds of agencies and passing the work on to them, Mr. Speaker.

I know one of the things that the minister did not mention in her rather lengthy comments, Mr. Speaker, was about consultation with the various unions that have been affected by the creation of TSASK. I've certainly had people reach out to me with concerns about how this will affect their particular union bargaining units, and I know people are concerned that they won't be able to access the same kind of representation. I'm not sure whether the minister has consulted with them because she certainly didn't take time to mention that in her opening comments, Mr. Speaker. These are people that are being drawn from a number of different unions and I think it's important to ensure that those concerns are dealt with. And we just don't see anything in her comments that indicate that that's actually happened, Mr. Speaker.

It's important for oversight. We know that that's the role of government, that government needs to have oversight. And certainly when it comes to gas, electrical, and plumbing functions, Mr. Speaker, it is important that the government has that oversight role. People expect it. They count on it and they

want to feel safe, Mr. Speaker. So the creation of a non-profit corporation, even for the alleged goal of having it all under one roof, Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure that there was a need for that, because to me gas inspections are very different than electrical inspections. And of course plumbing inspections, Mr. Speaker, are different from gas and electrical. So the need to have this all under one non-profit corporation seems to be a weird way to approach this responsibility that the government has, Mr. Speaker.

And I know one of the problems we have, even when we go in committee for these types of organizations, is that very often officials from these authorities are not made available at the committee stage in order to answer questions about the management of these government functions.

And it's a bit frustrating, Mr. Speaker. We have to call for additional committee meetings to have access to those officials. And I think it's something that is concerning when it comes to being very clear and transparent with the people of Saskatchewan how their best interests are being managed and looked after. So I'm not sure how the government sees this as a benefit, other than putting it all under one roof. These are very different functions. They've been working in their respective trades for a long time, Mr. Speaker, and so definitely we have to look into the motive of this by this government.

One additional thing I want to comment on before I cede the floor here, Mr. Speaker, is what's happening in public utilities. Now when it comes to Water Security Agency, Mr. Speaker, typically towns and urban centres have their own water delivery for waterworks, and most often they're a government function. It's either done at the . . . well mostly done at the municipal level, Mr. Speaker. Now with the development of large acreage developments outside of the city of Saskatoon, we have a situation where Water Security Agency has given a licence to a private entity to provide this public service.

So when you think about water utilities in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, it's not like the Monopoly game where you can buy Water Works for \$150 and then set out and provide water provisions to individuals living in acreages in Saskatoon. This is not a Monopoly situation, Mr. Speaker. This is very much the role, again, of government. But the Water Security Agency is currently licensing private companies who are providing public water for the people living in those acreages. They don't have oversight by the municipality. They don't have oversight by a municipal utility. And Water Security Agency has basically washed its hands — no pun intended — in terms of the oversight needed to make sure that the water supplies are safe.

[15:15]

And I've seen in one particular case, Mr. Speaker, in the RM [rural municipality] of Aberdeen I've seen water pressures repeatedly and consistently below safe levels, Mr. Speaker. Even the Water Security Agency's own documents say that the water levels should be at a 20 psi, or pounds per square inch, level. Other documents say 14 pounds per square inch, which is on the edge, Mr. Speaker, when it comes to safety and things like E. coli and other kinds of microforms entering the water supply system.

In this particular water delivery system that's being done

privately, Mr. Speaker, the psi is often below 10, Mr. Speaker. It's often below 5 pounds per square inch and sometimes, Mr. Speaker, it's at a negative pressure. And as you know, Mr. Speaker, when we think back to the dangers of cryptosporidium in the North Battleford water supply and people getting sick, I'm not sure that this is something that Water Security Agency should or could turn a blind eye to, Mr. Speaker.

And it's the kind of things that these functions are important for government to take responsibility. And this is not a case that we see happening here in the TSASK arrangement, Mr. Speaker. We see it in a number of other functions that this government has offloaded onto either the private sector, as in the case of the private waterworks in the Aberdeen municipality or, Mr. Speaker, in this case creating a non-profit corporation or not-for-profit corporation, to do the work of government.

So we have a lot of questions for the minister and for the goals that the government's trying to achieve here. We're concerned about the lack of consultation with the union sector, or at least the lack of mention of that in the minister's comments. And so at this point, I will conclude my comments and I know we'll be looking at it closely. And I will move that we adjourn debate on Bill No. 180.

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 Saskatoon Riversdale.

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to enter into the debate on Bill No. 181, *The Mineral Taxation (Modernization) Amendment Act, 2019*. I have just a few remarks here today on this particular bill, just pointing out that this bill, it levies the mineral rights tax on roughly 40,000 freehold mineral titles in Saskatchewan. This is the purpose of this bill, Mr. Speaker.

The minister in her second reading speech talks about the consultation piece that took place this spring. Whenever a piece of legislation comes before us, it's always really important to ask why the legislation is before us, who asked for it, with whom did the government speak. When it comes to legislation that impacts people or businesses or organizations, it's always important to connect with every possible potential stakeholder because sometimes the government and the minister has intended consequences. But if you haven't done a good, thorough consultation there will also be unintended consequences, Mr. Speaker.

The minister does point out in her second reading speech that

“... the Ministry of Energy and Resources consulted with internal and external stakeholders regarding this proposed legislation.” So I know when the bill gets to committee, there’ll be some conversation around who those external and internal stakeholders were.

She points out the consultation “... included contacting numerous industry associations, freehold mineral rights organizations, and a portion of the roughly 1,600 mineral rights taxpayers.” Again, just more details will be necessary there. Which industry? What associations? What organizations? And how many of those 1,600 mineral rights taxpayers were consulted, Mr. Speaker? I think that’s always an important piece of the review when legislation comes before us this time of year, Mr. Speaker.

So what does this particular bill do, Mr. Speaker? The minister points out that the proposed amendments to *The Mineral Taxation Act* move the mineral rights tax rate from the legislation to the regulations, and her argument here that this makes it easier to interpret and administer. But just to point out that when things are removed from legislation to regulations, it also makes them easier to change and there’s less scrutiny. That doesn’t have to come before the legislature, Mr. Speaker. So that’s always a concern when things are being taken out of legislation and being put into regulations.

And sometimes there’s very valid and very good reasons for doing that, but that’ll be an important discussion to have in committee. And it’s just important to know that there’s less scrutiny and transparency when things can be changed in regulations versus the legislation. So that is one piece that is happening here, Mr. Speaker.

The amendments also, in the minister’s own words, modernize the Act in several ways. They update the legal language, enable non-taxed individuals to voluntarily transfer their mineral titles to the Crown, and they will also authorize the use of the new electronic mineral rights tax administration.

I think the piece around the electronic management system, or EMS, it adds a new definition for the EMS around an electronic signature, which ... The minister points out that right now administering the mineral rights tax is dependent on software that’s not supported any longer and requires intensive manual entering. “Authorizing electronic administration will streamline assessment, provide data backups, and enhance service delivery to mineral rights taxpayers.” That piece definitely makes good sense, Mr. Speaker.

I know that there will be many colleagues on my side of the House here who weigh in to Bill No. 181, *The Mineral Taxation Amendment Act, 2019*. And all in good time, Mr. Speaker, the bill will make it to committee where there will be some good questions that will be influenced and informed by conversations that the critic has with stakeholders, Mr. Speaker. But for the moment, I would like to move to adjourn debate of Bill No. 181.

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. 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 Centre.

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It’s a pleasure to enter into this debate on the Act to amend *The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Act, 1997* and make consequential amendments to *The Family Maintenance Act, 197*.

It’s always important that we keep current and that we do as much as we can to make sure that children and families are supported, that we do as much as we can to make sure the maintenance orders are enforced. And I think we’ve come a long way in Saskatchewan in terms of the good work. I know we’ve had times to talk to the people from this part of the Justice branch about the effectiveness, efficiency that they have. They’re deeply committed people. They always want to figure out how they can do better, how they can make sure that deadbeats don’t fly the coop. They want to make sure that the money is there and children can be raised in appropriate ways.

And you know, the challenge these days is it gets probably more and more and more complicated and difficult to do the proper research. And so this is an important piece of legislation. Of course, you know, the challenge that we have is making sure that we don’t do anything that has the consequences that may be what we are not looking for, the unintended consequences. Things are often not as straightforward, especially as we go further down the road in terms of this kind of law enforcement. So we want to make sure that these are the appropriate rule changes and that they have the effects that are desired.

This branch has an incredible record on collection. It’s one of the highest in Canada, I understand. And they do a good job and I know that makes a big difference in many families’ lives. But unfortunately not every family and so we still have work to do. And if this is the place and this is the time to make those changes to become even more efficient, even more effective, then we’re here for that. But of course, our role in opposition is to ask those questions to make sure they are well thought out, that the intended consequence is what is going to happen, that we’re not going to get in a situation where it’s going to be more problematic. And we don’t want that.

You know, these things can escalate out of hand very quickly. You know, we have in Saskatchewan one of the highest rates of domestic violence and that just shouldn’t be. That should not be at all. I want to congratulate the member from Regina Douglas Park, who did a lot of leadership in this role last year and the years before in terms of making sure that we make some steps towards protecting women who are fleeing domestic violence. And the work that we’ve done in terms of being able to break tenancy contracts, where if a person needed to leave, they could. As well as paid leave from work if there was situations where we needed to make sure that women felt they could take time away

from work and do the things that were necessary.

But at the same time, it doesn't get to the root of the problem. And we need to make sure we're doing all we can to extinguish domestic violence. And there are some outstanding groups out in the communities who are doing work in that area to help us understand what should be done. I know that's also happening in the union movement, that people are doing the good work to make sure we understand and we support people fleeing domestic violence.

So these things all go hand in hand. And we need to make sure when you have families that are at risk, that are vulnerable for whatever reason, they are supported. And this is one more tool in the tool kit and we think this is important. But again, this always needs to be consulted and making sure we're talking to the stakeholders. And there are active stakeholders in this province. So we'll be asking the minister, who has he been talking to? What have they been saying? Does this go far enough? Are there consequences that we haven't thought of?

So what the bill does is, of course, it updates the language and, throughout the Act, allows courts to collect banking information for accurate calculation of the payment due, and revises the definition of maintenance order to include maintenance awarded through arbitration and orders recalculated by the office in charge.

So these sound like things that sound appropriate, but are they all that we should be doing? Is there more that we should be doing? Are we leaving out key pieces? And who has been talked with about this? So these are all questions that we have. And we need to know, are there additional measures that the minister is thinking about in terms of the enforcement of this regulation that they're thinking about putting into place? Or is this it? Is this as far as we go?

And you know, we need to make sure that we consider the situations many families find themselves in. And we see that more than we have in a long time in terms of people in poverty in Saskatchewan, especially the situation . . . We've just had questions in the House around debt and how people are, you know, one paycheque away from insolvency and what's happening in terms of foreclosures.

And again, unfortunately the government side likes to crow about all the things that they've been fortunate to be part of. They would take credit for it. But when it comes to things like too many families are finding themselves up to their necks in debt, what does this mean in this kind of circumstance here?

[15:30]

So with that, Mr. Speaker, we look forward to other comments that others will make on this bill because this is an important piece of legislation. But at this point I'd like to move adjournment of Bill 174, *The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Amendment Act*. Thank you.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 175

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 175 — *The Marriage Amendment Act, 2019/Loi modificative de 2019 sur le mariage*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Hold on to your hats. McCall is up on marriage. No worries, no worries, no worries. As ever, Mr. Speaker, good to take my place in this Assembly and join debate on Bill No. 175, *The Marriage Amendment Act, 2019*.

I'd started it off by saying that I was going to offer some personal observations on the whole ball of wax that comes with marriage, but I'll spare colleagues those kind of personal offerings at this time, Mr. Speaker. And I'll try to keep this on the path. I'll try to keep this on the path, Mr. Speaker. But again, interesting, you know. There's some fundamental matters that get addressed in this House, Mr. Speaker, and certainly one of them, fundamental in this society, is certainly marriage and the act of marriage and its governance by *The Marriage Act*.

Mr. Speaker, according to the second reading speech of the minister . . . And that's of course where you want to go to find out the stated intent of the legislation, and then of course in committee you want to get the fine details so you can go through that clause-by-clause sort of consideration and find out about the other sort of things that maybe got glossed over in the minister's second reading speech.

But in referring to the minister's second reading speech, Mr. Speaker, the stated intent of this particular iteration or amendment to *The Marriage Act* and as well to *The Wills Act*, Mr. Speaker, is to “. . . take steps towards addressing predatory marriages.” Carrying on with the quote, Mr. Speaker: “There has been a recent increase in case law where individuals with diminished capacity have been the target of predatory marriages. As a result, we have re-evaluated the legislative tools available to address instances of predatory marriages,” Mr. Speaker.

It'll be good to find out just what that increased incidence amounts to, Mr. Speaker. Is it, you know, several or a dozen or are we talking hundreds here, Mr. Speaker? What is prompting this particular piece of legislative action?

I also know, Mr. Speaker, that it's not coming forward from the common law reform commission, usually the seal of good housekeeping when it comes to measures such as this, Mr. Speaker. But again if there's an outbreak of predatory marriages that we're not fully apprised of, we want to know more about it. And certainly that, I imagine, will be canvassed by our Justice critic in committee with the minister just to get some of the context as to this situation.

But as regards the proposed amendments in aid of this effort, Mr. Speaker, there will be:

. . . a new provision to permit an application be made before the Court of Queen's Bench to nullify a marriage where an interested person believes one of the parties to the marriage did not provide valid consent to enter into the contract of marriage.

Mr. Speaker, the minister goes on to state that:

This new provision does not change the substantive law of marriage in any way. What it will do is provide clear direction to family members that an application . . . be brought before the courts to determine if the marriage was validly formed.

Again, Mr. Speaker, this should make for some very interesting committee consideration of this legislation, because some of these contentions bear further examination certainly, Mr. Speaker. And I know that, as well, our critic will be diligent in reaching out to other parties to make sure that this is how it is playing out in the broader community, Mr. Speaker.

So we've got . . . The main thrust of this legislation is regarding the whole situation of the increased number of predatory marriages. And again, we're interested to see how that's playing out, Mr. Speaker.

There are also a number of housekeeping amendments in this because of course, I guess, you know, if you can't have housekeeping attached to a marriage Act, I mean, what's the . . . Obviously that one goes well together, you'd think . . . Natural, real natural alignment of interests there, Mr. Speaker.

But in terms of updates and revisions to section 19 of the Act, wherein "Section 19 permits a judge to authorize the issuance of a marriage licence to a person under 16 years of age," and that "In 2015 the federal government passed amendments prohibiting the marriage of a person under 16 and section 19 is being amended accordingly," fair enough, Mr. Speaker. Always good to keep up to the feds, and always good to, you know, make it real clear what's the situation if you're younger than 16 looking to get married. That's good to know, Mr. Speaker. Further on . . . Oh, I think we've been joined in the debate by a noted . . . [inaudible].

Mr. Speaker, the bill also includes a related amendment to *The Wills Act, 1996* wherein it:

. . . will repeal the provision that revokes a will on the marriage or cohabitation in a spousal relationship for two years of the testator. The concern with this provision is that the capacity required to provide valid consent into a contract of marriage is significantly lower than the capacity required to create a will.

In all seriousness, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And with the repeal of section 17, the onus now being on the testator to change his or her will after marriage or cohabitation of 24 months in order to make the new spouse a beneficiary of the will, and that if the new spouse is not a beneficiary under a will, he or she has other legal options such as applications under dependence relief or family property legislation.

Mr. Speaker, again, this one . . . There's some of the bills that

were just, you know, meant for committee where they can really shine and really be more fully discussed. This I'm sure is one of them. We all look forward to that consideration, Mr. Deputy Speaker. But I know that there's others of my colleagues that look forward to participating in this debate and I'm sure will have more to add to it, more insight, more wisdom to add to it than I, Mr. Speaker, and then of course the broader work that our critic will undertake in consulting on this particular legislation, Mr. Speaker. We await that with interest as well. But for the meantime and in-between time, I would move that we now adjourn debate on Bill No. 175, *The Marriage Amendment Act*.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Regina Elphinstone has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 175. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Why, thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Here we are with another bill from the Ministry of Justice. It seems to be a bit of a trend when it comes to the legislative agenda for this government, Mr. Speaker. And I have to say, this is a government that's kind of short on ideas and long on ideology, Mr. Speaker, because all of these bills are basically coming out of the Ministry of Justice, taking care of business, doing work with the Law Reform Commission. But we haven't seen much in terms of ideas coming from this government, Mr. Speaker, and so here we are with another bill from the Ministry of Justice looking at giving fiduciaries access to digital information.

Mr. Speaker, this bill I think has been canvassed already in terms of its intent. It came through the Uniform Law Conference of Canada, and the government noted that it's the first of its kind in Canada. Mr. Speaker, I wish this government was first of its kind in a number of other issues, including implementing Housing First, for example, Mr. Speaker, or having one of the best minimum wages in Canada instead of the worst, Mr. Speaker. So it's funny when this government brags about being first and then when it absolutely is dead last when it comes to putting people first, Mr. Speaker.

And so not a lot to comment on here particularly, Mr. Speaker. I find it interesting that the concern is to deal with electronic copies of documents that could be found on Facebook or Instagram. Although I'm not a millennial, Mr. Speaker, I don't see a lot of wills or court documents being posted on Instagram lately. So I'm not sure why Instagram has been singled out here by the minister, but it's kind of interesting.

Definitely Gmail though, and that's one of the ideas is that a fiduciary who is responsible for someone else's affairs, either a person who lacks capacity or is deceased, then definitely I can see getting access to email accounts. Because I know I store a lot of my documents electronically currently, Mr. Speaker, and you know, I'm trying to save the trees. So I understand why access to Gmail makes sense. Not as sure about Facebook or Instagram. And I'm not sure what Mark Zuckerberg would say if we asked to access a Facebook account on behalf of somebody who is deceased.

But this government is ahead of the curve on the legislation here. They're proud to be first in Canada. But, Mr. Speaker, we'll have some questions definitely when we get into the committee stage of this bill. And so at this point I will move that we adjourn debate on Bill No. 176.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Saskatoon Nutana has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 176. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. This bill I'm rising to speak on is another one that deals with dealing in the electronic age, Mr. Speaker. Where I know I never use the Yellow Pages anymore, Mr. Speaker, if I'm looking for a business or an organization, my first go-to is the internet and using the old Google search to find out whatever I need. If I'm looking for a replacement part for my barbecue, I go to the Google to find out where I can find that particular part. And so a lot of commerce, as you know, Mr. Speaker, is being done online.

And this bill is dealing with registries of professional organizations. And so I would think for massage therapists, you know, lawyers, dentists, those kind of people who are . . . If you want to get a list of all of those people that are providing those services in Saskatchewan, I think most people would think going to the internet would be the first place that you would go to look for it.

But in this case that's not exactly what's happening, and that's what this bill sets out to do, is to basically change the various pieces of legislation. I think there's 40 Acts that are impacted by this bill, Mr. Speaker, but it's to change the language in those legislations to say that you can access that list other than presenting yourself in person at the head office to require or ask for the list.

Many, many of these organizations are apparently calling for this, so I don't think . . . Again, this is another example of a bill

from the Ministry of Justice that's filling in the legislative agenda for this government who have absolutely no ideas, Mr. Speaker. They're tired, they're old, and none of their ideas are coming forward to serve the people of Saskatchewan.

So thank goodness the Ministry of Justice is there to backfill, because at least we have someone in government that's looking out for the changes that we need in these bills that are, you know . . . we call them housekeeping in nature. And I know the previous speaker mentioned that it's not just in relation to the marriage, but the housekeeping needs to happen across the board, Mr. Speaker. And so, much gratitude to the officials at the Ministry of Justice for making sure that these bills are updated and kept modern, and then thankfully there are some bills that we can actually talk about.

So, Mr. Speaker, I have nothing further to add at this point, and I move that we adjourn debate on Bill No. 177.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 177, *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Electronic Register) Amendment Act, 2019*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

[15:45]

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

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's my pleasure to enter into debate today on Bill No. 178, *The Miscellaneous Statutes Repeal Act of 2019*.

This bill repeals the following Acts: *The Family and Community Services Act, The Veterinary Services Act, The Water Appeal Board Act, An Act to incorporate International Bible College* — there's a French Act that I'm not going to attempt to say, with apologies to my francophone brothers and sisters — *An Act to incorporate Prince Albert Exhibition Association, and An Act to incorporate the Regina Exhibition Association Limited*.

As the minister said in his second reading speech, certain pieces of legislation become obsolete, and these Acts are either entirely repealed or new Acts come forward to replace that legislation. So it presents itself as housekeeping. They suggest that it will not have any impact on stakeholders although we'll certainly be doing our diligence to ensure that that is the case, Mr. Speaker. But with that I would move that we adjourn debate on this bill.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Saskatoon Fairview has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 178. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thanks, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to enter into debate with respect to Bill No. 183, *The Fisheries (Saskatchewan) Act, 2019*. I understand this legislation sets out to accomplish a few things, adding new definitions for "aquatic invasive species" as well as "watercraft," the quagga mussel that the member has just referenced across the floor there. Mr. Speaker, it also authorizes the minister to designate fishery officers, allows the appointment of advisory committees. This is all from the minister's remarks and what we're taking from the bill. It changes the procedures regarding the amendment, suspension, or the cancellation of licences, and it goes on with a few other aims, Mr. Speaker.

Certainly, I guess what we're disappointed with on this front is that there just hasn't been consultation with the fishers of this province, the commercial fishing industry that's so important to the North, Mr. Speaker, a sustainable industry that needs to be well managed, that needs to have some practical supports in place, Mr. Speaker. And it's too bad to not see that consultation occur. Certainly I've heard there's serious gaps in place after the fish freight subsidy was removed by this government, Mr. Speaker, and this is a concern.

I've met with folks through this industry. I think it's a really important industry in the province, in many ways a heritage industry in the province. I have had conversations with many in the fishing industry and different operations. I think of the beautiful operation and historic operation of John Waite, a third-generation commercial fisher within their family at Buffalo Narrows, Mr. Speaker, at Big Buffalo Lake right on the shores. Just a beautiful operation that contracts and works with many fishers in the area. Certainly it's very important economically to the area, but has always been.

The mark that was left on me in that visit with John Waite — I've been there a couple of times — is just the pride in that family operation and that third-generation operation and the pride and the role of it within the economy, and the relationship to the land and to the water, a proud relationship, and making sure that the fishery was managed in a responsible way, making sure that it's there for generations.

And of course the amazing product that's pulled out of that region and Big Buffalo Lake ends up at the finest restaurants around the world, Mr. Speaker. And we get to share a little bit of what we love here in Saskatchewan — the finest walleye, the finest northern pike and lake trout, Mr. Speaker, whitefish that's shipped around the world — and done so in a way that supports local communities and often Indigenous communities, Mr. Speaker, in northern Saskatchewan, and done so in a sustainable

way.

So I'm disappointed that those fishers and that important industry weren't consulted by this government. That's a lost opportunity. With some practical supports through that conversation, I'm sure that we could make sure that that fishery is on a strong footing today and for generations to come.

With that being said, we'll continue to fight for this important industry and for the fishers in northern Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, and work to make sure that supports are in place to allow that industry to thrive for generations. And I'll adjourn debate with respect to Bill No. 183, *The Fisheries (Saskatchewan) Act, 2019*.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 183, *The Fisheries (Saskatchewan) Act, 2019*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

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 Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Rosemont.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll enter in very briefly with respect to the consequential Act of the Act that I was just speaking to. So the bulk of my remarks pertinent to this matter will be found in my entry to Bill No. 183, but I'll speak now to Bill No. 183, the consequential amendments Act for the fisheries Act, Mr. Speaker.

And I guess just to the point, that this is a time where we'll be reaching out and invite stakeholders in the fishing industry, commercial fishing industry to connect so that we can make sure that this legislation is as constructive as possible.

It's a real concern to see the Sask Party once again not consult with those directly impacted, the stakeholders, and in this case that very proud and important commercial fishing industry in our province. To see that they're not consulted in this process is a disappointment and a loss. This is a very important industry to our province, a very important industry to the North and many northern communities, many Indigenous communities and families as well, Mr. Speaker.

With that being said, though, I'll adjourn debate with respect to Bill No. 184.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 187

[The 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 Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Prince Albert Northcote.

Ms. Rancourt: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's always a pleasure to join in with debates. And today I get an opportunity to put my remarks on the record with regards to Bill No. 187, *The Administration of Estates Amendment Act*.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, when the minister was bringing this forward, he indicated that some of these amendments will ensure the role of the executor and administrators of an estate are clear, that there was quite a few changes that are going to be made to modernize this piece of legislation, and some housekeeping amendments with regards to it. And he also indicated that since 1992, the Public Guardian and Trustee has been the Official Administrator for the province and administers estates where there is no one else to do so.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we know that this piece of legislation is very important. It impacts everyone in this province. And when I read about this particular piece of legislation, I think about how it would be really important to get more public awareness and engagement to educate individuals about the importance of wills, and picking someone to be your trustee is very important, someone that you can trust, and who that person could be. And it would be good to have a lot more public awareness and engagement to individuals who are assigned as a public guardian or trustee for an individual.

I know myself and my sister were the trustees for my mother's estate and will, and there's a lot of rules and regulations and a lot of information that the majority of people don't know and understand because this isn't something that you generally think of until the time comes unfortunately. So it's really important to make sure that changes within this piece of legislation are done well and that they're done with the best purpose in mind and ensuring that people are going to be protected with regards to these changes.

So some of the things I thought about was I know that the minister indicated that there'll be some changes to notices. In previous times they oftentimes put notices in the newspapers and I think that's still an important aspect and I think we need to be mindful of that. We need to support our local newspapers as well. But they were saying that that could be a challenge for some individuals and so they're looking at some other avenues to do that. And I think it'll be important to talk about, will this help increase the number of people who are notified when these notifications come in or will it limit the amount of people who are notified because that's something that's important to keep in mind.

Also there's some changes to the definition of "capacity," and I

know that's a hard one, Mr. Deputy Speaker, because if anyone has had someone in their family who is ill or oftentimes it's generally your parent and it's hard to determine whether they're losing their capacity or to make that decision.

So my question is, is who determines "capacity" and in this piece of legislation who will be that person who will determine that in this language here? Because that's important to also identify and then that also helps individuals and families when they have to make that decision and the trustee that's responsible.

I also was wondering what the reasons behind making these changes were. My understanding, when I looked at the previous Act, that this piece of legislation has been up multiple times to make adjustments to it. We oftentimes see pieces of legislation that haven't been amended in many, many years but this one has been up quite a bit. And I wonder why — if these changes are important — why those weren't made the last time this piece of legislation was brought forward for amendments and who's asked for these changes would be some good questions to find out. And will there be an impact to already established estates or wills with regards to these changes because people will need to know that, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And does this allow too much control for one person or another?

This is not my area of expertise, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but I know the critic that will be assigned to this piece of legislation, she has a lot more knowledge with regards to this type of legislation. And she will do her due diligence and engage with stakeholders and look through it item by item with regards to what the changes are. And I'm sure she'll have lots of questions to ask when this is brought forward to committee. And I know my other colleagues have a lot more that they would like to put on the record with discussion with the changes with regards to this piece of legislation. So with that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I adjourn debate on Bill No. 187.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Prince Albert Northcote has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 187. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's my pleasure to enter into debate today on Bill No. 188, *The Public Guardian and Trustee Amendment Act, 2019*. The minister in his second reading speech talks about the fact that the amendments that are being brought forward here were recommended by the Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee. So one would think that the changes will probably be positive in terms of their ability to operate. I know it's quite bureaucratic and there are a number

of legal implications, so one of the biggest changes here is that the amendments move the official administrator from *The Administration of Estates Act* to *The Public Guardian and Trustee Act*.

[16:00]

There are a number of other changes that are being brought forward: adding the definition of “letters of administration” to the list of defined terms in the previous Act, replacing the reference to “next friend” in sections 21 and 20 with “litigation guardian,” providing the Public Guardian and Trustee may act as the litigation guardian, adding that the Public Guardian and Trustee shall cease to act on the earliest of the date another person is appointed to act, and a number of other changes that are being brought forward here, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

We will make sure that we spend some time digging into the implications of this legislation, Mr. Speaker, and we’ll have a number of questions as we move forward. But with that I would move to adjourn debate on this bill.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Saskatoon Fairview has moved to adjourn debate on Bill 188, *The Public Guardian and Trustee Amendment Act, 2019*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

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

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

[The Assembly adjourned at 16:02.]

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