



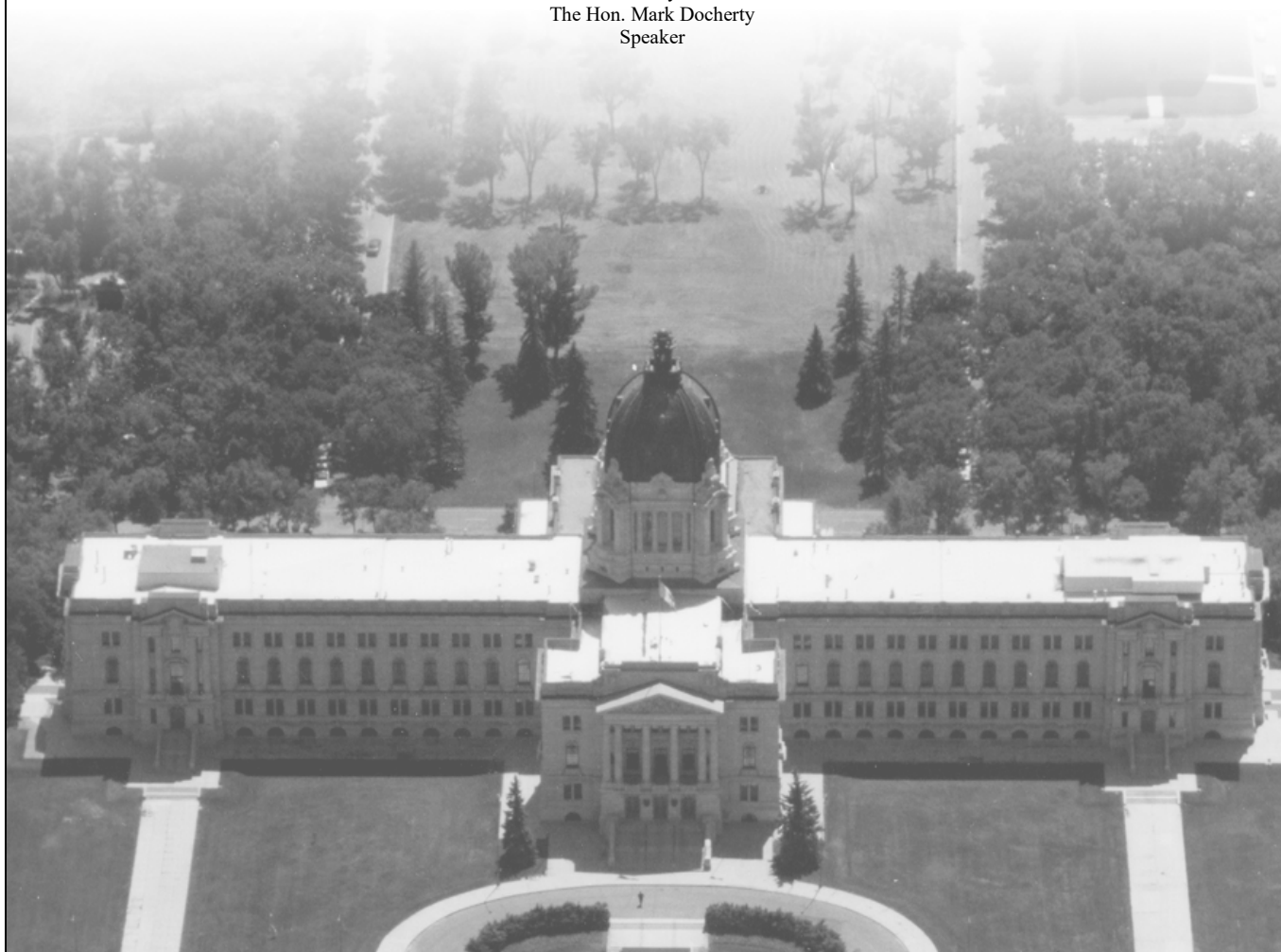
FOURTH SESSION - TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

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

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

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Kirsch, Delbert — Batoche (SP)
Lambert, Lisa — Saskatoon Churchill-Wildwood (SP)
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Wyant, Hon. Gordon — Saskatoon Northwest (SP)
Young, Colleen — Lloydminster (SP)

Vacant — Regina Walsh Acres
Vacant — Saskatoon Eastview

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

Clerks-at-the-Table

Clerk — Gregory A. Putz

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Principal Clerk — Iris Lang

Clerk Assistant — Kathy Burianyk

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[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

Hon. Ms. Beaudry-Mellor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I ask for leave for an extended introduction.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the minister.

Hon. Ms. Beaudry-Mellor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the west gallery today I have three students from the Paul J. Hill School of Business: Brett Zimmer, Cole Zawislak, and Nicole Scopic, along with Graham Purse, who teaches business 340.

The Hill business school, Mr. Speaker, will be hosting the 15th anniversary 2020 JDC West [Jeux du Commerce West] competition here in Regina at the U of R [University of Regina]. I'd also like to congratulate their Inter-Collegiate Business Competition team who had three of four teams advance to the final round of competition in Kingston, Ontario.

The Hill school, as we know, hosts the RBC [Royal Bank of Canada] Woman Executive in Residence but also the Rawlinson Executive in Residence in Indigenous Entrepreneurship. They also are very good at giving back. Many of us will be familiar with 5 Days for the Homeless.

The economic impact of this school to our economy is estimated at \$211 million, Mr. Speaker. I'd like all members to join me in welcoming them to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd just like to join with the minister, on behalf of the official opposition, welcoming you students and teachers to their Legislative Assembly. Certainly the JDC West competition, no pressure, but the Hill schools generally do quite well for Regina and the University of Regina in the competition. So we'll be looking with great interest to see how it all works out. But wishing them all the best and continued success in the work that they do contributing to our post-secondary education sector and to our economy and to Saskatchewan as a whole.

So again, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to join with the minister in welcoming these very important people to their Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to this Assembly, I'd like to introduce a guest in your gallery, Mr. Speaker, Tristan Banyay. Tristan is with Diabetes Canada. The Minister of Rural and Remote Health and myself had an opportunity this morning to meet with him along with Joan King. The Diabetes Canada folks are in the building today. They're hosting an MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] reception later on this afternoon for members on both sides of the House. We're looking forward to that, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to thank them for all their advocacy work, and ask all members to please give Tristan a warm welcome to his Assembly.

And, Mr. Speaker, while I'm on my feet, I'd also like to introduce a guest in the west gallery. Mr. Speaker, Cole Zawislak is a long-time friend of my communications ministerial assistant and an assistant golf pro at the Royal Regina, Mr. Speaker. So we're hopeful that he can help the Minister of Social Services. Mr. Speaker, he's currently finishing up a finance degree at the University of Regina, and I understand he's a big fan of question period. And so I'd ask all members to please give him a warm welcome to his Legislative Assembly.

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

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the minister in welcoming our guests here today from Diabetes Canada. Myself and the member from Saskatoon Centre had the opportunity to meet with them this morning, and I'd like to welcome them to your gallery, Mr. Speaker. And I know that we look forward to this evening and the reception, and thank you for all the work that you do. I think we had a very informative meeting and I continue to look forward to your advocacy on behalf of those who are living with diabetes in this province and in Canada. Thank you very much.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, the member from Saskatoon Willowgrove and I will get up and we'll speak in stereo.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to join with the member opposite in welcoming Tom Graham and these people to the Assembly today. We thank them for the work that they do representing workers in our province and regard them as colleagues and friends.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join the minister in welcoming the folks from CUPE [Canadian Union of Public Employees] here. They're friends of working people in Saskatchewan and no strangers to the legislature because they're championing the causes of working people here in Saskatchewan.

Of course we introduced Tom Graham, the president of CUPE Saskatchewan, and beside him is Tria Donaldson. And then over on this side over here we have Jackie Christianson who is Chair of the education workers — if you could give a wave; you're kind of hidden behind there — and also Marie Moore. And I'm not

sure if Debra Grimaldi is in the building. Is she? I don't know, but she might be here.

Anyways I ask all members to give these folks a warm welcome. I know they've been meeting with people this morning on a very important issue, and we'll hear more about that later. Thanks so much.

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

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce today, seated in the west gallery, a visitor that comes to us from Toronto, Ms. Christina Cunningham. Christina has a keen interest, in speaking to her, she's interested in the democratic process certainly. And she thinks that our Legislative Building is one of the most beautiful in the country, and we certainly agree with her.

Christina is the Canadian director of public affairs at Vertex Pharmaceuticals, which produces a unique suite of drug treatments for cystic fibrosis or CF. At lunchtime today Christina hosted an MLA reception where members on both sides of the House had an opportunity to hear a presentation on some of the new developments in the area of CF. According to the latest count by Cystic Fibrosis Canada, there are more than 4,300 Canadians who have been diagnosed with CF and, of that number, 124 Saskatchewan residents live with cystic fibrosis. So we are delighted with the considerable progress that is being made in this area of new treatments.

Again we welcome Christina and her colleagues to Saskatchewan and to the Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly. I ask all colleagues to help me welcome her here.

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

Mr. Pedersen: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd just like to join with the minister in welcoming the group from Vertex Pharmaceuticals here to the legislature. I was pleased to participate in that luncheon as well. And we know that they are doing very good work in researching the treatments that are available for people suffering with cystic fibrosis. So I'd ask all members to join with me in welcoming them to their Legislative Assembly.

And, Mr. Speaker, while I'm on my feet I would also like to just give a nod to Graham Purse, who is noted as being an instructor at the Hill School of Business. I had the, I guess, pleasure of working with Graham. Several years ago he was a colleague at the law firm Miller Thompson and a bright legal mind, not just in matters of law but in matters of tax. So I'd like to ask all members to join with me in welcoming Graham to his Legislative Assembly.

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

Hon. Ms. Carr: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you, it's my pleasure to introduce a colleague and a dedicated public servant in the House today. Seated in your gallery is the Provincial Capital Commission CEO [chief executive officer] Monique Goffinet Miller. Monique has been with the Provincial Capital Commission since 2017 and has

dedicated much of her professional life to preserving, promoting, and sharing heritage content with Canadian citizens.

In addition to her time with the PCC [Provincial Capital Commission] prior to being named CEO, Monique spent time with the RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police] Heritage Centre as well as the British Columbia Government House. Her expertise in both tourism and government is already benefiting the PCC, and I am pleased to have the opportunity to work with her in my role for the betterment of the province.

I'd like to thank Monique for her continued efforts in her role as PCC CEO, and I'd ask all members to join me in welcoming her to her Assembly today.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Regina Douglas Park.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the minister in welcoming Monique to her Legislative Assembly. Since she's moved to Saskatchewan just a few years ago, she's really taken this province and this city by storm, as you've heard already from the minister's remarks on the many very prominent roles she's had. It's great to see her in this new role, somewhat new role now as CEO of the PCC. It's always a pleasure to see her in her Legislative Assembly, and I'd ask all members to join me in welcoming her today.

And while I'm on my feet, Mr. Speaker, because I don't think he's been introduced quite enough times yet, I'd like to recognize a friend of mine, Graham Purse, who's seated right behind me. He is a member of the Regina bar, a great lawyer, and it's a wonderful pleasure to see him here today to watch the legislative proceedings. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Ross: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the Minister Responsible for the Provincial Capital Commission to also acknowledge Monique, seated in your gallery. Monique has really embraced her role as the CEO of the PCC, and I know just the plans and the dedication that she has for advancing the PCC to not just within the city of Regina but to the province as a whole. We really appreciate her dedication and her enthusiasm and we will be very well served by Monique's passionate interest in Regina. So thank you very much. Welcoming Monique to her Legislative Assembly.

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

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm noting that we are giving multiple introductions today. I thought I would rise as well and enter into these important introductions. I want to also welcome Monique to her Legislative Assembly. I think it was about three years ago . . . I thought it was two, but it's actually been three years ago that she was first introduced in this Assembly.

One of the first things that she did when she came to this city was to contact me as her MLA, and I know she's just been a really, really important supporter of women in politics both in British Columbia and here in Saskatchewan, really right across the country. And certainly your coming to Saskatchewan with Dean

and Corbin has enriched all of us. I know that you appreciate being here as well. So I'd like all members to join with me to welcome her to her Legislative Assembly.

And also, Mr. Speaker, I wanted to welcome our friends from CUPE to their Legislative Assembly today. I see Debra Grimaldi has joined us here today. Debra is the regional director for CUPE in the Regina office, or the provincial . . . right across the province. We have also Tom Graham, president of CUPE Saskatchewan, and Tria as well as Jackie and Marie who are in the west gallery, Mr. Speaker. I invite all members to join me in welcoming these important guests to their Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of 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 welcome in the west gallery 32 grade 10 students from Melville Comprehensive School, home of the Melville Cobras. They are accompanied by their teacher, Andy Rondeau, who's very supportive in bringing students to the Legislative Assembly, who in his spare time is also a Melville city councillor; and Vice-Principal Darren Wandy, who is a passionate advocate for junior baseball in Melville and is a key organizer in the highly successful Parkland Outdoor Show and Expo.

I am looking forward to their engaging discussions. And I would like all members to welcome the Melville Comprehensive students and their teachers to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd just like to join in briefly with this welcome to the students and the teachers, the principal from Melville, but particularly on behalf of the official opposition in my capacity as critic for Municipal Affairs, it's an honour to welcome Andy Rondeau to his Assembly — city councillor in Melville, an exceptional teacher. It's a pleasure to have him and his students in the Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[13:45]

PRESENTING PETITIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Batoche.

Mr. Kirsch: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise today to present a petition from the citizens who are opposed, strongly 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 good citizens of Dalmeny. I do so present. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise once again to present petitions on behalf of concerned citizens, businesses, communities from all across Saskatchewan as it relates to the Sask Party government's choice to impose the PST [provincial sales tax] onto construction labour.

Of course they also expanded the PST and hiked it to 6 per cent, accounting to the tune of a billion-dollar tax hike for Saskatchewan people. I know for Saskatchewan households, it's hit them hard, with the average household now paying \$800 more per year in PST than they were just four years ago. Of course that hurts our economy.

And as it relates to the Sask Party's imposition of this tax onto construction labour, well quite simply it's the epitome of a job-killing tax. Sadly permits are down all across Saskatchewan. Projects that are important have been shelved. Thousands of hard-working tradespeople have lost their jobs. So many of them have had to leave the province in pursuit of employment, a loss for them and their family, certainly a loss for us as a province.

The prayer reads as follows:

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

The petitions today are signed by concerned residents of Regina. I so submit.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Melville-Saltcoats.

Tentative Agreement in CN Labour Dispute

Hon. Mr. Kaeding: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We all know that the best agreements are those reached at the bargaining table, so I want to congratulate Teamsters Canada and the Canadian National railway for reaching a tentative agreement this morning. It is unfortunate that the strike has affected so many industries and livelihoods across the country. And the impact has been felt here at home in Saskatchewan, and most certainly in my constituency of Melville-Saltcoats.

Mr. Speaker, with all of the challenges the country faces with moving our commodities to market, a rail strike was the last situation anyone wanted to see. Even without job actions like this, we've seen our railways struggle to keep up to our province's growing economy as we attempt to feed and fuel the world. But I know over 3,000 people will be glad to get back to their jobs and be working hard to clear the backlog that was created, Mr. Speaker. The world needs more of Saskatchewan, and this is one of the major arteries that helps ensure food security and energy security as well.

So once again I'd like to say thank you to Canadian National railway and Teamsters for getting this resolved and getting an agreement signed. And to all groups and organizations that advocated and supported getting this situation resolved quickly, we thank you.

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

New Rest and Reading Space for Mental Health Unit at Victoria Hospital

Ms. Rancourt: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On July 12th a very special space was officially opened at the mental health unit at Victoria Hospital in Prince Albert. The space is called Angela's Corner and is designed to provide rest and reading material for the hundreds of children and youth who are admitted to the mental health unit each year.

This space is named after Angela Morrison, who lost her battle with depression in March of 2018. Angela's parents, Sheldon and Shannon, wanted to honour her memory and cut the ribbon for the official opening surrounded by family and friends. Mr. Speaker, the space is filled with tributes to Angela and include her graduation photo, a mural created by a local artist, and many shelves of donated books. Angela's parents hope that this space will help young people who are struggling with mental health problems, and want this space to be a quiet refuge for the young people in need.

Mr. Speaker, while this space is a beautiful tribute to Angela, we know we are losing our young people too often. We know a suicide prevention strategy is an important first step in better supporting Saskatchewan children and youth who are giving up hope.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members join with me in remembering Angela Morrison and in thanking her family and friends for creating Angela's Corner at the mental health unit at Prince Albert's Victoria Hospital. Thank you.

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

Recipients of Premier's Board of Education Award for Innovation and Excellence in Education

Ms. Wilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On Monday, November 18th the Saskatchewan Rivers Public Board of Education and the Saskatchewan Rivers Students for Change received the 2019 Premier's Board of Education Award for Innovation and Excellence in Education.

The Premier's Award recognizes educational innovations and improvements focused on student achievement that have been advanced or directed by school boards. This is also a significant award, as this year marks the 20th anniversary of the awards.

The group won awards for their submission of "Empowering Students and Responding to Student Voice: A Student-led Pathway to Improve Student Outcomes." In its application for the award, Saskatchewan Rivers said its board, along with a team of students, implemented a division-wide council known as the

Saskatchewan Rivers Students for Change. This council, made up of student trustees, discusses challenges and opportunities. They take part in leadership and learning, plan actions and events, and advocate for student learning and well-being.

Mr. Speaker, the council is a valuable tool, as they provide advice and perspective directly to the board. This important student involvement provides an opportunity to lead change and positively affect student achievements and outcomes. I ask all members to join me in congratulating the Saskatchewan Rivers Public School Board and Students for Change trustees on being recognized and awarded for their innovative and inclusive approach to education. Thank you.

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

Indigenous Christian Fellowship's Annual Fundraiser

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The Indigenous Christian Fellowship has been a force for good in Regina's inner city for over 40 years now. During my time in office I've had the privilege to work closely with ICF [Indigenous Christian Fellowship] director Bert Adema and his dedicated staff and volunteers, so I'm well aware of the wonderful work they do ministering to the physical and spiritual needs of some of Regina's most disadvantaged citizens. It's important work largely funded by organizations, businesses, and churches who recognize that healthy individuals and families are the fundamental building blocks of healthy communities.

Earlier this fall, I and the member for Regina Northeast attended the ICF's annual fundraiser. It was a wonderful evening with over 300 folks attending. Over two dozen sponsors purchased tables so attendance at the event was free, but there were even more contributors to the silent auction. A big thank you to all of them as well as to the gala organizers: Peter Braun, Diane Campeau, Kathleen De Wolde, and Gail Fry.

The entertainment throughout the evening was excellent as well and featured Ji-gaabiikwe Campeau's drumming and singing, Meadow Musqua dancing, and Jennifer Jade Kerr singing, though not all at the same time, Mr. Speaker. The heart of the event were the folks who spoke to the evening's theme of Hurt, Healing, and Hope, and the positive influence that ICF has had in their lives. I think of in particular Beatrice Wallace and Jason Whitecap.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to acknowledge Don List of Bird Song Communications, MC [master of ceremonies] extraordinaire Lyle Daniels, and Elder May Desnomie for their contributions to the evening. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Diabetes Canada Plays Important Role

Mr. Olauson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this evening the members will have the pleasure of joining Diabetes Canada for a reception here at the legislature. It will be an opportunity to hear from their leadership, staff, and volunteers, and express our appreciation for their contributions.

Diabetes Canada continues to play an important role in research, advocacy, and awareness efforts, both nationally and here in Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, as you know, diabetes can have a significant impact on the individual and their family. That's why education, early diagnosis, and treatment are so important in preventing or managing this condition.

During the noon hour, Diabetes Canada organized their risk assessment for type 2 diabetes for MLAs here at the legislature, and I was pleased to participate. Mr. Speaker, our government recognizes that diabetes is a serious condition that affects many people in our province. We continue to support those affected by providing services, medication, devices, and supplies. Working in partnership with other agencies and organizations like Diabetes Canada is very important. And we appreciate the work that they do to help people with diabetes live longer, better, healthier lives.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in thanking the Diabetes Canada leadership, staff, and volunteers for their service to Saskatchewan people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member of Saskatchewan Assembly Recognized for Exceptional Service

Mr. Doke: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Each year, the Pacific NorthWest Economic Region, more commonly known as PNWER, recognizes a person who has gone above and beyond to build trust and co-operation across the US [United States]-Canada border. In honour of PNWER's founder, this recognition comes in the form of the Alan Bluechel Memorial Award. Mr. Speaker, at this year's PNWER's Summit in Saskatoon, the Premier and myself presented the award to our very own, the member from Lumsden-Morse.

I'd like to read a quote from the PNWER *Daily News* at the Summit, and it reads as follows:

Lyle Stewart was honoured with this award for his exceptional service to both Canada and the United States during his service as Saskatchewan's first president of PNWER as well as his two years as vice-president.

Mr. Speaker, during the member's time as president, he advocated and facilitated trade, investment, and co-operation between the economies of northwestern North America. In addition to energy and mining, the member ensured that agriculture was at the forefront of PNWER's agenda by addressing red tape, promoting agricultural exports, and fighting for issues like electronic certification for livestock. He also addressed top environmental concerns like invasive aquatic species such as quagga and zebra mussels.

As past president of PNWER, I am incredibly honoured to be following in the footsteps of such a great leader. Mr. Speaker, I now ask that all members of this Assembly join me in congratulating the member from Lumsden-Morse on this incredible achievement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Batoche.

Pilger Pumpkin Fest

Mr. Kirsch: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On September 28th the town of Pilger in my constituency grew from a population of 26 to well over 400. Mr. Speaker, people came from all over the province to the 15th annual Pilger Pumpkin Festival. The festival honours all things pumpkin, including pumpkin pies, decorations, and the biggest and best of all — the pumpkin-growing competition.

Mr. Speaker, I was honoured to once again be MC of the competition. The junior local honours went to Preston Hoppe with his 192-pound pumpkin, and the seniors' local prize went to Doreen Dobrohoczki's at 289-pound pumpkin. Mr. Speaker, while these are some big plants, they pale in comparison to the competition's king of all pumpkins — Kolby Neufeld's 472-pound, washing machine-size pumpkin.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to the pumpkin-growing competition, the festival included bouncy castles, wagon rides, scavenger hunts, and much more. The day capped off with a breathtaking fireworks display. And as the saying goes, there may be frost on the pumpkin, but there was warmth in everyone's heart at the 15th annual Pilger Pumpkin Fest. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Support for Education

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, nearly half of Saskatchewan elementary students say that they have been physically assaulted in school at least once, the highest rate in the country. And today a union representing education workers and their schools released the results of their survey, which shows just how violent their workplaces, our children's schools, have become.

One education worker wrote in the survey, and I quote, "Violent behaviour from students seems to be increasing every year." Another said:

From my experience, the problem of violence is escalating. As well there seems to be an increase in the behavioural issues of students and less support to manage those needs.

This violence takes its toll on students and on educators and on parents who are concerned for their children's safety. This violence is a symptom of overcrowding and understaffing that we see in our classrooms, and it has gotten markedly worse as the result of this government's cuts to per-student funding.

[14:00]

To the Premier: what are you doing to address this growing concern of violence in our children's schools?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Well, Mr. Speaker, the Attorney General and I had the great privilege of meeting with representatives this morning to talk about the recommendations and some of the information that has come out in their report.

Mr. Speaker, that's the second time that I have met with the committee, Mr. Speaker, and I have indicated, and so has the Attorney General, that we're continuing to prepare to meet with them again, Mr. Speaker. The report is currently with the Ministry of Education and I know that the Attorney General's office is also looking at a number of the recommendations that have come forward in this report, Mr. Speaker.

But I can't help but think, and I made this comment this morning, that a lot of the work that's been done by this report — we're very happy to receive it, Mr. Speaker — is inextricably linked to some of the composition issues that we have in our classrooms, Mr. Speaker. And we are taking steps to address the issue of composition in our classrooms. Mr. Speaker, we've done that by creating a committee that's going to be looking directly at this issue.

But we know, Mr. Speaker, that by dealing with issues in our classrooms, the composition issues in particular, Mr. Speaker, that's going to lead to a path forward where we can start to address a number of these issues. But in the meantime, the Ministry of Education and the office of the Attorney General is looking quite closely at the recommendations and the material that was provided in the report, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Beck: — It's encouraging, Mr. Speaker, to hear that there might be some action taken on this, because this is an issue that needs our urgent attention. The CUPE education survey released found that 40 per cent of education support workers experience violence in our schools daily, weekly, and monthly. And fully 70 per cent of EAs [educational assistant] have experienced violence at least once in the last three years — 70 per cent, Mr. Speaker.

Two-thirds have said that they are somewhat or significantly concerned about their own mental health and safety in our schools, and one in five has lost time away from their job because of violence that they've experienced.

Will the minister finally concede that with falling per-student funding in each of the last three years, his government's cuts are hurting students, they're hurting staff, and they're letting Saskatchewan people down?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, as I've mentioned on the floor of this Assembly more than once, Mr. Speaker, this government's commitment to public education is the largest education budget in the history of this province. We'll continue to look at the issues that are affecting our classrooms, Mr. Speaker. Around composition, Mr. Speaker, some of the numbers that have been provided to us in this report are very concerning, Mr. Speaker, and both the Attorney General and I acknowledged that this morning in our meeting.

We've already acknowledged that we're going to continue to have conversations with the authors of the report, Mr. Speaker. Not just with the authors of the report, Mr. Speaker, but our other partners in education, whether that's the SSBA [Saskatchewan School Boards Association] or the STF [Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation], Mr. Speaker, to make sure that we address this very

serious issue. But as I mentioned in my last answer, Mr. Speaker, this is inextricably linked to the composition issues in our classroom, which this government is taking active steps to address.

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

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, this issue is also inextricably linked to the lack of funding in our classrooms. And as we've noted, we have Jackie Christianson and Marie Moore with us today from the education workers steering committee, and they have some questions for the ministers.

They are calling for action from school divisions and the province, including for the government to significantly increase operating funding to allow for the hiring of additional EAs, and a letter of commitment, a letter of commitment from the provincial government affirming that it will work with stakeholders to reduce workplace violence in our schools. It's urgently needed, Mr. Speaker. Will the Premier commit to this today?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, we made representations this morning in our meeting. We'll have more meetings with the committee, Mr. Speaker, as our respective ministries, between mine and the Ministry of the Attorney General, analyze the recommendations that have been put forward, Mr. Speaker.

And, Mr. Speaker, I stand every day in this House listening to the questions that come from the member opposite, Mr. Speaker, and she demands lots of things from this government. But the one thing we never hear from that member or anybody on that side of the House, is what their plan is.

Mr. Speaker, we've developed a plan. We've developed a protocol to deal with some of the very serious issues in our classroom, Mr. Speaker. And all the member opposite does is stand up and say, just throw a whole bunch more money at it, Mr. Speaker. We're not going to do that without a plan. We're not going to do that without a plan to address the very serious issues that are in our classroom, Mr. Speaker.

Now, Mr. Speaker, as we move forward with the work of the committee, Mr. Speaker, we'll be considering all the options that are available to us, Mr. Speaker. And what the people of Saskatchewan can expect is action from this government.

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

Provision of Long-Term Care in Regina

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, yesterday a memo went out to the staff of Regina Pioneer Village. It says wards in the facility continue to be closed each week because they're full of mould and that to date, 142 beds have been closed. It mentions that seniors continue to be shuffled around and may be located out of the community.

Mr. Speaker, the deteriorating condition of this building has been known to this government for years. Their own assessment

showed that as early as 2014 it was in critical condition and needed \$60 million in repairs, yet they've sat on their hands. How did this government fail to plan for this, and where exactly will the seniors who are losing their homes be relocated?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the member opposite stated, there is a serious mould issue at Regina Pioneer Village. We've known about this for quite some time. Remediation work has been under way for quite some time, Mr. Speaker. Repair work's being done. While part of the facility is closed, much of the facility is still open, Mr. Speaker.

An RFP [request for proposal] was issued by the Saskatchewan Health Authority some time ago. It has closed now, Mr. Speaker. They're asking for proposals where we could look at affiliates or private sector or CBOs [community-based organization], Mr. Speaker, that might be interested in providing those services as we decide what we're going to do long term.

Mr. Speaker, while that review work is being done, it's going to be compared to a traditional build within the system. Mr. Speaker, this is not any different than what has been done for many years in long-term care, including under the members opposite, where you look at a mix of affiliates, of private, and of Saskatchewan Health Authority facilities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, since 2011 this government has closed 207 long-term care beds in the Regina area, despite the growing need. Seniors are being moved out of their home at Pioneer Village. Families using the hostel at Wascana village have been displaced. And this government is just now starting the planning to mitigate an issue they should have addressed years ago. Again, to the minister: what is the plan to add desperately needed long-term care beds in Regina?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Mr. Speaker, as I said, the RFP issued by the Saskatchewan Health Authority called for the same number of beds as in Regina Pioneer Village, approximately 350 beds I believe, Mr. Speaker. As they do the review work, compare that to whether we should go to an affiliate or to a CBO or to the private sector, Mr. Speaker, that'll be weighed against a traditional build as is operated right now. Mr. Speaker, in the meantime, to help alleviate some of the beds that have been closed . . . And again I would reiterate, there's remediation work being done at Regina Pioneer Village to save some of the beds that are there, Mr. Speaker.

While that work is being done, an RFP has also been issued for 100 beds to help alleviate some of that congestion. Mr. Speaker, we think that'll probably be awarded very soon. You'll be hearing something about it. Mr. Speaker, it's just simply not accurate to say nothing has been done. Mr. Speaker, the SHA [Saskatchewan Health Authority] has been working diligently on this.

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, it's not just seniors and their families who are being hurt by this government's inaction. Yesterday hundreds of Pioneer Village and Wascana Rehab employees were told their positions no longer exist. Christmas is around the corner. People in Saskatchewan are already having a hard time making ends meet, and now hundreds of people are left wondering where they'll get their next paycheque, because this government failed to invest in long-term care.

To the minister: what is this government's plan to ensure there are no permanent job losses as a result of the issues at Pioneer Village?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Mr. Speaker, approximately half the beds, roughly half the beds at Regina Pioneer Village have had to be closed right now because of the mould issue. Mr. Speaker, no staffing cuts have been made. At some point, Mr. Speaker, we need to reflect less beds in the facility. We've been doing much of it through attrition. There's been a significant number of FTEs [full-time equivalent] that have been reduced by attrition, Mr. Speaker . . . Well the member says, how many layoffs? As of now, Mr. Speaker, there's been none. Every effort has been made to do this through attrition.

Mr. Speaker, what will be happening, the letters that were given to unions, this was to notify them under their collective bargaining agreements so discussions could start on what to do, how to handle appropriately the employees that will be affected, Mr. Speaker. Officials at the SHA tell me that because there's a large number of employees working in this industry in Regina and Regina area, Mr. Speaker, that there is constant turnover. They believe that if not all, most of these employees will be employed within the sector.

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

Whistle-Blower Legislation

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, it's pretty remarkable for the Minister of Health to suggest that there isn't a chill on raising concerns by public sector employees. We've seen the hush memo sent by the SHA to health care workers. The Public Interest Disclosure Commissioner has flagged concerns about the inadequacy of the public whistle-blower process and the fact information comes to her in brown envelopes. Now the nurses' union says that their members reach out to them quite frequently about raising concerns. This is something that we have been hearing about for years.

We are happy the minister has committed to making our request of legislative change, but more needs to be done to address this government's culture of fear. What's the minister's plan to ensure people feel safe coming forward?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the

Deputy Leader of the Opposition with her comments on ensuring that whistle-blower protection is provided to Saskatchewan Health Authority employees, Mr. Speaker. It's never been in any way, shape, or form, the intent of this government to muzzle health care workers, doctors. It absolutely has not been, Mr. Speaker. So that's why this initial step was taken.

To the member's specific question though, Mr. Speaker, I also mentioned yesterday that Justice officials are already now starting to work on a draft bill that we plan on introducing in the House next spring to ensure that all health care workers are afforded this protection, Mr. Speaker. They'll do a consultation phase as is typically done, Mr. Speaker. I'm sure the members will have an opportunity for input. Mr. Speaker, we want to assure health care workers in the province that there is no muzzling intended, and we want to clear up any perception of that.

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, yesterday and now today the minister said that neither he nor anyone in government are trying to muzzle doctors and front-line employees. It wasn't that long ago the former premier stood in the Assembly promising to protect Peter Bowden, a care aide in Saskatoon, only to have the Premier's office leak his personal information, costing him his job.

People have every reason to be concerned about coming forward, thanks to this government. Beyond legislative changes to the Act, what is this government's plan to better support whistle-blowers raising concerns and to make sure they're safe if they want to go to the Public Interest Commissioner?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned, by regulation in the next few weeks, Saskatchewan Health Authority employees will be covered under the provincial whistle-blower legislation, Mr. Speaker.

But as I also mentioned, we're going to move forward with legislation to protect all health care employees. Mr. Speaker, I think that's the ideal time to make sure that nothing slips through the cracks. We'll be drafting new legislation and it'll give Justice officials opportunity to make sure that everybody's covered, as I said. I think there would no doubt be a consultation phase. I think the members would certainly have an opportunity to send their thoughts in and weigh in on what the legislation would look like, Mr. Speaker.

Again I want to make it perfectly clear. There's no attempt on this side of the House by government to muzzle front-line employees, to muzzle doctors, Mr. Speaker. We're going to legislate that.

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

Carbon Tax Exemption

Mr. Pedersen: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To begin with, it's great news that a tentative agreement has been reached between

CN and rail workers. That's going to get Saskatchewan's agricultural products moving again.

Mr. Speaker, according to an opinion piece in *The Western Producer*, the fact that the Sask Party government was:

... unwilling to sign on to a letter penned by the Saskatchewan NDP calling for an early rebate paid out to farmers drying grain is telling enough. Instead of taking an opportunity to demonstrate bipartisan co-operation to the federal government on the issue, Moe politicized it . . .

With an issue as important as quick relief for our struggling grain producers, why didn't the government sign on immediately?

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

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have demonstrated very early in this process with the federal government that we are opposed to a carbon tax for all the people of Saskatchewan, including farmers, Mr. Speaker.

[14:15]

Mr. Speaker, in fact a year ago when the Premier and the Attorney General and myself had an interview, a press conference in the radio room of this very building, Mr. Speaker, I specifically identified farmers who dried their grain, farmers who use independent haulers to haul their grain, and farmers who use the rail lines to transport their grains — all who would be paying the carbon tax, Mr. Speaker. So I would say on this front we were far ahead of the NDP [New Democratic Party].

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

Mr. Pedersen: — Mr. Speaker, the minister's answer just pours gas on the fire and proves that the government would rather play politics than actually find solutions. Working productively with Ottawa, with whoever's in Ottawa, to get things done . . .

[Interjections]

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

Mr. Pedersen: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Working productively with the people, with whoever is in Ottawa to get things done for the people of this province is the Premier's job. The Leader of the Opposition's call for a rebate on the cost of grain drying was exactly that kind of proposal. Again from *The Western Producer*: "... current tactics are not working for anyone, notably the farmers stuck paying high grain-drying bills."

This government keeps pointing fingers to distract from their failure. Why won't they get to work to get things done for the people of this province?

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

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, this is certainly why we took the approach going back two years ago to put forward a made-in-Saskatchewan plan that would see a carbon tax imposed on not a single citizen of this province, whether they were a

farmer or not, Mr. Speaker, whether they were a farmer trying to dry their grain this winter or whether they were a family trying to drive their kids to hockey, Mr. Speaker. A carbon tax in Saskatchewan, in our economy . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. Member for Athabasca, order. I recognize the minister.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Well, Mr. Speaker, we were talking grain drying a year ago. We were talking grain drying more than a year ago when we put forward the plan for Saskatchewan, a made-in-Saskatchewan approach that would see a carbon tax imposed on not a single citizen of the province should the Government of Canada choose to accept Saskatchewan's plan, Mr. Speaker. I've had an opportunity to speak with the new Environment minister just today, Mr. Speaker. I look forward with working with Minister Wilkinson on this very particular issue as well as every other one that we share a common interest.

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

Mr. Pedersen: — Mr. Speaker, it's good news to hear that at least one minister on that side is working productively. But, Mr. Speaker, we know that the Premier is meeting with the Deputy Prime Minister today. Instead of just pointing fingers, we hope that the Premier will take a lesson from the Leader of the Opposition and work to find solutions and common ground. Will the Premier commit that he will raise the grain drying exemption today with the federal government?

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

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, I don't think anybody in this province needs to worry about this Premier of Saskatchewan raising what is in the interests of all Saskatchewan people at every single opportunity, whether it's with the Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister, or any minister of the Government of Canada, Mr. Speaker. This government, every single member on this side of the House, the cabinet, Mr. Speaker, will stand up for the people of Saskatchewan, unlike the members opposite who, when it comes to supporting the government of . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Just enter debate. No problem. I recognize the minister, so finish up, please.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, I would say again that the government on this side of the House, we're going to stand up for the people of Saskatchewan, unlike the members opposite. When it comes to an opportunity to support the federal government, Mr. Speaker, on the carbon tax or on certainly issues around pipelines, we know which side they stand on.

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

Mr. Pedersen: — Mr. Speaker, the question was for the Premier: will he commit to raising the grain drying exemption for the farmers in this province?

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

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, I will reiterate what I just said, Mr. Speaker. On the issue of the carbon tax, on the negative effect that the carbon tax has on the people of Saskatchewan, on the lives of people of Saskatchewan, on how people earn their income in this province, how they raise their families in this province, Mr. Speaker, I'm pretty confident that the Premier will raise that issue, Mr. Speaker, in terms of the effect of a carbon tax. How it's a negative effect on our economy, Mr. Speaker, and how we know it actually won't reduce emissions in this province, Mr. Speaker. So I have no confidence, Mr. Speaker, that the Premier will raise this very important issue.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Cumberland.

Construction of All-Season Road

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, northerners have been forgotten by this government. The Sask Party promised to build an all-season road to Wollaston Lake more than 10 years ago. Winter is coming but the ice road isn't ready yet, and the people have no road access while the lake freezes over.

When will the Sask Party finally deliver on a promise for an all-season road to Wollaston Lake and Hatchet Lake Dene Nation?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Highways.

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Mr. Speaker, this government takes northern infrastructure issues very seriously. In fact, Mr. Speaker, I've spoken to a number of the members over the last short while that I've been in this position, to forward their cause, as well as some of the issues that I've been aware of through the Ministry of Health previously, Mr. Speaker. That's why we've looked at, in consultation with the members from that area, on an all-season road, progressing with that project in the near future, Mr. Speaker. Also with improvements to areas like Cumberland, Cumberland airport, Pelican Narrows airport, and other infrastructure projects in the North to make sure that transportation is facilitated and safe in the North.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, northerners deserve so much better from their government. This was a promise made and it's a promise they've broken. People are trapped in their community when the barge stops running and the lake needs to freeze. This government has no problem spending \$2 billion on a bypass in the South, but they won't build a road to Wollaston Lake.

Why has this government abandoned the people in Wollaston Lake?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Highways.

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Mr. Speaker, we have been approached by the groups up in the Athabasca Basin about the project. And we are currently working on the three different phases that would be involved in that project, Mr. Speaker: the first phase involving construction of the winter road that will eliminate the need of travel on the ice road; phase 2 would be the upgraded seasonal road; and eventually working towards the upgraded all-weather road, phase 3, Mr. Speaker.

We know the record of this government when it comes to investment around the province, including in the North and in the South, Mr. Speaker. We know full well the member from Athabasca was previously a Highways minister. And we know under this government, the investments in the North have doubled when it comes to the infrastructure, as opposed to the members across the floor.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, it's simple. When would the good people of Wollaston Lake get their road?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Highways.

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Mr. Speaker, I believe the member across would know full well . . . Or maybe they don't. But this is a combination effort on behalf of the federal government and the provincial government, Mr. Speaker.

In fact we look at the provincial government investment in this road. We've already got the \$7.9 million invested in the first 14 kilometres, Mr. Speaker. We offered the federal government additional investment to encourage the construction of remaining parts of the road, Mr. Speaker, at least to the phase 1 to eliminate the need for the ice road. Mr. Speaker, we're currently waiting on information and some of the agreements back from the federal government.

We're willing to go above and beyond our commitment, the initial 7.9 million. Again we've built the 14 kilometres and we're working with stakeholders, including the federal government, in the near future to make sure that they live up to their commitment as well.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

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

POINT OF ORDER

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, in his comments, the Minister of Environment made a comment regarding the members on this side's viewpoints on pipelines. He said that we don't support pipelines. And, Mr. Speaker, as you know, I have a number of instances on the record where this side of the House fully and completely supports pipelines in Saskatchewan. I think that's an unparliamentary comment and he should apologize.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. In response to the point of order raised by the Opposition House Leader, the statement made by the Minister of the Environment is in fact factual, Mr. Speaker.

The members opposite stood up and voted against the Northern Gateway pipeline as one example, Mr. Speaker. The Leader of the Opposition has repeatedly stated his opposition to the energy sector, standing in front of a sign called "Keep it in the ground" when he gave one notable speech, Mr. Speaker.

I'm not really sure what grounds under which the member is raising the rule, but the statement in fact is factual.

The Speaker: — I'll take the point of order under advisement. Why is the member on her feet?

Ms. Sproule: — Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Sproule: — In his ironic comments, the Government House Leader made exactly the same allegations that the Minister of Environment has. And I have November 14th, 2019, this party, this side of the House supported all of those pipelines that they're talking about. On June 23rd, 2016, in a 75-minute debate, again this side of the House supported them. On April 29th, 2018, again this side of the House has continually supported pipelines. And the allegations being made by the Minister for the Environment and that House Leader, Mr. Speaker, are patently false.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. I see question period is continuing on points of order . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — This Assembly is asking me to come up with a response to a point of order. Can you give me the opportunity to listen? I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I believe the point of order was similar to the first one, and the response would be similar as well. The fact is and the reality is, that is a party opposite that does not support pipelines. In fact they stood up, Mr. Speaker, they voted against pipelines. They supported their national leader who campaigned . . .

The Speaker: — Okay. Thank you. I'll take this under . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Okay, enough's enough. I'll take this under advisement, this actual point, period. Why is the member on his feet?

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

The Speaker: — What is your point of order?

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — The member from Athabasca shouted across for everybody in the Assembly to hear that the Government House Leader was lying. I'd ask you to review the tape.

[Applause]

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Now they're applauding this, Mr. Speaker. How can they possibly be applauding unparliamentary language?

The Speaker: — Okay. I didn't hear the comment because everybody was yelling across at each other, so . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Stop it. Enough. Are you kidding me? I'll take it under advisement. That's it. I will go through the tape as well. That's it. We're moving on.

I recognize the Minister of Trade and Export.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to rule 15(2), I wish to withdraw item no. 1.

The Speaker: — We're in introduction of bills. I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I am assuming that we are now on second reading speeches for *The Lobbyists Amendment Act, 2019*. If we're not, I'll take my place and wait for it to come up sometime later on in the debate.

The Speaker: — Yes, we're not there.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 197 — *The Automobile Accident Insurance Amendment Act, 2019*

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

Hon. Mr. Hargrave: — Thank you. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 197, *The Automobile Accident Insurance Amendment Act, 2019* be now introduced and read a first time.

[14:30]

The Speaker: — It's been moved by the minister that Bill No. 197 be now introduced and read a first time. Pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Principal Clerk: — First reading of this bill.

The Speaker: — When shall this bill be read a second time?

Hon. Mr. Hargrave: — Next sitting of the Assembly.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

Bill No. 198 — *The Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2019*

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

Hon. Mr. Hargrave: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 198, *The Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2019* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It's been moved by the minister that Bill No. 198 be now introduced and read a first time. Pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Principal Clerk: — First reading of this bill.

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

Hon. Mr. Hargrave: — Next sitting of the Assembly.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

Bill No. 199 — *The Opioid Damages and Health Care Costs Recovery Act*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 199, *The Opioid Damages and Health Care Costs Recovery Act* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 199 be now introduced and read a first time. Pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Principal Clerk: — First reading of this bill.

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

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Next sitting of the Assembly.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT MOTIONS

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

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to rule 15(2), I wish to withdraw item no. 1 under government motions.

The Speaker: — The motion is withdrawn.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 195 — *The Lobbyists Amendment Act, 2019*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At long last, it's my privilege to rise today for the second reading of *The Lobbyists Amendment Act, 2019*. This bill will amend *The Lobbyists Act* to address recommendations made by the Registrar of Lobbyists in

his annual report.

The Lobbyists Act has been enforced since 2016 and provides transparency with respect to who is talking to public office-holders on certain issues. The Act requires that consultant lobbyists hired to represent a particular organization or interest for a limited time, and in-house lobbyists who are employees, register their activities with the registrar. The names of these individuals and who they are lobbying is available to the public.

Mr. Speaker, following the recommendations of the registrar, the proposed provisions will prohibit lobbyists from providing gifts or personal benefits to public office-holders. A gift or personal benefit is defined to include money, if there is no obligation to repay it, and a service, hospitality, or property, including the use of property that is provided without charge or for less than its commercial value. Additional items may be prescribed in the regulations.

There is a similar restriction against members receiving gifts in *The Members' Conflict of Interest Act*. This new provision will make it an offence under the Act for a lobbyist to provide a gift or personal benefit, except when that gift or personal benefit is part of the normal social conventions and is worth less than \$200.

Mr. Speaker, the proposed revisions will also remove the exception from registration for all non-profit organizations, as was recommended by the registrar. A limited exemption from registration for non-profits will continue for non-profit organizations with a charitable mandate and less than five employees who lobbied for a total of less than 30 hours per year. Small charities operating through volunteers will continue not to be required to register. All non-profits without a charitable mandate will be required to register.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, the registrar recommended that the threshold for registrations be reduced to promote transparency by requiring more individuals who lobby to register. The proposed provisions will reduce the threshold for registration as an in-house lobbyist from 100 hours spent lobbying to 30 hours, which includes time spent on preparation and travel for lobbying efforts. This will ensure that the activities of more individuals are captured by the legislation without requiring registration of every casual encounter with a public office-holder.

Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to move second reading of *The Lobbyists Amendment Act, 2019*.

The Speaker: — It has been moved that Bill No. 195 be now read a second time. Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Well thank you very much again, Mr. Speaker, for the opportunity on behalf of the official opposition to respond to Bill No. 196, *The Lobbyists Amendment Act*, Mr. Speaker. And I can say, well, well, well, we are making a step in the right direction as it pertains to addressing *The Lobbyists Act* that we have been calling for changes for over a number of years.

At this time, Mr. Speaker, I wanted to pay tribute to my colleague, the member from Saskatoon Centre, who has advocated on many occasions the ethics of politicians, so to speak, in this Assembly. And of course, Mr. Speaker, I am

speaking of the member from Saskatoon Centre.

And as we look at this particular bill, Mr. Speaker, my colleague led the charge in trying to do one very simple thing, and that is to provide accountability and transparency for the government. And who is lobbying the government for any particular favours, who is lobbying the government for any legislative changes, he feels, as we all feel within the NDP caucus, that there ought to be more insight as to who these lobbyists are, where they're from, what they do.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the member from Saskatoon Centre . . . I'm going to directly quote the media release that was sent out yesterday. And I think it's important for people to know exactly the intent of what we are trying to do as it pertains to the lobbyist challenges when it comes to accountability and transparency that the people of Saskatchewan should expect.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I'm directly quoting from the Saskatchewan NDP caucus, the media release. And I quote:

"A smaller loophole isn't good enough": NDP Ethics & Democracy Critic David Forbes says rule change insufficient.

NDP Ethics and Democracy Critic David Forbes slammed the Sask. Party government for failing to close a loophole in the lobbyist act in legislation they tabled today.

"A smaller loophole isn't good enough," said Forbes. "Under the new threshold, a lobbyist could meet a Minister for coffee every single week for more than six months without anybody knowing.

"These amendments let Saskatchewan people down by failing to fix the holes in our outdated rulebook. The Sask. Party just keeps looking out for the wealthy and well-connected instead of doing what's right for Saskatchewan people."

New amendments to the lobbyist act have lowered the threshold at which a company needs to register as a lobbyist from 100 hours to 30 [hours]. Forbes said the threshold should simply be eliminated, so that all lobbying activity is on the public record. Registrar of Lobbyists Ron Barclay has made the same call.

"The Sask Party has a long history of skirting the rules and falling short of what people expect," said Forbes. "By failing to implement these long-overdue changes, the Sask Party government is letting people down yet again."

And I end my quote, Mr. Speaker.

It's really important for the people of Saskatchewan to know that as the government gets lobbied — as all other governments are lobbied throughout Canada and throughout the world in every free democracy, Mr. Speaker — we think it's important to note that people have a right to say, okay, who's lobbying our government for certain things. And that's one of the reasons why the member from Saskatoon Centre followed very carefully the legislation and was hoping that all lobbyists are registered right down to . . . without the time frame of 30 hours. That in fact

should be zero hours.

Now, Mr. Speaker, one can accuse my colleague from Saskatoon Centre of being political, because that's exactly what the current government will do. But, Mr. Speaker, as indicated in the media release, the Registrar of Lobbyists, Ron Barclay, has also made the same call, and he's an independent officer of this Assembly. So, Mr. Speaker, it is very important to note that Mr. Barclay is well respected, but more so an independent officer of this legislature, and he concurred that the time frame should be zero and not 30 hours.

Now, Mr. Speaker, why is it important for Saskatchewan people to know who is lobbying their government, Mr. Speaker, and for what reason? And of course obviously, Mr. Speaker, the vast majority of people that do lobby governments across the country — provincial governments, territorial governments, national government — they all certainly have desires and changes of law and things that make it easier for businesses to thrive and so on and so forth. And that's really important.

The lobbying efforts by various organizations and business communities across the province should have a right to lobby their government. Nobody's disputing that fact. I think our ethics critic has been very clear in the fact that he said, look, this is all part of government doing business. But they should be under the microscope. They should be registered and people of Saskatchewan have a right to know what is it that they require and who is lobbying for some of these changes.

This bill says that anything under 30 hours, they don't need to register. And, Mr. Speaker, it's not as if the registration process is a long, onerous process, Mr. Speaker. They can do it online. They can use their mobile phones. It's a very easy process to register as a lobbyist here in Saskatchewan because, Mr. Speaker, that's exactly what we intended all along, is to make sure that people know who a lobbyist is and what they're lobbying for. It's very simple, Mr. Speaker.

What we're trying to do is take the ability for the Sask Party to concoct deals in the back alleys or in backrooms, Mr. Speaker. We need to shine a light on what that activity is because we've seen hundreds of examples, not only with the Regina bypass, Mr. Speaker, but with other initiatives as well, where there's a lot of lobbying going on in the backrooms, Mr. Speaker. And I would dare say that the birth of the Sask Party was concocted in a backroom, Mr. Speaker, in the dead of night.

So we needed to make sure that we have a really bright light on who is lobbying this current government, Mr. Speaker, because the past practice has certainly shown that they can pick and choose how they're going to do business. And, Mr. Speaker, despite our calls as the opposition to try and clear up the air about who a lobbyist is, once again, Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party has failed miserably on trying to provide the insight required by the Saskatchewan people to see who is lobbying the government and for what.

And we can't simply have a threshold of 30 hours, Mr. Speaker. Anything under 30 hours you're not required to register. We say it should be zero hours. And everybody that's lobbying the government for certain things, it should be a well-known fact that some of the changes that they require. We need to know those

facts, Mr. Speaker.

So I want to point out this is something that we obviously have to let the people of Saskatchewan know what our challenges are on this bill. I certainly look forward to the member from Saskatoon Centre as he takes his place. And, Mr. Speaker, if you look at the ethics critic that we have on this side of the Assembly, Mr. Speaker, a long, storied career not only as a teacher but as a great minister. And as a great representative, I'm sorry to see that this will be his last term.

But nonetheless, Mr. Speaker, some of the issues that he's been championing of course, is to make sure the MLA seats are filled in this particular Assembly. And we're seeing that a number of them are not filled because of this government refusing to call those by-elections.

We see the challenges around campaign finance law that he's been advocating for, Mr. Speaker, and now we see *The Lobbyists Amendment Act*.

So, Mr. Speaker, the member from Saskatoon Centre has had his work cut out for him from the Saskatchewan Party over the last number of years. And it is an incredible job, Mr. Speaker. It is an incredible task to keep conservatives in check, Mr. Speaker, because they're always moving. And, Mr. Speaker, like we said before, they formed their party in the dead of night where nobody could actually see what was going on and lo and behold, the Saskatchewan Party was born.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think it's important that people know this is once again part of their MO [modus operandi], Mr. Speaker. We've seen it from this particular minister on some of the calls around voter participation. There's still a great number of concerns around voter suppression that was part of this minister's democracy Act, so to speak.

[14:45]

Well once again, Mr. Speaker, these watered-down Acts like *The Lobbyists Amendment Act* where there was some real effort that could have been shown on this Act and, Mr. Speaker, they have picked and chosen which Acts they want to be tough on and which Acts they want to be lax on. And once again, Mr. Speaker, this minister doesn't fail to disappoint us because he has quite frankly failed on the Bill 196 because everybody in Saskatchewan should know who's lobbying their government. We agree with that position. Ron Barclay agrees with that position. But this minister refuses to move because I think they're trying to avoid the necessary oversight and accountability and transparency of who's lobbying this government for what, Mr. Speaker. We need to know those issues right from the start.

So I'm looking forward to the member from Saskatoon Centre's presentation to the Assembly on this particular bill. I know he has a lot more to say than I do, and he's got such a wealth of experience. And I think we're going to see a lot of sparks fly when he speaks about this particular bill, Mr. Speaker, because he's very passionate. And once again the conservatives have consistently failed the people of Saskatchewan, but we're not surprised by it, Mr. Speaker, and they have watered down this bill to a point where any of the changes necessary are not going to . . .

The Speaker: — The member is well aware how to address the government side. You can address them by their correct title.

Mr. Belanger: — So, Mr. Speaker, again I'm looking forward to the member from Saskatoon Centre's presentation, and I move that we adjourn debate on Bill 196, *The Lobbyists Amendment Act*.

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. 196 — *The Members' Conflict of Interest Amendment Act, 2019*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to move second reading of *The Members' Conflict of Interest Amendment Act, 2019*. This bill will amend *The Members' Conflict of Interest Act* to address recommendations made by the Conflict of Interest Commissioner in his 2018 annual report.

As all the members are aware, the duties of members of this Assembly and members of Executive Council with respect to conflicts of interest, including disclosure requirements for members, are set out in *The Members' Conflict of Interest Act*. The disclosure process by members is overseen by the Conflict of Interest Commissioner. The commissioner receives annual private disclosure statements from every member and provides public disclosure statements to the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, in the past year the commissioner has used his broad discretion under the Act to require that members provide a description of assets of private companies in which they have a controlling interest. The proposed amendments will codify this new practice and require this information as part of all disclosure statements.

Additionally, while the current Act places requirements on new and existing members to file disclosure statements, there is no such requirements on a former member. In some cases there may be a gap between a member's last disclosure statement and the date when the member ceases to hold office. The bill will require members to file a disclosure statement within 60 days of ceasing to be a member. This provision will ensure that a disclosure statement has been provided for the entire time the member was active.

Mr. Speaker, the bill will also permit a former member to ask the commissioner for an opinion or recommendation regarding his or her obligations under the Act for one year after ceasing to be a member. The Act currently places obligations on former members for this period but does not allow a former member to seek advice from the commissioner.

Finally, the commissioner requested that the bill add a definition of "gift or personal benefit" for the purpose of section 7 of the Act. The existing provision prohibits a member or a member's family from accepting a fee, gift, or personal benefit. However

no direction is provided to what will qualify as a gift or personal benefit. This change will provide further direction to the commissioner in this regard.

Mr. Speaker, this Act is an important piece of legislation that will increase the transparency of members and increase the confidence of the people in Saskatchewan in their elected representatives. Mr. Speaker, it's my privilege and I'm pleased to move second reading of *The Members' Conflict of Interest Amendment Act, 2019*.

The Speaker: — It has been moved that Bill No. 196 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. On Bill 196, *The Members' Conflict of Interest Amendment Act*, this is also a very interesting bill that we'll be spending a lot of time examining, Mr. Speaker, as to the merits of trying to ensure that the conflicts of interest amendments being proposed in this particular Act really meet the threshold of ensuring not only are members required to disclose their assets, Mr. Speaker, but any private business or holdings that they're currently engaged with.

Again it points out that there's a description of the assets of any private companies controlled by a member or a member's family be included in the disclosure statements. Mr. Speaker, it requires that a former member also provide a disclosure statement with the commissioner within 60 days after ceasing to be a member. And I think it's probably obviously going to not affect a number of Sask Party members that have since left the government, Mr. Speaker, which is too bad because this should have been in place a number of months ago, as we would have had a lot more information to shift through and look at because it's something that we think is really important for the people of Saskatchewan to know.

It talks about a definition of a "gift or personal benefit." It also authorizes former members to request a recommendation from the commissioner during the 12 months following the date that former member ceases to hold office. So what happened, I'm assuming, is that after a year that a former member could ask to be withdrawn from the public disclosure, Mr. Speaker. And certainly I think after a year that that's probably something that we need to have a look at and get some further advice as well, Mr. Speaker.

So we know that many members of the Legislative Assembly own shares in a holding company or numbered companies and their disclosure statement did not reveal anything about the assets held by these numbered companies. This information needs to be publicly disclosed for more transparency. And, Mr. Speaker, we have a number of, a bunch of information on which members from the Saskatchewan Party government have in terms of assets and company names.

Now, Mr. Speaker, as opposed to simply putting those names in the public disclosure document, we need to know what the nature of those business dealings are about, and this bill provides that. So it's certainly going to be an interesting exercise for us to go through and shift through what these companies are doing, Mr. Speaker, because I think there's less than or just over 20 members of the Saskatchewan Party government that does not have any

particular business interest, Mr. Speaker, while the rest do.

So we are pleased to see that the change in this bill would give us a bit of insight as to what these companies did, a bit more of an explanation. As opposed to simply putting in your company name, you need to explain what the company does. And that's something that we're certainly looking forward to, and we will shift through the information at the appropriate time.

So until that time, Mr. Speaker, I move that we adjourn debate on Bill 196, *The Members' Conflict of Interest Amendment Act, 2019*. I so move.

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 Saskatoon Nutana.

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's hard to not make a few word-of-mouth jokes about this bill because it's about bees, but I won't. I'll resist temptation. Actually it's the bee's knees. That's what I'm hearing from over there, Mr. Speaker.

And I have to say there's some good changes being proposed by this Act to amend *The Apiaries Act* from 2005. And I know our critic for Agriculture will be, will be able to comment fully on this as he is a well-known beekeeper himself. So I don't have a lot much more to add to this. I know that concerns are being raised and American foulbrood is now going to be included as a disease that needs to be identified and reported. And there are some housekeeping changes here as well.

Of course we know in what we see happening in environmental changes across the world is the sudden decline of bee populations, unexplained in many cases, Mr. Speaker. And I think anyone knows that the importance of what the honeybees add to our agriculture is without calculation, Mr. Speaker. It's just absolutely part of the necessary process to grow crops. And in many cases, Mr. Speaker, although this Act is dealing specifically with honeybees, we just know that the bee population is a very, very important part of our environment and we need to ensure that those populations will be healthy and thrive into the future, Mr. Speaker.

So at this point I have no further comment to make, and I move to adjourn the debate on Bill No. 179, *The Apiaries Amendment Act, 2019*.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 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 Regina Lakeview.

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my delight to stand in the Assembly this afternoon and enter into debate on Bill No. 180, *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Government Relations — Transfer of Gas, Electrical and Plumbing Functions) Amendment Act* of 2019. That's a bit of a mouthful, Mr. Speaker.

As I think is quite self-evident from the title of this bill, this is a bill that contemplates significant changes to several bills, namely *The Gas Licensing Act*, *The Gas Inspection Act* of 1993, *The Electrical Licensing Act*, *The Electrical Inspection Act* of 1993, *The Technical Safety Authority of Saskatchewan Act*, the passenger and freight elevator safety Act, *The Public Health Act*, 1994, and *The Uniform Building and Accessibility Standards Act*.

So seven Acts in all, Mr. Speaker, all having to do with inspection and really dealing with public safety and oversight of those functions, Mr. Speaker, things that we maybe are aware of on a daily basis if we take an elevator daily but also things that, you know, maybe we don't realize are under our feet until there's a problem or in the walls, so something that very much needs to be given proper oversight. And I think people of this province rely on this Assembly to be able to ensure that there is proper oversight.

I'll just read briefly from the minister's second reading statements on . . . This is from November the 4th in 2019 in *Hansard*, Mr. Speaker. "This bill, if passed . . . [would] transfer responsibility for gas, electrical, and plumbing licensing and inspection functions to the Technical Safety Authority of Saskatchewan," otherwise known in the statements and in legislation as TSASK. Of course this was a non-profit that was created in 2010.

Mr. Speaker, I think that there are some concerns with this bill around capacity, you know, just to ensure that we have the balance right, again owing that these are very important oversight responsibilities that are being transferred to this non-profit, who by all measures until now has performed their tasks well and safely. But again this is adding a great deal of additional responsibility to that non-profit so we want to make sure that we've got the balance right there.

Also some questions about consultation and impacts on jobs, Mr. Speaker, in an era in this province right now where so many folks are struggling to get by. It's those jobs that do pay the bills and provide stability, are ever so important.

So I know that those are some questions we will have in committee. We will continue to meet with stakeholders and fulfill our duty as the official opposition. But in the meantime, Mr. Speaker, I will move to 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 Regina Northeast.

[15:00]

Mr. Pedersen: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, privileged to rise and participate in the debate on this bill. Mr. Speaker, it will come as no surprise that the oil and gas industry mineral taxation, to which this bill applies, is an important part of our economy, important part of Saskatchewan. This side of the House knows that very well. Actually I think the other side of House knows this very well as well, Mr. Speaker. Oil and gas, agriculture, forestry, potash — all of these natural resources that Saskatchewan's blessed with, these are very, very important to our economy.

Mr. Speaker, I think where we differ sometimes is that when it comes to a province like Saskatchewan where, frankly, our population is not high, we're a fairly sparsely populated province, when it comes to places in the world where they're blessed with natural resources but they don't have significant amounts of population, what the challenge that presents for government is striking a balance between being able to utilize and extract those resources, but also strike a balance where the value from those resources is actually kept here in the province.

And in that respect, Mr. Speaker, that's where this government has failed. This government's view is simply that the more that you take out, the more that you grow, that will somehow fix everything, but the problem is that leaves us completely at the mercy of the markets. And what we've seen is that when the price of those resources goes down, it has a devastating impact on the economy because the government hasn't done enough to actually keep the value from those here in the province, to use that value, generate it to diversify the economy to make us more resilient to those fluctuations in resource prices.

Mr. Speaker, the reality is that this session we're dealing with frankly a pretty light legislative agenda. When we look at the bills that we've dealt with and the bills before us, most of it is really just tinkering here and there. There's a little bit of wordsmithing here and there, housekeeping, cleaning up the language, updating the language, but no substantial changes.

And of course, Mr. Speaker, what that means is it's a

wholehearted endorsement on the part of the government that the status quo is just fine. And, Mr. Speaker, the status quo is not just fine in this province. There's a lot of people in our province right now who are hurting, a lot of people who are struggling paying their mortgages, a lot of people who are struggling paying their bills, who are struggling with the wait times in our health care system. Mr. Speaker, that is not okay.

Mr. Speaker, when it comes to this bill, this bill talks again . . . what I would call some pretty minute tinkering. We're adding a definition of electronic signature, Mr. Speaker. We're introducing the electronic management system to administer mineral tax rights. And, Mr. Speaker, I'm sure that's beneficial to the province, but what answer is that to someone who has taken their kid into the emergency room because they've just attempted suicide? What answer is that to someone who is waiting in the waiting room or in the hallways in the hospital for 16 or 24 hours, waiting to get the care they need, waiting to see a doctor?

Mr. Speaker, this bill also changes the way the area of mineral titles is determined. Again, I'm sure that's very necessary for the administration of this legislation. But, Mr. Speaker, what answer is that to the farmer who has got 30 or 40 per cent of his crop left standing out in the field, that hasn't been able to have it harvested because of the wet weather this fall?

Mr. Speaker, this bill removes a clause that has a payment of \$960 per nominal section of the area owned by that mineral rights holder. Again, probably a necessary tweak to the legislation. But what answer is that to someone who's struggling because they've been unemployed for the last 12 months or 18 months because the current government would rather hire out-of-province companies to work on the big infrastructure projects in this province?

Mr. Speaker, this bill determines that the owner of mineral rights will pay a tax calculated at the prescribed rate. Probably a very fine change. I don't know exactly what the rationale is for that change. But, Mr. Speaker, all of this, all of the tweaking in this bill, all of the tweaking in the vast majority of the bills in front of us are not fixing this government's broken record on actually helping people's lives on a daily basis. And that is what is needed, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, this bill talks about changing the procedures around the transfers of mineral rights. That's great. You know, it's necessary to facilitate the transfer of mineral rights and other properties in the province. But, Mr. Speaker, it's even more important to see governments working on things like a suicide strategy or the education and health care that our kids and our seniors and people who are in need . . . It's important to see them getting the care that they need.

Mr. Speaker, we have so many important issues going on in this province and it's utterly disappointing to see the legislative agenda this sitting being so unimaginative and lacking the ideas for what is necessary to deal with the problems in our province.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I'm going to move that we adjourn debate on this bill.

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

Pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 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 Douglas Park.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to rise this afternoon and enter into the debate around Bill No. 175, *The Marriage Amendment Act*. This is an interesting piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker, and contains a lot of interesting sections that I'm not going to go into in detail here. But I'm going to ask many questions in committee when I have the opportunity to speak with officials.

The amendment bill does several things. The first one I want to point out is section 19, which amends that section so that there is no exception any longer to allow for anyone to marry under the age of 16. It's interesting that in our history we had legislation that allowed for exceptions to be made for the general rule that you that you can't marry if you are under the age of 16. This amendment will ensure that that exception to that rule is no longer valid, Mr. Speaker, which in this day and age frankly makes sense.

It also updates language used throughout the legislation. There were, I would argue, some missed opportunities in this amendment Act to update further the language that exists in *The Marriage Act*. In particular there's lots of wording in sections that talk about living as husband and wife, Mr. Speaker. I think in this day and age we could probably say as spouses, probably more appropriate. I'm not sure why the drafters decided to leave this type of language in *The Marriage Act* when I think this was an opportunity to update it. But again I know I'll have the opportunity to ask that question of officials at committee.

There's also some strange, when I was reviewing this amendment Act with *The Marriage Act*, some strange sections that I'll have some questions about why they haven't been updated. Like I said, it's probably time to update some of this legislation especially around exceptions to the rule that you can't marry when you're under the age of 16. But there's also some sections that I think might need some updating as well, but I'll ask those questions of the officials.

But in particular I'm looking at section 32 which is the "Declaration of nullity." I'm not going to talk about it in too much detail here frankly because the discussion is a little bit crass. But it does talk about nullifying marriages when the marriage had been consummated and then that there's a rule that:

The court shall not declare a marriage void where sexual intercourse has taken place between the parties before the ceremony.

It's all very strange legislation that I wasn't aware still existed on the books, Mr. Speaker. And I'll be asking questions of officials about that and why it hasn't been determined that it needs to be updated. Again I think there are a few strange provisions here that do need some modernizing. Glad to see some of that happen here, but I'm going to be asking quite a few questions about the pieces that haven't, Mr. Speaker.

One big piece that this legislation does change — and I have had the opportunity to speak about this a little bit already — is the revocation of section 17, Mr. Speaker, which will revoke what has been the law in Saskatchewan for some time now, which is that the law as it currently sits, which is a will that's created prior to a marriage becomes void once you become married or you become common-law. The revocation of that section, Mr. Speaker, for clarity's sake, will — now or after this legislation passes, if it does pass in its current form — will then mean that any will that's made prior to a marriage will not be invalidated due to that marriage or common-law status, Mr. Speaker.

It's a pretty major change in the law in Saskatchewan, so I will be asking questions around why this change has happened at this time and who in particular has asked for this change. I know I haven't been approached by anyone in the legal world who have advocated for this change, so it came out of a bit of left field, to be honest with you, Mr. Speaker, when I saw the legislative change.

So if anyone's watching or reading this in *Hansard* and they do have concerns or questions or they're in support of this legislative change, I do urge them to contact my office in between the sessions before we sit in committee, likely in the spring, Mr. Speaker. Because like I said, it's not something that I was expecting to happen, that this change would be coming down the pipe.

And I'm interested in knowing why the ministry has made this fairly major change and whether or not this is . . . Is this something that's happening across jurisdictions? Does this put us in quite a unique stead in compared to other provinces? And how aware are people about this? I'm not sure how aware people are right now that if you were to marry that the will you had created prior to that marriage becomes void, Mr. Speaker, to be honest with you. But this will create quite a bit of change as well, Mr. Speaker, so I'll definitely be asking questions about that, Mr. Speaker.

There's also a bunch of other fairly minor changes in this legislation. There could be a couple other more serious ones that I'm frankly missing right now. But I guess in large part the questions I have with respect to this legislation in particular are about the consultations that occurred prior to these changes and why these changes are happening. Why these changes and why not other changes?

When you read *The Marriage Act* in its entirety, you see quite a bit of outdated language: like I said, references to a husband and wife, Mr. Speaker, and then lots of . . . I guess the best, the most PG [parental guidance] way I can describe it is strange wording around consummating a marriage and the like, Mr. Speaker, that I won't go into any more detail here but find it funny to read it in this day and age.

I know I have other colleagues who are interested in entering into this debate around this legislation, so I am prepared at this point to adjourn debate on Bill No. 175.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 183

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

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

[15:15]

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the opportunity to enter into this debate. I was just googling a bit about fisheries in Saskatchewan and what are some of the top issues that are out there. You know, you've got to keep up with the times and so here I am.

And apart for the free-fishing weekend, I think that's the number one controversial issue when it comes to fisheries in Saskatchewan. But seriously, and I know that they've done some good work on this, especially the member from North Battleford who was the minister of Environment for a while when he talked about the zebra locks. But now I was just reading about the Prussian carp and how invasive they are in Saskatchewan. And this is the Prussian carp.

Well this is from a *Saskatoon StarPhoenix* article, and they are well-established in Europe but also Alberta. Now how they skipped over Saskatchewan, I don't know, but they have now been found in Saskatchewan, the South Saskatchewan River. They thought the dam at Diefenbaker, the Gardiner dam, would be a good barrier but they got past that and someone caught one in the Saskatoon weir, which I think is very interesting.

Now this is an interesting fish because they really take over ecosystems and choke out other fish in that area. And how they do that is they spawn four times a year. Now the other thing that's interesting about this fish, it's predominantly female. Now how can you reproduce without a male? Well they have a very interesting way of doing that and it's called gynogenesis. And how they do that is they dump their eggs into other fishes' fertilization processes. So this is true. This is true. I can't believe it. I thought this was very interesting. This is happening in our province right now. And I am quoting from the *StarPhoenix*. And they dump their eggs in there and they get fertilized by other species, but they have a process of rejecting that species' DNA [deoxyribonucleic acid] so they become Prussian carp, which is very, very interesting.

So this is all happening and this is . . . You know, sometimes we take things very lightly when we have these issues before us, and this is one of the things I really enjoy about getting up and entering into the debates because you know, as I said, the former

minister had done a lot of good work on zebra fish, but there are many issues.

I remember, and as a member quite rightly pointed out, that at one time I was the minister of Environment in charge of these things. And I often enjoyed the free fishing weekend. But one of the best things that I can remember doing was having a sturgeon actually in my office, when they were just little fingerlings. And we released it in the South Saskatchewan as part of a special occasion because the lake sturgeon were quite common, and particularly up in Cumberland. I think they have quite a big deal about sturgeon. And these are huge fish, huge fish that we would have in our rivers, but they're becoming more and more endangered just because of their size and their age and how we have to make sure we take care of our fish, you know.

Some of the other issues that were coming up when I did my little search, of course, too was the quality of our water, that we assume fish can live in any kind of water. And that's obviously an issue that is not the case. And of course, whether it's raw sewage or oil spills, any of that kind of stuff, it's very important that we think about fishing in Saskatchewan.

And of course now I think actually the minister talked about this, that he engaged with the First Nations and Métis communities. Very important to do that and we will do that as well to make sure if there is any gaps in this legislation, because we know that's an inherent right for the Métis and the Indigenous communities, the right to hunt and fish. And what does this legislation here speak to that? So I'm glad to see that that was part of the process but we will also be doing our own consulting to make sure that's right. But this is a very important area.

You know, we often talk about the fact that we have over 100,000 lakes in this province, and well we often think of the South and the prairie. But we know how important water is, how critically important water is, how critically important healthy fish stock is. And if it's healthy then we know that the environment is healthy, the ecosystem is healthy. But when we start losing our fish stocks, something is telling us that something's wrong with the water in our lakes, in our rivers.

And of course our amazing river systems that we have and the watersheds that we have, you know, in Saskatchewan, whether they be the Saskatchewan River system or whether they be the Souris River system or whether it's Thunder Creek or Stony Creek or some of the huge river systems we have in the North, they are all very important.

And it's important to see this legislation. It has been 25 years since we've reviewed this, and so I know that our critic will take some time over the winter months, make sure we consult with people. It's important to update these things, important to update the legislation, important to bring the newest thinking forward, talking about the specific invasive species or species at risk, that type . . . You know, there's the two sides of the coin but they are interrelated, whether it's a species at risk caused by an invasive species that is really taking over the water system.

So we will be taking a look at this. We want to make sure that people are being consulted, the right people. And the public has some thoughts, I mean, because they love to get out and fish. Everybody loves getting out to fish. So I think this is a very, very

important issue in front of us. So with that, Mr. Speaker, I would move adjournment of Bill No. 183. Thank you.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 184

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

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll be quick here. This is just doing some consequential amendments resulting from the fisheries Act that I was talking about, and so we'll be looking forward to that.

I think there are three acts that we are talking about: enforcement of maintenance orders and some definitions that are updated, section of *The Wildlife Act* that talks about aquatic species at risk, and also repealing the definition of wild species at risk.

So all of this follows, I think, the main discussion in the fisheries and protection of aquatic species at risk, so we will have a fulsome discussion in committee on that. So I would move adjournment on that bill.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 187

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

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, to join in on Bill 187, *The Administration of Estates Amendment Act, 2019*. I checked with my colleague who is the critic and just was trying to get some information, and most of those changes that are being proposed in here, from what I could see and what she has explained to me, are kind of housekeeping things that needed to be taken care of. And it sounds like they've done that.

But before I get into a little bit about the fee structure, what they're doing, you know, I'd like to talk a little bit about some of the other things that a government could be doing and what a

government should be doing for the good people of our province. And I think about a government that introduced legislation that's truly . . . Rather than just simple housekeeping, sometimes you need to have legislation that impacts Saskatchewan people and makes life better for Saskatchewan people. And that's what Saskatchewan people ask of their government, to make sure that there's legislation that will improve the quality of life, improve Saskatchewan, whether you know, it's families struggling, seniors. The list goes on.

I think about a bill like 618, the suicide prevention strategy for the province. I think about that. There's something the government could seriously . . . Here is a bill that the government could work with and we could support and move together on.

It's just showing areas where sometimes I think the government is tired and old, out of ideas, and this is the type of legislation we're seeing. You want it to be meaningful for Saskatchewan people. And that's going to make quality of life better, Mr. Speaker, for Saskatchewan people. That's what they would want. You know, they would like that.

You know, we look at education, the struggles that we're seeing there, and health. And there's legislation that the government could introduce that will help some of the broken system that's going on when it comes to areas with our seniors, staffing. We've heard that from many people. But this bill, you know, like I said, Mr. Speaker, Bill 187 is mainly housekeeping. But I'd like to refer to some of the things that maybe the government could do — and I wanted to do that in here — to make life better for Saskatchewan people.

But again, as I said earlier, this government seems to be, you know, out of ideas, tired, and you know. Well some will say, it's going to be interesting to see in the next . . . what else they'll have to introduce as legislation, maybe new legislation that they want to introduce. But so far what we've seen, there may be some legislation that's in here that's, you know, truly going to help organizations who've consulted, who they've talked to. And I understand that. Government's supposed to do that. But I'm hoping at the end of the day they will introduce legislation that would make life better for Saskatchewan people, and that's what the good people of our province want.

So having said that, you know, again I think about our classrooms. They're struggling. I think about health care. They're struggling. So here's a government that could have some legislation that would help the most vulnerable. And you know, as I said, you look at suicide prevention strategy. Again I think it's so important. But I just like showing examples where a government could support that. And use ideas and examples for Bill 187, of course, but as I said, it was just housekeeping.

There's some legislation that could come in that really is meaningful for people, so you know, hopefully we'll see that. And we're waiting for government to introduce some of that. Or work with us if we'd have to, work and co-operate on other bills that we want to see in this Chamber. So at this time, Mr. Speaker, I don't have any more comments on Bill 187. I'm prepared to adjourn.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 188

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

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

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my pleasure to rise this afternoon and enter into debate on Bill No. 188, *The Public Guardian and Trustee Amendment Act, 2019*. Mr. Speaker, it's always important when we're looking at legislation to have some understanding why it is that this bill is in front of us at this particular time, perhaps who was asking for the changes in the legislation, and what consultation and foreseeable consequences there might be of bills that we debate here on the floor of the Assembly.

In the second reading comments by the minister dated November the 12th, 2019, the minister noted that this bill, Bill No. 188, will amend *The Public Guardian and Trustee Act* to implement recommendations made by the Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee. So we take that to mean, of course, Mr. Speaker, that these were amendments that were made after consultation with the office itself.

Just for those who may not know some of the roles of the Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee, this is a very important office, Mr. Speaker, dealing with wills and dealing with some of the most vulnerable people in our province. I had some brief opportunity when I was working as a social worker at Pioneer Village to be in contact with folks who needed the services of the Public Guardian and Trustee. And it's very important that we ensure that proper oversight is in place for those very vulnerable adults and some very important, very strong — I'm struggling for the word, Mr. Speaker — rights that this Act would give the office.

[15:30]

And I will speak again to the minister's second reading comments:

The proposed amendments will also update the unclaimed assets provisions to permit real property such as mine and mineral rights [something very important to many folks] to escheat to the Crown if it is unclaimed after six years.

So that's a very, very strong right that is given to the office, and one that we shouldn't enter into lightly or let go by without some significant oversight, Mr. Speaker. When we're talking about property such as mineral rights being given to the Crown after six years, I'd wonder why the term of six years was put in there, and a number of other things.

But with that, I think there have been a number of questions raised. And I'm sure that the very capable critic will be able to ask some of those of stakeholders and in committee. But with that

I will move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 188.

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. 189

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 189 — *The Coroners 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. I'm rising today to enter into the debates on Bill No. 189, which is amendments to *The Coroners Act*.

The government introduced this bill on November 18th, and the minister was able to give some brief comments on what this bill is trying to achieve. And again these are coming out of recommendations, Mr. Speaker, from the review of Clive Weighill who did a review in October 2017. And we had 44 recommendations in that report.

The minister said they are allowing changes to accommodate "many of the recommendations." He did not specify which recommendations they are not implementing in this bill, and so we're going to have to take some time to figure out what's missing from this bill and what parts of Mr. Weighill's report are not being implemented and why. So certainly that kind of review needs to take place over the upcoming break from the legislature, Mr. Speaker, and I know that we will want to make sure that we do that.

As I've said previously, Mr. Speaker, you know, we're seeing a number of bills on the agenda these days. This is this government's final kick at the cat before we call an election, Mr. Speaker, and I have to say I'm very disappointed in terms of the types of bills we're seeing. Nothing wrong with the bills themselves. They are all dealing with important government business. But as far as leadership and forward-looking, you know, growth in ideas, we certainly don't see any growth from this government when it comes to ideas that will help the people of Saskatchewan become more secure in their own homes, with their jobs, Mr. Speaker.

Instead we see a lot of government actions like doubling the PST on the people of Saskatchewan without really taking any responsibility for that. We have the construction industry at its knees, Mr. Speaker, and we see cuts in both health care and education that have really been crippling for a lot of people. We see the crisis in the opioid epidemic. We see the crisis in suicides in particular. We lost three more people on a First Nation reserve in northern Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, again. And our calls for at least a suicide prevention strategy — just a strategy, Mr. Speaker — have gone unheeded by this government.

So this is a government that's out of ideas. They're tired. They're letting people down, Mr. Speaker, and I think it's time for them.

They had the opportunity in this legislature to bring forward some bills that would put people first, Mr. Speaker, that would allow people to get ahead. Instead we have record foreclosures. We heard today about the arrears in agricultural debt, Mr. Speaker, and it's at a very concerning level, Mr. Speaker. And we see this government playing politics instead of looking out for the people of Saskatchewan.

So at this point I will move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 189, *The Coroners Amendment Act, 2019*.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 190

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 190 — *The Expropriation Procedure Amendment Act, 2019*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Rancourt: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As always, it's a pleasure to join in with regards to putting my remarks on the record with bill debates. And today I want to talk a little bit about Bill No. 190, *The Expropriation Procedure Amendment Act*.

I'll give a little bit of information of exactly what this particular piece of legislation does. It governs the majority of expropriations in Saskatchewan and provides processes for determining the compensation payable by the expropriating authority to landowners. This piece of legislation is very important, Mr. Speaker, because it deals with some legal matters as well with regards to land expropriation.

So the information with regards to this piece of legislation, it provides for mediation between parties through the Public and Private Rights Board, which addresses both the proposed route or design of a project, also the compensation payable for expropriation. And so where this piece of legislation . . . It's important in all its features, but if parties can't agree, then there's steps within this piece of legislation that will help with regards to dealing with that. So if parties can't agree, then the landowner may bring the action for compensation to the Court of Queen's Bench, Mr. Speaker.

I believe one of the biggest issues with regards to this legislation and the reason why it's coming forward is with regards to the calculation of how interest is calculated. And when this piece of legislation was created, it was decided to have 6 per cent be what is the currently charged interest rate. And we know that at this time 6 per cent is higher than the standard interest rates that we have right now in our province.

So there's a bit of concern that, because of how high this interest rate is, that it might act as a deterrent for landowners to resolve claims. And in the end I believe then taxpayers have to pay more

money, which we definitely have to do our due diligence in ensuring that when we're looking at using taxpayer dollars, that we're doing what's in our best interest and everybody's best interest.

So the changes in here will have it so that they'll require the interest to be calculated in accordance with *The Pre-judgment Interest Act*. So I believe that is also in accordance to a lot of other pieces of legislation we have that has interest calculated as well. So it's to go with what standard practice is right now, Mr. Speaker. So when you calculate the interest in accordance of *The Pre-judgment Interest Act*, it's reflective of a standard interest rate. So that is a big part of this piece of legislation.

Some areas that I didn't see in here that I know will be some good questions to ask in committee would be, what measures will be put in place to protect landowners from unfair expropriation like we know that has been done, especially by this government with regards to GTH [Global Transportation Hub] land transactions and stealing land from nuns? So that's a concern as well. And how can we protect people so that that never happens? And how will this help to follow proper policies with respect to, in my mind, but when you're accumulating land or taking it for public improvement projects? So we need to make sure that we have a proper procedure in place, Mr. Speaker, that is fair and equitable to all and doesn't favour certain individuals over others. And we want to avoid that that will have inefficiencies in the future land transactions, Mr. Speaker.

So I think since this piece of legislation is being looked over, those are really good questions to ask within committee. I know our critic with regards to this portfolio will do their due diligence with contacting stakeholders. And so with that, Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will have a lot more information that they'll want to put on the record with regards to this piece of legislation. And so with that, I adjourn debate on Bill No. 190.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 191

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 191 — *The Business Corporations Amendment Act, 2019*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise again this afternoon, this time to enter into debate on Bill No. 191 which is *The Business Corporations Amendment Act* of 2019. Again I will start my comments by looking at the comments of the minister in his second reading speech. Going back to November the 19th of this year, in which the minister noted that the bill in front of us largely flows out of a meeting stemming back to December 19 of the Finance ministers, Canadian Finance ministers, where an agreement was reached on six strategies to strengthen beneficial ownership transparency.

I'm not sure exactly if this was stemming out of some of the concerns about offshore accounts and some of those concerns that were well publicized, Mr. Minister, but certainly all of this in service of improving beneficial ownership transparency. And beneficial ownership is defined in the Act as including "... ownership through a trustee, legal representative, agent or other intermediary." So essentially for lay people, Mr. Speaker, like myself on this, the intent of this seems to be to ensure that it is readily transparent and available to understand who it is that has ownership or benefit from a particular business.

And I guess the fact that we see this in front of us and this was defined as a problem by all of the Finance ministers across the country, that up until now this has been an issue, this transparency has been lacking. And certainly if, you know, this is what it seems on the surface, I think you will get no argument from this side of the House that this is an important measure to take.

One of the things this bill also prescribes is a penalty. And it adds a clause, 21.2: "A corporation to which section 21.1 applies shall take any prescribed steps if it is unable to identify any individuals with significant control over the corporation."

So it ensures that not only should this happen, but there are prescribed penalties for those who fail to properly register all of the beneficial owners of their corporation, Mr. Speaker, up to and including, in 21.4(6):

A person who commits an offence described in any of subsections (1) to (5) is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months or to both.

Certainly a six-month prison term seems a fairly strong consequence. I'm not sure a \$5,000 fine ... But again, Mr. Speaker, I guess these are questions that we might ask. I would assume that all jurisdictions in the country would have a similar level of fine. If not, I guess we'd be asking that question.

And I'm sure there will be more questions, but those were just a few that came to mind while I was reviewing this bill. I will leave it to our capable critic again to ask the additional questions that she may have. And with that we'll move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 191.

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. 192

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 192 — *The Legal Profession (Law Foundation) Amendment Act, 2019*** be now read a second time.]

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Cumberland.

[15:45]

Mr. Vermette: — Bill 192, *The Legal Profession (Law Foundation) Amendment Act, 2019*. I guess a few of the changes that are being asked by ... Obviously somebody has brought forward information, Mr. Speaker, and has requested that there's been some changes into the Law Foundation of Saskatchewan. That's a little bit of a change in the name. It's just adding on "of Saskatchewan."

It also refers to some simplifying the word of "board of directors." It is some housekeeping items, but I'll mention a few that they're doing. There's an opportunity here and by this appointing four by the ministry, but also five by the benchers, as they're referred to. It also takes an opportunity to extend a term of board members from a two-year to a three-year term. It can do that as well. That's something else, I think. The other thing it talks about in here is some changes as the benchers will obviously select a chairperson, but also they have the ability to check a vice-chair of the Law Foundation of Saskatchewan. So it just talks about governance and stuff like that.

Now I know I asked my colleagues a little bit about it, and again they said there's a number of things that are housekeeping. I could get into some of the other things that we have talked about earlier that we need to make sure Saskatchewan has. But, Mr. Speaker, these mainly ... As my colleague had said, I know we'll have an opportunity to ask questions in committee. We'll get an opportunity as the critic to reach out to other individuals to see if there is any other changes that need to be made or suggested.

And exactly, you know, obviously the ministry and the minister has reached out to the Law Foundation to find out exactly what kind of changes were needed. Sometimes there's changes that come forward are housekeeping. And they're good, and people request them sometimes as government, as I've said earlier. So really, Mr. Speaker, there isn't a lot that I have to make comments on this, and at this time I'm prepared to adjourn on Bill 192, *The Legal Profession (Law Foundation) Amendment Act, 2019*.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 193

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 193 — *The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2019 (No. 2)*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise again this afternoon to enter into debate on Bill No. 193, *The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2019*. So many times on my feet, Mr. Speaker, so many housekeeping changes to legislation.

I think often we'll see ministers say that in their second reading speeches, that this is simply housekeeping changes. I believe I may have found a bill where that is exactly the case, Mr. Speaker, that this appears to be only ... not insignificant; important

changes, but only housekeeping changes to terms and several pieces of legislation.

Specifically the proposed changes will replace gendered and outdated language such as references to “workmen” and “foremen” with gender-neutral terms like “workers” and “forepersons.” Well of course, Mr. Speaker, given that it is 2019, that does seem very appropriate to be doing that.

One of the purposes of these amendments is to standardize terms and phrases in legislation, as the minister noted on November the 19th, and will assist readers who undertake electronic searches to locate the provisions that they require. These benefit everyone who relies on legislation. So of course when you have common terms, it makes sense that they are more easily searchable, I would suppose, both in paper form but particularly in electronic form.

So just I’m going to read through the list of Acts that this amendment Act proposes changes to: *The Adult Guardianship and Co-decision-making Act*; *The Agriculture Administration Act*; *The Engineering and Geoscience Professions Act*; *The Expropriation (Rehabilitation Projects) Act*; *The Funeral and Cremation Services Act*; *The Health Information Protection Act*; *The Highways and Transportation Act, 1997*; *The Land Surveyors and Professional Surveyors Act*; *The Pharmacy and Pharmacy Disciplines Act*; *The Police Act, 1990*; *The Saskatchewan Farm Security Act*; *The Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation Act*; *The Saskatchewan Telecommunications Act*; and *The Weed Control Act*, Mr. Speaker. So a varied and long list of legislation.

Again this is the type of thing that appears on its surface to simply be housekeeping and updating terms. We do, I think with reason, Mr. Speaker, sometimes get a little nervous when we hear this is simply housekeeping and we find other changes, whether intended or unintended consequences in legislation. But that’s why we have critics and that’s why we have the number of hours of oversight on each of these bills available to us to ensure that we are fulfilling our role as the official opposition. And that we intend to do with all of these pieces of legislation, Mr. Speaker.

Again I think it’s been said before, but while I’m on my feet will say again, you know, we have some housekeeping bills in front of us. We have, you know, bills on various things. Perhaps not a lot of legislation on those issues that I hear the most on the doorstep, that we hear the most in the media, and certainly not the concerns like we hear from northern Saskatchewan, well in communities really, tragically, right around this province where, you know, it’s a daily occurrence to hear about suicides. We need a provincial suicide strategy. That is something that can still be introduced in this legislative agenda. I hope to see it, as do all the members on this side, and I know many people right around this province.

But with that I will resume my comments and move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 193.

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. 194

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Carr that **Bill No. 194 — *The Miscellaneous Municipal Statutes Amendment Act, 2019*** 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. It’s a very important one and it’s one that is well overdue. It is, you know, it’s a big bill, 70 pages.

But when I look at what the Ombudsman has been saying, and I’m going to talk about the previous year in 2018, this was a story from CBC [Canadian Broadcasting Corporation] that was posted in April. “Small Sask governments have big problems, says the Ombudsman,” and it’s been growing. There were 400 complaints, 500 complaints the year before last year.

She says, the latest report from Saskatchewan Ombudsman says her office receives a lot of complaints about bad behaviour, about municipal councils in smaller centres. So in 2015 she was authorized to become the Ombudsman about municipal issues, and then she started to hear the complaints about cities, towns, and rural municipalities. And in her 2017 report said that it increased by 17 per cent compared to the previous year, and 78 per cent coming from the smaller cities.

So this is a real, real issue. This is something that, you know, about 25 per cent of the concerns — 147 out of 572 concerns — were about council conduct. More than half of those behaviour-based complaints were filed by former or current employees. And so you can just get the sense of how important this is.

I know some people were talking about the RM [rural municipality] of Parkdale, and I know that RM quite well, a tragic circumstance where a grader operator committed suicide. It was a Workers’ Comp situation. But that is a huge issue, but there were many, many more. And so you had this kind of thing, so this is why this piece of legislation is so, so critically important that we’re talking about right now.

But also in the news is Pinehouse. We have not heard, we have not seen anything from the inquiry about that, and we wait patiently for that report. We don’t know whether it’s been filed with the minister and the minister is sitting on it. We know we’re in the final days of the winter session. I would be very disappointed if we were to hear about it after the session, after we rose for the Christmas break while she was just avoiding the tough questions about what this government had to do with it.

We know that there are several members on that side who have strong connections with Pinehouse and that issue. We’ve raised those issues in the House. It’s time to come clean on those. We know other RMs are having similar or had similar issues and had to have reports done with them. We think of the RM of Sherwood and where Judge Barclay had to intervene and do a report himself.

So this is not a small thing. This is not a small thing at all. And this is a bill, you know, it is quite significant in size. It affects three major bills in terms of *The Cities Act*, *The Municipalities Act*, and the northern communities Act. Those are all very, very important.

And so we're glad to see this in front of us. I know that we will take a lot of time, particularly in committee, to raise questions about it. But in the meantime, I really want to say we are looking forward to some of the pieces of information that we've asked for and we wait patiently for.

And I just want to talk about Pinehouse where, you know, where you have a town council that clearly, for whatever reason, I don't know why they were just not complying with the commissioner's request for freedom of information about basic pieces of information, whether they be minutes, whether they be receipts. They just were not going to comply. And so this is a case of capacity that we often see in our local governments. And we have to do better. We simply have to do better. There was a day when we just said, well big government, that was okay. And that's what created all those complaints to the Ombudsman about a government that was just too big and wasn't accountable. We need to make sure all our governments are accountable, whether they're the small communities or the large communities.

And so with this, Mr. Speaker, I do want to say this is a very important bill. I won't get into the nuts and bolts today because it's just too big for that kind of thing, but I do look forward to hearing more about this as we examine all the issues. And we should be consulting the freedom of information commissioner and the Ombudsman about does this cover the issues that she's hearing. Does this meet the grade?

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I would move adjournment on Bill No. 194, *An Act to amend The Cities Act, The Municipalities Act and The Northern Municipalities Act*. Thank you.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved that the Assembly do now adjourn. Pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

[The Assembly adjourned at 15:58.]

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