



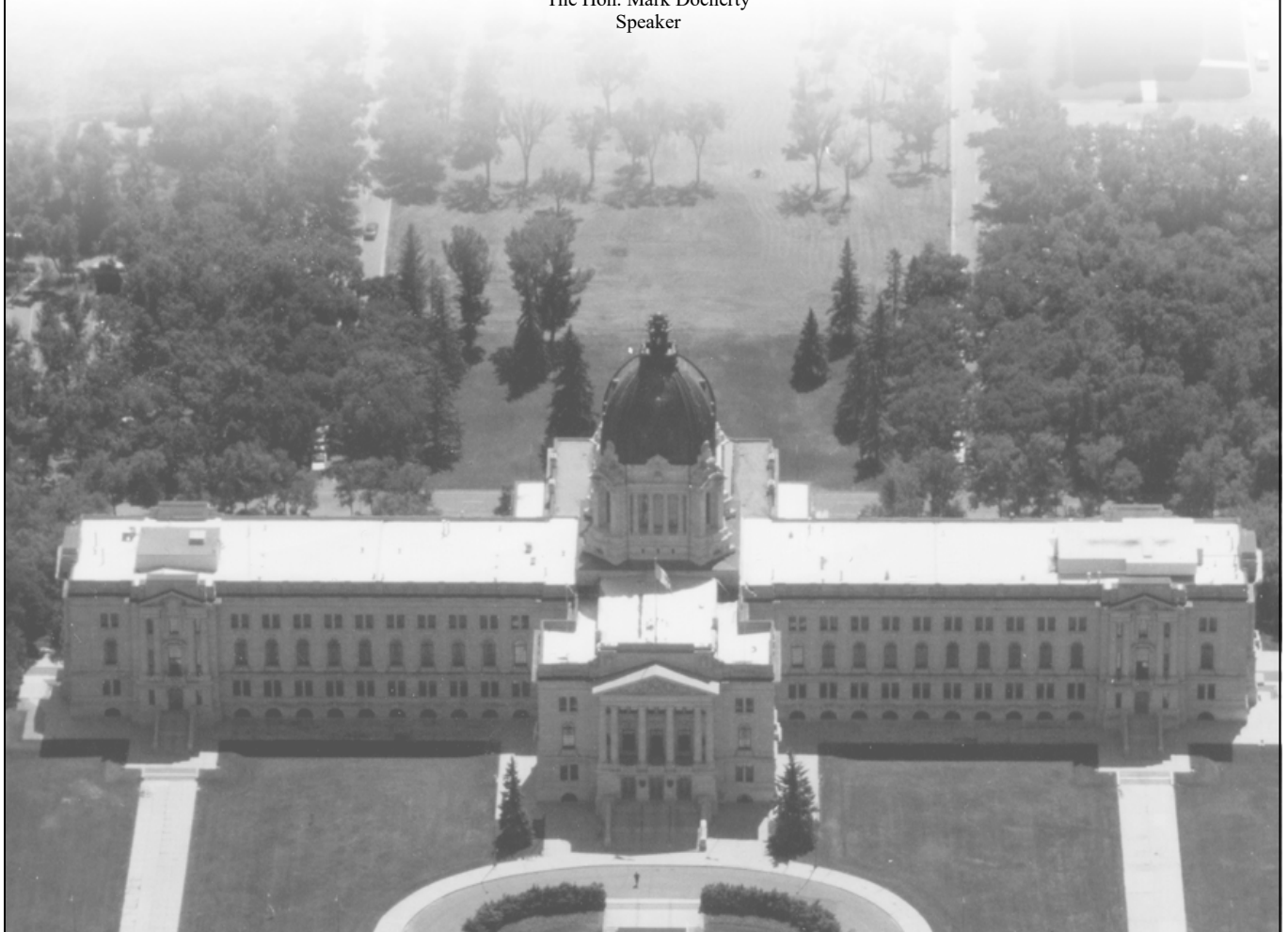
FOURTH SESSION - TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

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

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

Clerks-at-the-Table

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

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[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's an honour and a thrill for me today to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Legislative Assembly, constituents from the . . . Weyburn-Big Muddy constituents, friends of mine, Mike and Cara Weger seated in your gallery, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I'm going to have a few more words to say about them in a few minutes, but they are here to deliver to the Premier his order of butter tarts, Mr. Speaker, as a part of their annual fundraiser for cystic fibrosis.

Mr. Speaker, on December 10th members of Team Theresa, all of their volunteers and family members, are going to be gathering at McKenna Hall to bake 12,000 tarts that they're going to sell, Mr. Speaker. And I think I have good news, Mr. Speaker, for colleagues of mine who signed up to purchase tarts. Like an Amazon fulfillment centre, I believe that Mike and Cara spent much of yesterday and probably all day and probably into the evening to bake tarts last night, Mr. Speaker, for delivery today. So, Mr. Speaker, I'm very honoured to have Mike and Cara in the Chamber today and I'd ask all members to help me in welcoming them to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Ms. Rancourt: — Ask for leave for an extended introduction.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member.

Ms. Rancourt: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm privileged today to be able to introduce a group of folks here that are from the Co-operative Housing Association in Saskatchewan. And I'm going to read out their names. And when I read out your name, if you could give us a little wave so we know exactly who you are. And I'm going to hopefully be able to read out your names properly. So I'll try my best.

All right. So from the Stewart Court Housing Co-operative in Regina, we've got Wayne Rieder. He is the CHAS [Co-operative Housing Association of Saskatchewan] president. We've got Lyla Fonstad, Eleanor Guskjolen, Delores Zazulak, Louise Eberle, Terri Smullin, Delores Lacell.

And then from the Argyle Park Housing Co-operative in Regina, we've got Rose Gaebel and Penny Woods and Marilyn Olafson.

And from the Rainbow Housing Co-operative in Saskatoon we've got Maria Vaiaso. She is the CHAS vice-president. We've got Tonya O'Keefe and Regina Andrus and Anna Parkot, Marie Work, Karen Tadei, Val Walkington, Gabriel O'Keefe, and Kyla Earle. And we also have James Gilliard from the CHF Canada [Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada], regional director for Saskatchewan. From the Coopérative d'habitation Villa Bonheur in Saskatoon, we have Linda Alberding — she is the CHAS secretary — and Charlene Sears.

So, Mr. Speaker, we know that co-operative housing provides safe, affordable housing for individuals, seniors, and growing families of all incomes, abilities, and backgrounds. They are ideal places to raise families, retire and age in place, build strong social connections, and learn new skills. And we have community housing in Saskatchewan in the communities of Moose Jaw, Regina, Saskatoon, Prince Albert, Moosomin, Mossbank. They provide housing for seniors and families. And we want to thank you for all the work that you guys do to ensure that these community housing associations are run appropriately because they do so much for the residents of Saskatchewan.

So I ask that all the members here welcome these folks to their Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

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

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join the member opposite in welcoming all these great representatives from the co-operative. I met with Tonya and Maria quite a few times over the summer on some of their concerns on the ongoing. I haven't met some of the other co-operative representatives, but I just wanted to welcome them all to their Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to take a minute to introduce two guests seated in your gallery, folks I've had an opportunity to introduce before here, Mr. Speaker: my mom and dad, Ray and Judy Beck. And keeping with the baking theme, they are here for their annual Christmas shortbread delivery. I think some of my colleagues, both on this side and in the caucus office, do look forward to that delivery every year.

They've just come off of a successful hunting season this year, Mr. Speaker, despite some challenging conditions out in the field. I know that they've again — I think the 22nd year this year — been able to and very proud to show the beauty of this province and the vast resources that we have with regard to waterfowl in the province. And I think they're very good ambassadors for this province.

So I would invite all members to join me in welcoming Ray and Judy Beck to their Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Marit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, I'd like to recognize a very good friend of mine sitting in the west gallery from the Gainsborough part of the province, right in the southeast corner, John Ryckman. John and

I met many years ago at the SARM [Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities] convention. Obviously it was probably work related and wouldn't have been in a hospitality room.

But we've become very good friends. And along with his wife, Brenda, and their son Cody, they farm in that Gainsborough part of the province, and obviously like many farmers had a rough harvest but seemed to get it done. But I just want to ask all members to recognize John and welcome him here to his Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — I request leave for an extended introduction.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, it's an honour to join in welcoming two very special guests that are seated in your gallery here today. I'd like to introduce Chris Laplante to his Assembly. Chris is a sergeant with the RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police], of 34 years of service. He's a trainer at the academy for 17 years, Mr. Speaker.

But I have him here today to recognize his work in sport development and the development around paddling, Mr. Speaker. He was an elite paddler himself. He won the Baby Black at the age of 18, which is a big deal in the world of paddling. But he served as the president of the Wascana Racing Canoe Club. He's chaired the Saskatchewan organization. He's represented us nationally as well. Both his children have been elite paddlers as well. And he most recently co-chaired the Canoe Kayak Sprint National Championships that we held here in Wascana. So I ask all members to join with me in welcoming Chris Laplante to his Assembly and thanking him for all that he does.

And while on my feet, it's an honour to introduce my sister, seated beside Chris. She's active and involved in the paddling community as well. She's an RN [registered nurse] and a director with the SHA [Saskatchewan Health Authority] in our province. Her children are all paddlers within the Wascana Racing Canoe Club. Her name is Chantel LaHaye. My nephews Domi, Eli, and Nick are all impressive paddlers. Nick, who's 14, picked up six medals at the Canada Western Games this year in Swift Current and competed as well in the nationals. But it's my pleasure to have my sister Chantel here in her Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cannington.

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to join with the Minister of Agriculture in welcoming Jack Ryckman to the Assembly. Jack is from my constituency and is a member of RM [rural municipality] No. 1 Argyle council as well as being a farmer. So number one in the province, Mr. Speaker. And I am absolutely sure that the minister and Jack met each other at a conference. I ask members to welcome them to

the Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's indeed an honour for me to stand today to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly, the 38 fabulous grade 12 students from the Humboldt Collegiate school in Humboldt. And accompanying them is a teacher that has been here many times: that's Mr. David Millette; as well as a teacher, Mr. Dave Rowe; and an EA [educational assistant], Margaret Nagy. Could everyone please join me in welcoming these great students to their Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Moosomin.

Mr. Bonk: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to introduce to you and to all members of this Assembly, a constituent and someone who's become a good friend of mine, Duane Leicht. He's in the west gallery. He was previously the mayor of Kipling. He's got an unusual hobby of making chain mail, and you're going to hear a little bit more about that in a member's statement to follow. But he's had his work on movies like *Night at the Museum*, TV [television] shows like *The Rain*, so it's a very interesting hobby. He's a great community man and I'd like all members to welcome him to his Assembly.

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

Mr. Doke: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, I'd like introduce two young ladies in the top row in the west gallery, my sister-in-law, Jackie Harris, from Lloydminster, who is here to see the Saskatchewan legislature. And sitting beside her is my darling wife, Valerie, who is always wanting to come here. But they are here basically to kick-start the economy here in Regina for the Christmas season. They've been here for 72 hours and have done a great job, with 24 to go. So I ask all members to welcome them to the Saskatchewan Assembly.

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

Mr. Fiaz: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, sitting in your gallery, my wife, Attia, with our son Arsalan is sitting there.

Mr. Speaker, me and Attia together since 20 years — last July, it was 20 years — and she never missed our wedding anniversary, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, she is the lady actually behind many of my successes, which is very true, and the person who wakes up early in the morning, getting ready kids to go to school and getting myself ready to come here, Mr. Speaker.

And also, Mr. Speaker, right beside her, my son Arsalan is going to Massey School French immersion in grade 4. He is a very good squash player, Mr. Speaker. Today I believe that we're having playoffs at 5:30. And I will be there, make sure that I will be there watching that. And thank you, Mr. Speaker. I ask all my colleagues to welcome my family in this legislature. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Prince Albert

Northcote.

Ms. Rancourt: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand in my place today to present petitions from concerned residents that want to draw your attention to the importance of maintaining the rental assistance for Sask housing co-operatives.

[13:45]

Most housing co-operatives in Saskatchewan will be nearing the end of their operating agreements with the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation in the next five years. At that time rental assistance programs will also end, leaving low-income members vulnerable to be uprooted from their good quality, affordable houses.

The Saskatchewan government signed a bilateral agreement with the Government of Canada in April 2019, and the federal cost-shared funding from the Canada Community Housing Initiative is designed to prevent economic eviction for low-income people in co-operative housing.

I'll read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan maintain rental assistance to housing co-operatives through the Canada Community Housing Initiative and partner with housing co-operatives to reach the provincial goal of expanding 15 per cent of rent-assisted units.

Mr. Speaker, there's over 1,500 signatures on these petitions, and there's over 500 signatures on an online petition as well. And so some of the communities that these individuals come from that signed these petitions are Saskatoon, Martensville, Blaine Lake, Leask, Hague, Osler, Warman, Vanscoy, North Battleford, Bellevue, Shellbrook, Battleford, Davidson, Dundurn, Langham, Dalmeny, Cupar, Indian Head, St-Denis, Estevan, Qu'Appelle, Regina, Grenfell, Wilkie, Pilot Butte, Carnduff, Kipling, Fillmore, Nipawin, White City, Regina Beach, Oxbow, Vibank, Craik, and many more communities, Mr. Speaker. I do so present.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Indian Head-Milestone.

Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to rise today to present a petition on behalf of citizens of the province who are opposed to the federal government's carbon tax, Mr. Speaker. Especially when you look at the strong environmental program, the Prairie Resilience program that is here in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, why would you need a unilateral tax on every citizen? It just does not make sense. It doesn't make sense in Saskatchewan, and we're hearing from other provinces now across the nation that are joining the charge to oppose this federal carbon tax.

Mr. Speaker, the prayer reads as follows:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan take the following actions: to cause the Government of Saskatchewan to take the necessary steps to stop the federal

government from imposing a carbon tax on this province.

Mr. Speaker, I so present.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Moosomin.

An Hon. Member: — No, not Moosomin, Mr. Speaker. Meewasin.

The Speaker: — The member for Meewasin, Saskatoon Meewasin.

Athlete Inspires Indigenous Kids

Mr. Meili: — Thank you very much. Nothing against Moosomin at all. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to recognize the outstanding achievements of one of my constituents, Michael Linklater. Michael is nêhiyaw from Thunderchild First Nation, where he's an elected band councillor. As a young man, Michael set three goals for himself: to play basketball for a post-secondary institution, to play basketball professionally, and to play for Team Canada. He has accomplished all three and with great distinction.

Michael's career in basketball includes a CanWest Championship, the 3 x 3 World's Tour most spectacular player, as well as an Indspire Award. Michael recently retired, but not before winning alongside his team the Saskatchewan Rattlers, the inaugural Canadian Elite Basketball championship.

In school, Michael was often bullied for his long braid, something his sons have endured as well. Michael founded the international Boys with Braids campaign, an online collective that celebrates the cultural significance of braided hair. Michael is now stepping away from basketball to focus his time and energy on helping the community and making a better world for his children.

He's quoted as saying, "Winning a championship was a priority, but having Indigenous kids be inspired, that was the goal. And I believe I've achieved both." Well, Mr. Speaker, I too believe that he's achieved both, and I invite this Assembly to join with me in congratulating Michael Linklater on his accomplishments both on and off the court.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Weyburn-Big Muddy.

Parents Fundraise to Cure Cystic Fibrosis

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, about 12 years ago when their then two-and-a-half-year-old daughter, Teresa, was diagnosed with cystic fibrosis, Mike and Cara Weger decided that they would make it their goal to do everything that they could to find a cure or control for cystic fibrosis.

For 10 years they have held an annual Night Out for Cystic Fibrosis where they have raised in excess of \$400,000. And, Mr.

Speaker, at last year's gala, which was the last as they've decided to find new ways to fundraise, they were recognized with the Mila Mulrone Award presented by CF Canada [Cystic Fibrosis Canada] in recognition for their efforts.

About five years ago they decided to add a butter tart sale to their efforts, and in that time they have baked and sold 78,560 tarts. And in just a few days, as I've mentioned, they will gather at McKenna Hall to bake 12,000 tarts for this year's sale.

Mr. Speaker, the ends to which they will go know no bounds literally, as they and friends, Tina Clay and Kim Maloney, raised over \$20,000 to hike Machu Picchu earlier this spring. All told, Team Teresa has raised over a half a million dollars in the past 12 years. As Mike has said, and I quote, "Our commitment to helping find a cure or control makes us do crazy things."

Mr. Speaker, I'd ask all members to join with me in thanking and congratulating Mike and Cara for all they have done in their fight, not only for their daughter but for all those living with cystic fibrosis. Thank you.

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

Canoe Kayak Sprint National Championships

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, the mighty shores of Wascana were lined with spectators and the lake was alive with the best paddlers in Canada competing at the 2019 Canoe Kayak Sprint National Championships from August 27th to September 1st. Eight hundred elite paddlers converged on Regina for these impressive nationals.

I spoke with many of the athletes and teams from across Canada that raved about our paddling infrastructure at Wascana Lake, calling it the best course and place to compete in Canada.

I had the pleasure to serve as a spectator, cheering on my nephews and our other Saskatchewan athletes, and had the honour of helping to hand out medals along with the Minister of Sport.

Hosting an event like this, the Nationals, is no small undertaking. I want to give a big time shout-out to the hosts, the Wascana Racing Canoe Club who hosted on behalf of Canoe Kayak Canada, and importantly, event Co-Chairs, Chris Laplante and Aaron Patterson, their organizing committee, and the legions of volunteers that brought this event to life and made it such a success. I also want to thank Canoe Kayak Saskatchewan as an incredible supporter of all that happened in the world of paddling at Wascana, as well as Sask Sport and Sask Lotteries for their support.

I'd like to ask all members to join with me in thanking all those that made Nationals such an incredible success and on celebrating the remarkable athletes, teams, and coaches.

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

Student Wins Agribition Scholarship

Ms. Wilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This past weekend, the

Canadian Western Agribition wrapped up another successful year. And as we know, Agribition has many incentives and support programs for its participants. Mr. Speaker, one of the incentives Agribition offers are scholarships that provide financial supports to students pursuing post-secondary and graduate studies.

This year's recipient of the Barry Andrew Family Scholarship is Emily Letendre, and she hails from my constituency of Saskatchewan Rivers. Emily is in her third year of agribusiness school at the University of Saskatchewan, and I have known her for many years. She's a lovely young woman, and I've always been impressed with her enthusiasm, community mindedness, dedication to farm life and, of course, Agribition.

Emily has been involved in 4-H most of her life and credits the organization with her success. Mr. Speaker, I can also attest to the benefits of 4-H. It's an excellent not-for-profit organization that is focused on developing leadership skills for young people.

The funding for this scholarship was bequeathed by the late and very generous Barry Andrew and his family. Mr. Speaker, and fellow colleagues, please join with me and congratulate Emily Letendre and all the other scholarship winners from this year's Agribition. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Moosomin.

Chain-Mail Flag Pays Tribute to Humboldt Broncos

Mr. Bonk: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One year ago Duane Leight, his son Andrew, and his friend Anthony Wood wanted to create a tribute flag for the Humboldt Broncos out of chain mail. Mr. Speaker, the men wanted to involve as many people as they could to help create the flag, so they divided the flag design into 20 sections and sent supplies to people across Canada.

Some of the participants included the mayor of Regina, members of the Regina Pats, the Minister of Finance, and personnel from STARS [Shock Trauma Air Rescue Service], including two who responded to the accident that night. Mr. Speaker, people as far away as New York and Pennsylvania pitched in and, in the end, well over 100 people helped build the flag.

When the sections were linked, and as the men finally got to see what they had accomplished, silence fell in Anthony's garage as they took in the scope of all that they had done. Mr. Speaker, there are close to 100,000 rings in the flag, and each ring added one at a time. The men estimated it took between 500 and 750 hours to complete the tribute flag. On November 8th the men presented the chain-mail flag to the Humboldt Broncos before their game against the Nipawin Hawks.

I wish to thank Duane, who is here today, and all those who contributed for their thoughtfulness and kindness and for reminding us still that we're all Humboldt Strong. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Saskatchewan Uranium Used Worldwide

Mr. Bradshaw: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last Friday

Cameco and Bruce Power celebrated the completion of the first full reactor set of 480 calandria tubes in Cobourg, Ontario for Bruce Power's major component replacement project.

This project is part of a \$62 million contract award that was announced in 2017 and will see Cameco continue to provide uranium until 2030, estimated to be valued at \$2 billion over 10 years. The Bruce Power mill provides roughly 30 per cent of Ontario's electricity, supplied primarily by Saskatchewan uranium.

Mr. Speaker, Cameco, which is headquartered in Saskatoon, is one of the world's largest uranium suppliers and will continue to be the sole supplier of uranium for Bruce Power's nuclear generation stations, with uranium mined from Cigar Lake mine in northern Saskatchewan.

Saskatchewan uranium provides clean, safe, and reliable power all around the world. About 1 in 10 homes in Canada, nearly 1 in 20 in the United States, and millions more in other countries receive electricity produced from Saskatchewan uranium. Uranium exports add approximately 1.2 billion to the Canadian economy and, as outlined in our government's growth plan, we're going to further increase our sales exports to 2 billion by 2030.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members join me in thanking Cameco for its continued work in our province and congratulate them on this exciting achievement. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Lloydminster.

Operation Christmas Child

Ms. Young: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It may be just the beginning of December, but for one of my constituents Christmas began months ago. Ken Hastings is a volunteer project leader of Operation Christmas Child, which sends shoeboxes full of gifts to children in developing nations.

Mr. Speaker, for months now families have been filling shoeboxes with toys, hygiene items, school supplies, and almost anything else that a child might enjoy. For many of these children the shoebox they get could be the first and only Christmas gift they ever received. In a recent news article Ken said that he has met children who received a shoebox years ago and still can recall every single item that was inside that box.

Mr. Speaker, Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan's Purse, a non-denominational Christian organization which provides physical and spiritual aid to people all over the world. And if there's one thing I know about Saskatchewan citizens, it's that they are always willing to help those in need. Last year almost 3,000 shoeboxes were filled in the Lloydminster area alone, and I can't wait to hear the final count for this year's donations.

Mr. Speaker, I invite all members of this Assembly to join me in thanking Ken Hastings, Operation Christmas Child, and the entire Lloydminster community for their generosity.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Funding for Schools

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This week the Premier and I both received a letter from a student in Saskatoon, a grade 8 student who's unhappy and disappointed about cuts to schools that led to the elimination of applied arts programming at his school. That same student goes on to say that, and I quote:

The elimination of this essential program was not the only thing affected by your budget cuts. In my school when it rains, the hallways are lined with buckets to catch water from our leaking roofs.

What does the Premier have to say to this young person about why schools under his government are in such terrible shape?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, I would just first say that there have been no budget cuts with respect to the investment of this government in the Education line item, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people that we represent across this province. Mr. Speaker, in fact this particular budget represents . . . \$2.48 billion represents the largest investment in the history of the province in education, Mr. Speaker. That includes investment in new schools, part of our current out-build, 46 new schools across the province, Mr. Speaker. That includes 25 major renovations that have occurred in communities right across this province, Mr. Speaker. It includes a record budget in our transfers to the public school boards across the province, Mr. Speaker.

[14:00]

There is much more work to do. As we look forward, as we look ahead, Mr. Speaker, much of that will be representative in the plans that will be coming over the course of the next months through the Deputy Premier, the Minister of Education, Mr. Speaker. Much more work to do, Mr. Speaker, but we also need to recognize the good work that has occurred.

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

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That question was asked by a student at the end of elementary school, and I assure you he would be able to see very clearly through those lines. That was false information, Mr. Speaker, to say that there have been no cuts under this government — \$54 million cut from our classrooms in 2017; 7,000 new students since 2016 with not one dollar more. To say that there are no cuts, Mr. Speaker, is absolutely not correct.

Now that student goes on to say, and he's correct about this, "It's not just my school that has these issues. I hear from friends at other schools with similar troubles." And data from a freedom of information request from the Ministry of Education bears this out. Only one school division in the entire province has school infrastructure rated in good condition. Schools in 21 of the 27 divisions are in poor condition.

So to the Premier: what does he have to say to parents, teachers, and kids who are left in overcrowded new schools or in crumbling old schools because of this government's cuts and failures?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure how the Leader of the Opposition can object to the answers that the Premier has just given, Mr. Speaker. This is a record investment in public education, Mr. Speaker — \$2.48 billion, Mr. Speaker.

Here's some other statistics, Mr. Speaker, that the Leader of the Opposition might be interested in: a 396 per cent increase in capital funding since we've been in government, Mr. Speaker, \$1.72 billion. Mr. Speaker, a growing province. New schools, Mr. Speaker, we've increased. Mr. Speaker, it was this government that introduced preventative maintenance funding for school divisions, \$50.4 million to school divisions last year, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the investment that this government has made in capital since we've had the pleasure of forming government, Mr. Speaker, has been extraordinary. More work to do, Mr. Speaker. A growing province, more plans, Mr. Speaker, for renovations. More plans, Mr. Speaker, for increasing PMR [preventative maintenance and renewal], for new schools, and to make sure that school divisions have the resources that they need to make sure that our kids are in classrooms that are safe.

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

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's not how much you've studied; it's whether you've passed the test, and you are failing this test in so many ways. Mr. Speaker, here in Regina the situation is particularly dire in the Catholic school system where infrastructure is rated not poor, like 21 of 27 school divisions, but actually as being in critical condition. One of our largest school divisions here in the capital city with our schools in critical condition should be of deep concern to this Premier. We need to see a plan to address those divisions with the worst ratings, starting with Regina Catholic. Will the Premier commit his minister to tabling a plan today to address the critical nature of the needs in Regina Catholic schools?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, we do have a plan. School divisions submit on an annual basis their capital plans, Mr. Speaker, not just for new school construction but for significant renovations, Mr. Speaker. We go through those, Mr. Speaker, and use the money that we have within our capital budget, Mr. Speaker, accordingly, Mr. Speaker. But here's the reality, Mr. Speaker: over the last number of years, Mr. Speaker, we've had 46 brand new or replacement schools and 23 major renovations, Mr. Speaker. It's a far cry from when those guys were on this side of the House, Mr. Speaker, when they closed 176 schools, Mr. Speaker.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we're well aware of some of the challenges within our school divisions. That's why we brought forward a plan that New Democrats never had, with respect to preventative maintenance, Mr. Speaker. Our goal, to get to one per cent of

replacement costs, Mr. Speaker, so school divisions have those funds, Mr. Speaker. We have an emergent fund, Mr. Speaker, that allows school divisions to access that in emergency situations. But, Mr. Speaker, we take this very seriously, and we have a plan moving forward. We sit down with the school divisions and we have those conversations to make sure we're deploying our resources properly.

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

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Trying to blame the previous government when you've been in power for 12 years is just proof that this government's more interested in pointing fingers elsewhere than it is in doing their own job, Mr. Speaker . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order, please. I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Meili: — If there is any such plan, it's certainly not being communicated. School divisions no longer get information on this government's priorities for school replacements, meaning they're left guessing about how much to invest in maintaining current schools. And the public shouldn't have to rely on freedom of information requests to find out what condition our schools are in, Mr. Speaker. This is information the government should publicly report.

And when it came to this freedom of information request, the amount of dollars needed was redacted. We know that that infrastructure deficit was \$1.5 billion in 2015. Those schools haven't gotten any newer. Those numbers have certainly gone up, but now that information is being kept from the public.

Will the Premier tell us today, just how far behind is his government when it comes to the investments needed to keep our Saskatchewan schools in decent shape?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — We have ongoing communications with the school divisions in this province, Mr. Speaker, in order that we can address their significant capital needs, Mr. Speaker. We have a significant budget, Mr. Speaker, and as I mentioned in my previous answer, a preventative maintenance budget of over \$50 million which is dedicated to ensuring that school divisions have the resources to be able to maintain their schools, Mr. Speaker.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we do maintain a capital list. We have a general idea where we're going to go with respect to the construction of new schools, Mr. Speaker, some of the fastest growing communities of this province. Our commitment to capital, Mr. Speaker, was expressed just a couple of years ago when we opened up 18 new schools in this province.

More work to do, Mr. Speaker. More work to do on a number of fronts in public education, but this government is committed to meeting the challenges in our classroom, meeting the challenges that we have in capital, Mr. Speaker.

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

Number of Physicians in Province

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Really disappointing words from that minister, who didn't answer the question.

Yesterday I asked the Minister of Health a straightforward question about why it is that Saskatchewan has fewer doctors per capita than almost any province in the country. Talking points aside, can the minister explain why we're at the bottom of the pack and exactly how this impacts patients who can't access timely care due to doctor shortages across the province?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's true that we have fewer doctors per capita than I believe any other province in the country, Mr. Speaker. Even though the Leader of the Opposition doesn't like to talk about 12 years ago, that was the situation we inherited, Mr. Speaker.

In the time since then, we've recruited 900 more doctors in the province, Mr. Speaker, so we're substantially better than we were then. But we know we still have more work to do.

Another statistic that the member should be aware of, if memory serves correct, Mr. Speaker, I believe we're near the top, per capita, for nurses per capita in the country, Mr. Speaker. We're doing some other innovative things with nurse practitioners.

I went through yesterday a number of things that we're doing to recruit, Mr. Speaker. We've added 40 seats to the College of Medicine. We've doubled the number of residency positions, Mr. Speaker, from 60 to 120. Mr. Speaker, we have a reward system for rural physicians who adopt a full scope of practice. They get a premium. Mr. Speaker, there's been a number of things have been done with SIPPA [Saskatchewan international physician practice assessment] doctors that's been very successful there, but we still recognize there's much more work to do.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Mr. Speaker, this government loves to talk about 2007, but they're failing completely to take responsibility for what's happening today under their watch. There are consequences when physicians are stretched too thin. In Saskatchewan two out of every three doctors is reporting burnout. That's twice the national average. The minister likes to paint a pretty picture, but two years after the creation of the SHA, physicians at the Saskatchewan Medical Association fall assembly expressed their concerns about inadequate support physicians are getting from the SHA.

Does the minister understand that if these problems still exist and are getting worse, pointing backwards to old programs or talking about old announcements means nothing? What's his plan to deal with these challenges moving forward, to make sure people can get the care they need?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Mr. Speaker, I find that questioning very interesting. The member is obviously aware of the questioning that happened from doctors at the Saskatchewan Medical Association regional assembly just a few weeks ago, Mr. Speaker. Some very pointed questions there in front of media, TV cameras, open to the public; that's why she's aware of it. I wonder how the Leader of the Opposition squares that with just a few days ago the accusation of we're muzzling doctors. I wonder how he squares that, Mr. Speaker. It doesn't quite make sense to me.

But to the point of the question, Mr. Speaker, is the obvious answer is we're going to continue to recruit doctors. That's the obvious answer, Mr. Speaker. But having said that, we're going to do other things, Mr. Speaker. We're going to do innovative things. We're going to look at technology. As I said, we're going to deal with nurse practitioners. We're going to continue to review the SIPPA program where we've had success. Mr. Speaker, I've asked the Saskatchewan Health Authority to make this a priority. We recognize that we have more work to do in recruiting doctors, and we're going to do it.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The SMA [Saskatchewan Medical Association] fall assembly doesn't negate the real concerns about a culture of fear that exists in being able to speak out, and that suggestion is ridiculous.

Mr. Speaker, at the SMA fall assembly held just last month, physicians expressed concern about the rate of burnout amongst young doctors and this government's inability to retain physicians practising in rural areas. To this day, constituents of many of the members opposite can't access emergency care in their communities because of these doctor shortages.

In the North, the La Ronge Medical Clinic says they have been facing a "severe shortage" of doctors for over a year, and that situation's expected to continue for 6 to 12 months. People across the province can't get care when they need it.

What's this government's plan to better retain doctors so these unacceptable disruptions don't exist?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Mr. Speaker, as the member said, I'm not trying to paint just a rosy picture. I have said in every answer, I believe, that we know we have much more work to do. We know we need to recruit more doctors and we've been doing that, Mr. Speaker. The facts speak for themselves.

We've taken a number of steps. As I mentioned, there's the program, a ten and a half per cent premium for rural physicians with a full scope of practice. Mr. Speaker, there's a post-graduate medical education program that's been expanded to P.A. [Prince Albert], Swift Current, La Ronge, North Battleford, and Moose Jaw. I've already talked about what we're doing with the SIPPA program, Mr. Speaker. That's the Saskatchewan international physician practice assessment. We have more than 200 doctors practising because of that program, Mr. Speaker. And I think we've been successful in some of these.

While I still recognize that there's much more work to do, we need to do better. Last year *The Medical Post*, a newsmagazine, used six metrics to determine the standing of Canada's provinces on how doctors rated the top provinces to practise. Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan finished second.

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

Condition of Saskatchewan Hospital Building

Ms. Chartier: — Mr. Speaker, we know the significant infrastructure issues at Sask Hospital North Battleford are disrupting patient care. The minister assures us they're being addressed, but in the meantime, patients have been told they will need to wait up to 18 months before expecting a bed in the brand new hospital while they patch it back together.

We know this is driving people to emergency rooms, driving people to places like the Dubé Centre, and leading to patients sleeping in the electric shock therapy suite in the Dubé Centre. Worse, the conditions for people in mental health crisis in the adult emergency room at the new children's hospital have been frankly abhorrent.

What is the minister going to do to ease this bottleneck so people in need can get the mental health care and we can reduce wait times in our ERs [emergency room]?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Mr. Speaker, we've discussed many times on the floor of the Assembly the situation at the Saskatchewan Hospital in North Battleford. Mr. Speaker, there's been some issues there that are being worked on. Certainly it's not satisfactory, the situation we have now. But again, it's being worked on, Mr. Speaker.

As far as both children and adults that need mental health services, Mr. Speaker, our officials are working diligently to provide that. Mr. Speaker, I've spoken many times on the floor of the Assembly about programs that have been both expanded and added in last year's budget, Mr. Speaker. There's more addictions beds. There's more mental health beds. There's more counsellors, Mr. Speaker. We're continuing to add services. We realize the increased demand though, Mr. Speaker, and we're working hard to meet that demand.

[14:15]

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

Ms. Chartier: — The investment in this last budget was a drop in the bucket, Mr. Speaker. This minister likes to brag about their investment in mental health care, but more than half of that recent budget money he brags about was to staff this hospital that's falling apart, isn't fully open, and barely taking patients. Only 18 new patients last year, Mr. Speaker, 18 new patients in a brand new hospital.

We called for an audit in May and the Deputy Premier said the contract covered it and we didn't need one. Fast forward to

October and the government finally agrees to audit what's going on. We're learning that this contract and all the trust put in the proponent is leading to significant disruptions in patient care. It's been a month and a half, Mr. Speaker. To the minister: where's the infrastructure audit on this hospital? And will it be made available today?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Mr. Speaker, that audit's being worked on. Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Central Services has mentioned that many times.

Mr. Speaker, just the whole tone of the questioning I take exception to. Mr. Speaker, she says we're bragging about the record on that, Mr. Speaker. We're not. We recognize how serious this issue is, Mr. Speaker. We recognize the increased demands for both addictions and mental health supports, Mr. Speaker. I touched on a number of them that we announced in the last budget. It's not a drop in the bucket as the member opposite says, Mr. Speaker. It's very significant funding. It's very significant programming.

But, Mr. Speaker, again let's put this in perspective. The member criticizes non stop that the hospital in North Battleford isn't running at full capacity. That would be the hospital, Mr. Speaker, that was never built under the members opposite. Their response, Mr. Speaker, was what? Health care? Close 52 hospitals.

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

Rental Supplements for Housing Co-operatives

Ms. Rancourt: — Mr. Speaker, today we are joined by co-operative residents from across the province. Co-ops provide safe, affordable, and quality homes and offer an alternative to the traditional rental market. These residents are here because they are concerned after this government started to make cuts to housing and are trying to end the rental assistance program for hundreds of families living in co-ops and not-for-profit housing.

Most co-op residents do pay market rent; however, around 30 per cent receive rental assistance. This rental support is offered in every province in Canada. When will the Minister of Social Services stop these cuts to housing and scrap this idea that will only hurt our co-ops and the non-profit housing sector in Saskatchewan?

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

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And as I said in my introduction, I've had several opportunities to meet with local . . . actually tour Rainbow Housing last year, Mr. Speaker. They have expressed some of their concerns on the end of their agreement, Mr. Speaker, that is 25 years old. There hasn't been any cuts, Mr. Speaker. I don't know what the member opposite is talking about. There has been no cuts.

This is an agreement on their mortgage, Mr. Speaker, that allowed them to get subsidized while they were having a mortgage. Mr. Speaker, these mortgages are coming to full term and they are finishing in the next couple of years. But, Mr.

Speaker, I would also advise the House that we have had five co-ops that have transitioned off of this and are still providing subsidized housing for their clients. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Rancourt: — Mr. Speaker, this minister and this Sask Party government are making these reckless cuts that would put the average Saskatchewan co-op resident at risk. About half of the co-op residents in Saskatchewan are seniors and many are on fixed incomes. Maintaining the rental assistance through the co-op model is a cost-effective way to continue to ensure vulnerable, low-income seniors have safe housing while aging in place.

Private landlords would never be expected to provide rental assistance for our seniors. Co-ops shouldn't be forced to do the same either. Can the minister explain to the co-op residents here today why he would make cuts that will hurt seniors and the most vulnerable looking for an affordable place to call home?

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

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In answer to the last part of the question, I'd be more than happy to meet with these organizations again to be able to go through the finances of what they're experiencing, Mr. Speaker. But I again remind the House and remind the member opposite and everybody that's in attendance that there hasn't been any cuts, Mr. Speaker. These are an end of an agreement, Mr. Speaker.

There are some co-ops that have a high percentage of people that are being subsidized within their co-operative, Mr. Speaker. But again to the House, these co-operatives are owned by the management and the local attendants, Mr. Speaker, not by the Government of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. We'll continue to be happy to work with any of the co-operatives on an ongoing process until their mortgage comes due, Mr. Speaker, and I extend that to any co-operative in Saskatchewan. And I'd also remind the House, Mr. Speaker, that we will continue to work with them again and again. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Management of Government Program Funds

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday I asked the Minister for CIC [Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan] some very basic questions about how public money was handled by a private company hired to manage the Saskatchewan Immigrant Investor Fund and the First Nations and Métis Fund. The minister said last week he would be happy to answer them, but every time I've asked since, we've had the Deputy Premier up instead. So I will ask him again. And — spoiler for the Deputy Premier — none of these sincere questions are intended to be a drive-by smear on anyone. These are just straightforward questions about public money, Mr. Speaker.

So the first question I have: how did Westcap assemble the list of companies that they encouraged the FNMF [First Nations and Métis Fund] to invest in? And why isn't the Minister for CIC answering the questions he said he would answer?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, here's the facts, Mr. Speaker. This fund was created in 2005 under the New Democrats, Mr. Speaker. Sole sourced, by the way, to Westcap Mgt., Mr. Speaker. They obviously had some comfort and some confidence in that manager, Mr. Speaker. But the parameters of the fund and its management have been unchanged since the fund was put in place by the New Democrats back in 2005. Every project was approved by the board of directors comprised of Crown officials, Mr. Speaker. That was by their design, Mr. Speaker.

So anyone that's capable of answering the questions, Mr. Speaker, is the minister and the officials. That's who should be asked those questions in committee, Mr. Speaker. Those questions had been asked in committee, Mr. Speaker. If she has more questions, Mr. Speaker, we're happy to answer them. But there's no need to have the fund manager come to committee to answer the questions when the Crown officials who made up the board of directors made the final decisions with respect to those investments.

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

Wait Time for Sexual Assault Counselling in Regina

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, we learned this week that the Regina Sexual Assault Centre is facing a severe shortage of counsellors for sexual assault survivors. Survivors of sexual assault can wait up to nine months for their first appointment, Mr. Speaker — nine months for their first appointment to see a counsellor. And that wait has been the norm for at least 18 months.

Mr. Speaker, the Regina sexual assault rate is higher than the national average, and survivors seeking help to overcome a deeply traumatic experience should not have to wait to see a counsellor. Does the minister think it's acceptable for survivors of sexual assault to wait nine months to see a counsellor? And if not, what is the minister's plan to fix this problem?

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

Hon. Ms. Beaudry-Mellor: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member opposite for the question. You know, we know that the experience of sexual assault is very traumatic, and that's why we need to be mindful of trying our best to support victims and not revictimize them.

But, Mr. Speaker, I think it's also critically important that we try to change behaviours and attitudes about interpersonal violence so that it doesn't occur in the first place, and I'm pleased to say that the Status of Women office is making a lot of effort on that front, Mr. Speaker.

We met with Regina sexual assault services just last Friday, Mr. Speaker. They have a 24-hour crisis line that is available to support victims immediately. My understanding regarding the counselling access issue is that this is for their longer term counselling program, Mr. Speaker, and that Justice officials are working with the centre to try to address that issue and bring

those wait times down, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Why is the Government House Leader on his feet?

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

The Speaker: — What's the Government House Leader's point of order?

POINT OF ORDER

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During question period, the Leader of the Opposition accused the Premier of bringing false information into the House. And I would draw the Speaker's attention to Beauchesne's where the word "false" was ruled unparliamentary June 15th, 1961 on page 6404; April 10th, 1964, page 1997; March 10th, 1965 at page 12190. The phrase "false statement" was ruled unparliamentary on May 20th, 1961 at page 5100. . . . The member from Athabasca can heckle from his seat. He has a lot to say from his seat, very little from his feet, Mr. Speaker. But I would point as well to "false statement" being ruled unparliamentary May 20th, 1961. So I would submit to you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize and withdraw the comment.

The Speaker: — Thank you. I consider the matter closed.

Order. Order. I am advised that His Honour the Lieutenant Governor is here for Royal Assent. I also wish to advise the Assembly that I have authorized an official photographer of His Honour's first Royal Assent. All please rise.

ROYAL ASSENT

[At 14:27 His Honour the Lieutenant Governor entered the Chamber, took his seat upon the throne, and gave Royal Assent to the following bills.]

His Honour: — Pray be seated.

The Speaker: — May it please Your Honour, this Legislative Assembly at its present session has passed several bills which in the name of the Assembly I present to your Honour and to which bills I respectfully request Your Honour's assent.

Clerk: — Your Honour, the bills are as follows:

Bill No. 185 - *The Legislative Assembly (Protective Services) Amendment Act, 2019/Loi modificative de 2019 sur l'Assemblée législative (services de protection)*

Bill No. 186 - *The Provincial Emblems and Honours Amendment Act, 2019*

Bill No. 182 - *The Tobacco Control Amendment Act, 2019*

Bill No. 202 - *The Election Amendment Act, 2019*

His Honour: — In Her Majesty's name, I assent to these bills.

[His Honour retired from the Chamber at 14:29.]

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government Whip.

[14:30]

Mr. Hindley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to order the answers to questions 81 to 87.

The Speaker: — Ordered, 81 to 87.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 205 — *The Children's Law Act, 2019* *Loi de 2019 sur le droit de l'enfance*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to move second reading of *The Children's Law Act, 2019*. Mr. Speaker, this bill will repeal and replace *The Children's Law Act, 1997* with a new Act that implements recommendations made by the Law Reform Commission of Saskatchewan. This new legislation also updates provisions respecting parenting orders to reflect recent amendments to the *Divorce Act*.

In December 2018 the Law Reform Commission of Saskatchewan released its report on assisted reproduction and parentage. The report recommended amendments to the Act to update the definitions, update the parentage provisions to expressly consider situations of assisted reproduction, and adopt provisions of the *Uniform Child Status Act* as adopted by the Uniform Law Conference of Canada respecting recognition of foreign declaratory orders.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of Saskatchewan is committed to meeting our responsibility to act in the best interests of all children. The proposed amendments implement the recommendations made by the commission in support of those interests.

We know families come in different shapes and sizes, and there may be circumstances where a child has more than two parents. Additionally the legislation also considers parents who conceive through assisted reproduction. This area in particular, which often involves surrogates, requires a nuanced approach when it comes to the rights of parents and children.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of Saskatchewan does not want to stand in the way of personal family decisions. Ultimately we want to increase certainty and remove obstacles for families when they are making important decisions about reproduction and their children. To that end we have included amendments that mirror recent changes to the federal *Divorce Act*. The terms "custody" and "access" will be replaced in favour of "decision-making responsibility" and "parenting time." The proposed provisions also revise the "best interests of the child"

criteria to place a more pronounced focus on the profoundly negative impact of family violence.

These changes will also ensure consistency for all families seeking a parenting order for decision-making responsibility or parenting time with respect to a child, regardless of a party's marital status. A consequential English-only bill accompanies this Act to amend 11 Acts that reference the current Act.

Mr. Speaker, I move second reading of *The Children's Law Act, 2019*.

The Speaker: — It has been moved that Bill No. 205 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. I'm pleased to enter into the debate on Bill No. 205, *The Children's Law Act, 2019*. It's certainly a bill that we have been waiting anxiously for to certainly see what the parameters of, what the change is in recognition of all families in Saskatchewan. Those were some of the issues that we were looking forward to today, so we are able to see first hand what's being proposed in this particular bill.

Mr. Speaker, from a quick reading through the legislative synopsis of the Act and the bill itself, Mr. Speaker, I would share with the people of Saskatchewan that this particular legislation, Bill 205, it updates the definitions from the previous legislation to include "decision-making responsibility," "parenting time," "guardianship of the property of a child," "assisted reproduction," sets out the rights and obligations of parents and guardians with regards to decision-making responsibility and parenting time and measures to enforce compliance with those obligations.

It also determines who are the parents of a child, including cases where the child was conceived through assisted reproduction. And it provides the court must also consider the best interests of the child in the proceedings of parenting orders, sets out a list of factors to be considered in court when determining the best interests of a child, and certainly sets out the factors to be considered in court to determine the impact of family violence on a child, and some of those factors that need to be considered in court as it pertains to the relocation of the child.

Now, Mr. Speaker, it's very important to note, we often use the phrase within this particular chambers and on many occasions through family support systems and the difficult task that many of the social services workers face when dealing with challenges around families. Mr. Speaker, the effort to find the best interests of the child in all of our discussions is so very important and I think that this particular law, this particular bill, we see that the notion of the best interests of the child is mentioned in various levels of this particular Act. And it is something that we're paying very close attention to and obviously drives the agenda from the official opposition to ensure that the best interests of the child are maintained. And I think, Mr. Speaker, as long as we understand that it is something that is paramount to all of our thinking as legislators and that many people have many views on how the family could be strengthened and could be structured but, Mr. Speaker, paramount to all those discussions and opinions is the best interest of the child. So I think it's important that we

take all that in consideration.

I know some of my more learned friends on the issue of children and the effects of poverty, the effects of abuse and so on and so forth may have on them for years, I look forward to some of their comments, Mr. Speaker, as many of them have had a history of education and some of them have had history working as a social services worker. So their perspective as from the official opposition is really important to hear. So I look forward to that exchange and ask all the people that are out there that are involved with strengthening families — and there are many solid organizations across the province whose whole effort is to strengthen families, Mr. Speaker — I would ask them to pay attention to this legislation as the official opposition will do so as well, as this is very, very important.

So I look forward to those comments from my colleagues on this side of the Assembly and until that occurs, Mr. Speaker, I move that we adjourn debate on Bill No. 205, *The Children's Law Act, 2019*.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 206 — *The Children's Law Consequential Amendments Act, 2019*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to move second reading of *The Children's Law Consequential Amendments Act, 2019*. This Act makes consequential amendments to 11 English Acts that reference *The Children's Law Act, 1997*. These are *The Arbitration Act, 1992*; *The Child and Family Services Act*; *The Human Tissue Gift Act, 2015*; *The Liquor Board Superannuation Act*; *The Mental Health Services Act*; *The Municipal Employees' Pension Act*; *The Power Corporation Superannuation Act*; *The Public Guardian and Trustee Act*; *The Public Service Superannuation Act*; *The Teachers Superannuation and Disabilities Benefits Act*; and finally, *The Trustee Act, 2009*.

As *The Children's Law Act, 1997* is being repealed and replaced with a new version, each of the 11 Acts mentioned will be updated to reference the name and provisions of the new Act. There is no change in substance to any of the Acts amended by this bill. Mr. Speaker, it's my privilege to move second reading of *The Children's Law Consequential Amendments Act, 2019*.

The Speaker: — It has been moved that Bill No. 206 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? No, no. I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I again stand in my place, as I have done on numerous occasions, to give the initial response to this particular bill. And, Mr. Speaker, it's a consequential amendment Act to the previous bill that we spoke about at length. And I look forward to a lot of the comments as well from the various members of my caucus because they have had incredible experience with children, and certainly from a

professional social services perspective to educators and so on and so forth. So they will really have a lot of insight as to how we can strengthen the particular notion of putting the child first. And the best interests of the child is again an admirable target that people must strive to achieve.

So as the minister alluded, there are a number of different Acts that are being impacted by the changes to *The Children's Law Act* as I previously spoke about. He's listed those particular Acts that are being impacted and how they need to be updated and changed to complement the effort of the previous bill we spoke about. So there's much more to be said on this particular bill. And as this is a supplementary or a consequential amendment Act, it's of course all tied to the effort to try and provide support for the families and the children of our province.

So, Mr. Speaker, I move that we adjourn debate on Bill 206, *The Children's Law Consequential Amendments Act, 2019*.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 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 Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. On Bill 181, obviously we've had the opportunity to look through the legislation. As the critic on behalf of the opposition, we have a few more issues that we'd like to get clarification on, and something that's really important from our perspective, Mr. Speaker, because mineral development and mineral taxation are co-joined in the province of Saskatchewan. It is part of our effort to stimulate the economy of Saskatchewan.

So we, from the official opposition's perspective, Mr. Speaker, want to see resource development happen as smoothly and as transitionally as possible. And we encourage a lot of investment in our province, whether it's uranium development, whether it's potash as well, Mr. Speaker, oil and gas. We have such a rich province. We want to see those minerals and those products get to market. And it's something that's really important to us as the official opposition because a strong economy for Saskatchewan means jobs, and we'll continue working forward to creating that strong economy, Mr. Speaker.

And at that point we look forward to asking these questions in committee.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion

by the minister that Bill No. 181 be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

The Speaker: — To which committee shall this bill be committed? I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — I designate that Bill No. 181 be referred to the Committee on the Economy.

The Speaker: — This bill stands committed to the Standing Committee on the Economy.

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 Douglas Park.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to rise this afternoon to enter into the debate around Bill No. 188, *The Public Guardian and Trustee Amendment Act*.

Mr. Speaker, this bill does several changes. I won't go into too much detail about it, but it does, for example, update some language, like replacing the reference to "next friend" in sections 20 and 21 with the more updated phrase which is "litigation guardian," Mr. Speaker. It also adds that the Public Guardian and Trustee shall cease to act on the earliest of the date another person is appointed to act. It sets out the powers of the Public Guardian and Trustee as an applicant for letters of administration.

There's some more major changes that I'll be asking about, for example, section 6, there's some changes. There's also a whole new addition to the Act, a new part, Mr. Speaker, which I'll be asking some questions about in committee as to why this new part was needed.

I'm looking forward to having the opportunity to ask questions of officials at committee. So to facilitate that discussion, I'm prepared to move Bill No. 188 or to allow for 188 to move on to its next stage.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion by the minister that Bill No. 188 be now read a second time. Pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

The Speaker: — To which committee shall this bill be committed? I recognize the Minister of Trade and Export.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I designate that Bill No. 188 be referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

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

Bill No. 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 Nutana.

[14:45]

Ms. Sproule: — Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. This is a bill that is intended to modernize the existing fisheries Act, and there's a number of changes that are being made which the minister indicated in his opening remarks on the second reading speech. Basically the intent is to modernize language and clarify the current intent of the Act. As you know, this is . . . Much of the work that's being done in the legislature this fall, which is our last, you know, fall legislature before an election, is really housekeeping matters, Mr. Speaker. And this is another one of those bills where we don't see new direction from the government, and we don't really see an agenda for the future that this government is laying out. But they are taking care of the housekeeping part of things, which is important.

There is some changes on this one though, despite that. And I know my colleague from Regina Elphinstone-Centre gave praise yesterday to the member from The Battlefords, but I would like to do the same. His work on quagga mussels and zebra mussels has been remarkable, and I think his passion for that topic is reflected in the changes in this bill. And his commitment to ensuring the safety of our lakes is one that's very, very important here in Saskatchewan, and I too want to commend the work that he did to bring this to the forefront.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, I've been presenting a petition often this fall, regarding species protection and habitat protection for the swales in Saskatoon and would like to see this concern for protection of that particular wetland too. It's a very important wetland for the province and for the biosphere, Mr. Speaker. And I'm encouraging that kind of passion from that member to maybe be reflected from the people that are passionate about the northeast swale and the small swale, that they too look . . .

We look at the passion those people have about the protection of that ecosystem, the protection of those species, and to look at the cumulative effects of damage. Something like zebra mussels or quagga mussels, you can see the damage almost immediately, and therefore the risks are much more apparent. But, Mr. Speaker, when it comes to cumulative impacts on areas like the swale, which is an old waterway . . . The river used to flow that way many thousands of years ago and now the river's in its current path, but the left-behind ecosystem is one that's incredibly important.

And when we're building freeways and highways throughout these kinds of very rare and precious ecosystems, I think it behooves the government to at least take a look at what the cumulative impacts will be. And many of our Saskatoon members will be aware of the concerns that are being raised by the citizens of Saskatoon, and I'm sure they are as concerned about it as those citizens are. So I'm calling on the Saskatoon members from the government caucus to raise this issue and to ensure that the protection of the swales is one that is reflected in legislation before the construction of the Saskatoon freeway goes any further.

So, Mr. Speaker, again there'll be an opportunity over the break coming up for us to speak to stakeholders. The minister indicated that there has been engagement on this fisheries Act, but we too will need to do our due diligence and check in with some of the stakeholders to ensure that this bill reflects the consultations and the needs of the fisheries and the people that are involved in the fisheries.

It's also a precious resource, Mr. Speaker, and one that's very important to the North where the practice of fishing is one that's centuries old and it's one that sustains communities, Mr. Speaker, and in an economy in the North which is precarious at best. So ensuring the First Nations and northern members have access to a strong fishery is incredibly important, and so we will want to check with them to ensure that these important resources are properly protected. And of course that includes the lakes and the provincial aquatic species at risk. So we're protecting aquatic species at risk. I call on the government to do the same for ecosystems at risk and that would include the northeast swale in Saskatoon.

So, Mr. Speaker, I'm going to move that we adjourn debate on Bill No. 183, the fisheries Act, 2019.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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 Nutana.

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. This is a very short bill that is amending a couple other Acts that are affected by the changing of the fisheries Act. One interestingly enough is *The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Act*, where definitions are being changed in that Act for a "licence" and for the "minister." So I guess that's just cleanup.

In *The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Act*, it would be surprising to see a connection between those two bills and in fact I was somewhat surprised when I saw that. But I think there are

implications on fishing licences under *The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Act* and I believe that was a change brought in a few years ago. So that's being changed.

And then there's a couple of definitions in *The Wildlife Act* that are adding "aquatic species at risk." That is now being defined in the changes to the fisheries Act. And *The Wildlife Act* is also being amended by repealing the existing definition of "wild species at risk" and substituting a new one which excludes aquatic species at risk which now has its own definition. So, Mr. Speaker, those are the two small changes that are being made. And therefore I would move that we adjourn debate on Bill No. 184.

The Speaker: — The member has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 184. 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 Saskatoon Fairview.

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to enter into debate on Bill No. 187, *The Administration of Estates Amendment Act, 2019*. There are a few different changes that are being proposed in this legislation. I usually find it useful to look at explanatory notes when we're talking about amendments, Mr. Speaker, and there are some interesting changes that are being made here. I understand that these changes have been recommended by the Public Guardian and Trustee office. The minister also notes that some of them come from changes that have been similarly made in other jurisdictions.

The minister states that the role of the amendments is to ensure that the role of the executor and administrators in the administration of an estate are clear, and to ensure that the role of the Public Guardian and Trustee administration is clear.

There are also some interesting changes that are being proposed. The government claims that they will put limits on fees that can be charged by heir locators. These are companies that go around when someone dies without a will. You might be contacted to see if you are entitled to an inheritance. So these companies deal with missing heirs or missing inheritants. And the intention here is to limit the amount of money these companies can collect for their services, to provide some regulation around it, which certainly seems prudent. I would be interested to see what other provinces have done as well. So that's a question that comes to mind here. Certainly if we're talking about protecting the public from predatory behaviour, I think that's something we can all agree on. It's just we'll need to look at the fine print and assess how well this legislation does that.

There's amendments that are being included that provide for a more straightforward process for removing executors and administrators in situations of inappropriate conduct. It also allows an executor or administrator of an estate to provide public notice of an individual's death to creditors through electronic means. It previously needed to be put in the newspaper. So it's a sign of modernization I think, Mr. Speaker.

The Act also further clarifies the authority of the Public Guardian and Trustee to act as an executor or administrator of the estates of deceased individuals as described in the Act.

We'll be having a close look at this legislation and the implications of it. But with that I would move to adjourn debate on this bill for today.

The Speaker: — The member has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 187. 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 Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As always, good to take my place and join debate, in this case on Bill No. 189, *The Coroners Amendment Act, 2019*. Mr. Speaker, this bill comes before the legislature on the heels of some significant work that was undertaken to review *The Coroners Act* and certainly the coroner's office, Mr. Speaker, and the functioning thereof.

And that as well came on the heels of some significant questions that had risen in the public domain as to the efficiency and the effectiveness of our coroner regime here in the province of Saskatchewan. So that we're here today with this bill before the House wherein the 44 recommendations of the final report by Clive Weighill, Mr. Speaker, having been appointed to review the office in October of 2017, that the 44 recommendations in that final review, Mr. Speaker, are ushering forward into the legislation.

We are very interested in that fact, Mr. Speaker, and certainly stating for myself but I think this has been echoed by a number of my colleagues, there is a high degree of confidence in the abilities and in the good work of the now Chief Coroner, Clive Weighill, following on tremendous work as the chief of the Saskatoon Police Service and before that of course, Mr. Speaker, was a long-time member of the Regina Police Service, up to and including the role of deputy chief with that force.

So again to speak for myself, that's an individual I've always looked to as being very straightforward, very thoughtful, and very connected with what's happening on the ground, Mr. Speaker, in terms of that individual's public pronouncements. So

that Clive Weighill was appointed to review the Office of the Chief Coroner and then that that good work which resulted in the report is carrying forward in the appointment of Clive Weighill as the coroner in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, is something that again we have some very high expectations of excellent work on behalf of the public of Saskatchewan from Mr. Weighill.

So in terms of the Act itself, I know that we'll have more questions, and certainly we'll be taking our leave from our critic for Justice, Mr. Speaker, in terms of the work that needs to be done there around making certain that again the 44 recommendations of the review are in fact translating into the legal work under the law. But, Mr. Speaker, again there's a fair degree of confidence that comes from the involvement of Clive Weighill in these proceedings.

So, Mr. Speaker, I know that again our Justice critic will have more work to do on this front. I know that there'll be certainly the due diligence to be undertaken on the part of making sure it all adds up, Mr. Speaker. But we'll look forward to that work being conducted by various of my colleagues and how that goes forward. But in the meantime, I would 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.

[15:00]

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 Regina Lakeview.

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure this afternoon to rise and enter into debate on Bill No. 194, *The Miscellaneous Municipal Statutes Amendment Act* of 2019. This is no small feat, Mr. Speaker. In fact, there are a number of Acts that will be significantly impacted by this piece of legislation if passed.

This is a bill that seeks to make changes to three Acts, specifically *The Northern Municipalities Act*, *The Municipalities Act*, and *The Cities Act*. In fact so much, Mr. Speaker, that it's threatened to burst right out of my bill binder in front of me here. I may have a bit of an issue but I'll carry on.

Mr. Speaker, the minister rose on November the 20th to provide second reading comments about this bill. As I noted, it seeks to amend three Acts in Saskatchewan, and it is the result of over a year and a half of consultation with municipal stakeholders. The minister indicated that they had had a chance to suggest and review many of the proposals. So that is of course something that's very important when we're looking at making these significant changes, that those stakeholders indeed have been

consulted and have had the opportunity to suggest some of the needed changes.

The first set of changes, as indicated by the minister, is . . . These changes are around the protection of reprisal, something that is very important, Mr. Speaker, if we want people to bring forth concerns in service of improving governance and working conditions and safety. It's very important that those whistle-blowers or those people who bring those concerns forward do have some protection, and this is certainly something that we have seen be of some concern in this province and in other jurisdictions as well, Mr. Speaker. So it is important. And I think we'll be looking further into exactly what those protections are being suggested here and the adequacy of those protections.

The second broad category, as noted by the minister, is around administrative efficiencies for municipalities. Of course we all live in changing times, Mr. Speaker. It does seem like the pace of change . . . Maybe it's just age but it does seem to speed up as we move along, of course, communication technologies and the like. So there is some updating of legislation to ensure that, for example, various references to mail and fax . . . Sometimes when, you know, we use terms like fax we have to explain it to folks who maybe haven't had the pleasure of using the old fax machine, Mr. Speaker. So updating language is always important there. Some of those things can become dated if we are not careful to be making regular updates.

The third area of amendment, as the minister noted, is around strengthening and improving local governments. Of course the most direct form of governments are municipal governments — very important. And it's very important that we ensure that the public has confidence in those local governments. Often it's disappointing when we look at rates of voter turnout, for example, in municipal elections. And I think one of the ways that we can improve that is improving for people not only their knowledge about what it is that local governments do, but increasing the confidence in those local governments.

And of course we have dedicated folks right across this province who serve, and serve admirably. And you know, we don't want for a few bad apples to, you know, cast aspersions on the group. So it's very important that we have strong processes in place to ensure that everything is running smoothly and that we have public confidence in those local governments.

There was a story — and the member, my colleague for Saskatoon Centre, had noted this earlier as well — a 2018 CBC [Canadian Broadcasting Corporation] report looking at the number of complaints to the Ombudsman's office in the province that were high, around the 400- and 500-complaint range and increasing over time. So it is, I think, encouraging that some of these changes are being anticipated and hopefully will increase that public confidence.

One other thing that is noted in the second reading speech by the minister, and I quote:

Also the population threshold under which a certified administrator is not required will be removed, so that all municipalities, regardless of size, will need a certified administrator or one working towards its certification.

Mr. Speaker, of course that is, you know, it's very important that we have the officials with proper credentials in place there. It's not mentioned in her speech, but I know one of the concerns that is frequently brought forward is just how difficult it is to find those administrators. And I'm not sure if there is a parallel set of remedies or strategies that are being worked towards to ensure that we do indeed have people entering into that type of training, the administrator training, and that we have adequate coverage. You know, it might be great difficulty . . . We have difficulty recruiting, you know, teachers and doctors to some communities. We have also heard about a shortage of administrators. So that would be a question that we might have going into committee.

The final area of amendments in this bill responds to stakeholder requests for improvements in legislation. So again, those are the type of recommendations that have been brought forward by levels of government that we would want to check in with and make sure that their needs are adequately . . . and they're represented here in legislation, that there aren't any blind spots or maybe any misunderstandings. So that is again something that will hold our attention.

In summary, Mr. Deputy Speaker, a very important piece of legislation affecting three very important Acts and, in some ways I think, long overdue. So I am prepared with that to wrap up my comments and to adjourn debate on Bill No. 194.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Regina Lakeview has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 194. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 195

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 195 — *The Lobbyists Amendment Act, 2019*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Rancourt: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's a privilege to add my remarks with regards to debate on Bill No. 195, *The Lobbyists Amendment Act*. We know that some of the recommendations made by the Registrar of Lobbyists in his annual report made a lot of these recommendations that are being changed and amended to this Act. *The Lobbyists Act* actually was enforced in 2016, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And so I guess, you know, in the two to three years it was identified that there were some areas that could use some improvement, so it's nice to see that that's being brought forward.

We know that the reason why they implemented *The Lobbyists Act* was to provide transparency, so people in the public know who's talking with public office holders. And that's extremely important when we're talking about ensuring that the public has confidence in their leaders and they're not being influenced by individuals in the province.

So this particular Act requires lobbyists to register their activities

with the registrar, and these names are made available, publicly available. So some of the changes within this piece of legislation includes having wording here that prohibits providing gifts and personal benefits to public office holders, including money. And so there's a bit of a provision here though that exempts if the gift or personal benefit is part of a normal social convention or is less than \$200. And I know that we already make sure that we put any of that information on our members' conflict-of-interest forms if we're receiving any gifts of value so that members of the public know of that.

This also removes the exemption from registration for all non-profit organizations, which was also a recommendation from the registrar. But there are some limitations with regards to that. It limits the exemption from registration for non-profits with a charitable mandate and non-profit organizations that have less than five employees and any non-profits who have lobbied less than 30 hours per year. And also small charities operating through volunteers, also there's an exception there. But I guess the important thing to highlight is all non-profits without a charitable mandate will be required to register now, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

So the other big change within this piece of legislation was that it removes the threshold for registration as an in-house lobbyist from 100 hours to 30 hours, which is a big change. But I know as the official opposition we put forward a bill, Bill No. 615 which was introduced last spring, that we recommended that there be no threshold, because we know that reducing the threshold promotes more transparency and requires more people to register, and therefore provides a lot more ability for the people of the public to see who is exactly lobbying public office-holders.

So with that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I know that my colleagues have a lot more that they would like to say about the amendment to this particular piece of legislation. And the critic will have a lot of questions to ask in committee and ask if there was some ability to make more changes to this piece of legislation while we have it open for us to review. But with that, I'm going to adjourn debate on Bill No. 195, *The Lobbyists Amendment Act*.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Prince Albert Northcote has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 195. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 196

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 196 — *The Members' Conflict of Interest Amendment Act, 2019*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's my pleasure to enter discussion today on Bill No. 196, *The Members' Conflict of Interest Amendment Act, 2019*. For folks who might be watching at home, just to let everyone know that *The*

Members' Conflict of Interest Act actually sets out all the duties that we have as members of this Assembly, and members of Executive Council have, with respect to our conflicts of interest, including disclosure requirements that we need to file with the Conflict of Interest Commissioner.

The Conflict of Interest Commissioner receives our annual . . . We do this once a year, Mr. Deputy Speaker, where the commissioner receives our annual private disclosure statements and provides public disclosure statements to the Legislative Assembly. And those are accessible for the public to see. I believe they're online but they're also available in our offices if people are interested in those kinds of things, Mr. Speaker.

This particular bill does a few things I think. Firstly, I understand that these recommendations are coming directly from the Conflict of Interest Commissioner from a report that he filed in 2018. Actually it's his annual report where these recommendations are coming. So the current commissioner has used his discretion under the current Act to require members to provide a description of assets of private companies in which they have a controlling interest. So this hasn't been in legislation but the goal of this amendment is to codify this as a new practice and require this information as part of all of our disclosure statements.

[15:15]

Secondly, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the current Act does place requirements on new and existing members to file disclosure statements. There's no such requirement on a former member. So this next amendment is all about making sure when you're no longer a member, there's a time period to make sure the whole time you've served is covered. For example, in some cases there may be a gap between a member's last disclosure statement and the date when he or she ceases to hold office. And so this bill requires members to file a disclosure statement within 60 days of ceasing to be a member. And this provision ensures that a disclosure statement has been provided for that entire time that the individual was serving in this legislature.

Thirdly here, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the bill permits a former member to ask the commissioner for an opinion or a recommendation regarding his or her obligations under the Act for one year after ceasing to be member. And the minister points out in his second reading comments that, "The Act currently places obligations on former members for this period but does not allow a former member to seek advice from the commissioner." So I think that seems to be a good practice too. If you're covered under that piece of legislation or have some responsibilities, to be able to also tap into the knowledge and experience of the commissioner to make sure you're within legislation I think is a good piece or a good change.

And finally, Mr. Deputy Speaker, apparently in the 2018 report from the commissioner, the commissioner he had requested that the bill add a definition of "gift or personal benefit" because that hadn't been in the previous Act. I believe it could be prescribed but it wasn't laid out. So the existing provision prohibits us as members or our family members from accepting a fee, gift, or personal benefit but it doesn't lay out what that fee, gift . . . It doesn't lay out what that is and this amendment will do that.

Subsection (5) is added to section 7 to add a definition of "gift or personal benefit" to include:
 money that will not be paid back;
 a service, hospitality or use of property where there is no charge or a charge below market value; and
 any other thing prescribed.

So I think, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I know that there will be due diligence done on this bill, making sure that there isn't anything else that could be added perhaps. And over the next few months we'll continue to review this. And when it gets to committee I have no doubt there will be very good questions asked in committee from the critic responsible. But with that, for today I would like to move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 196.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Saskatoon Riversdale has moved to adjourn debate on Bill 196, *The Members' Conflict of Interest Amendment Act, 2019*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 197

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Hargrave that **Bill No. 197 — *The Automobile Accident Insurance Amendment Act, 2019*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to enter into the second reading debate on *The Automobile Accident Insurance Act*. And in many ways it's updating the language to make sure it is gender appropriate. In fact it's actually very interesting when you read through the bill. The bill is 11 pages, but only till you get to the very end, the second last section, there is something of substance other than changing the "his or her" and changing to "the beneficiary" or "he or she" or the one that I thought was interesting, "he or she did not" to "the person did not."

But it's all very important. It's important that when you have legislation you keep it as modern and as relevant and as . . . Now I won't say engaging because people don't necessarily find legislation engaging, but not offensive. Somewhere between the two is where you want to be, and hopefully people can read through it. So that's a good thing to have done.

Members before me have said this. We look back at the second reading speech of the minister and see what he has to say about this. And of course what he had done, he had talked about, "The Act currently provides for an automatic right of appeal on a question of law." And so I understand. And he speaks in his speech about "The Chief Justice of the Court of Appeal . . . has requested the amendment to avoid requiring a full panel of the court to be engaged on an appeal that lacks merit." It just is a better use of the court's time and makes things more efficient.

And so that appears also to make sense. We'd have to make sure

that is the case, and we'll do some talking with a few folks about this. Is this a good idea or not? Does it take away people's rights? You know, SGI [Saskatchewan Government Insurance] has . . . And we appreciate the good service that they do provide, whether it's in automobile insurance, driving, and house insurance, so all that kind of stuff. We think it's a good Crown. They've done a good job.

But we want to make sure that there is a balance between the corporation's interest and the person's interest in making sure that they are getting treated fairly; that they are getting the due process that should be afforded. Because I know when people are hurt, whether it's through a particular injury to themselves or, you know, whether it's a car or a house that there's been damage to, you aren't always in the best frame of mind. So it's important that we allow for these things to be done as appropriately as possible, not to give too much power over to one side or the other. There's a balance of law there, and there are no unintended consequences. But generally speaking it's a relatively straightforward piece of legislation other than that last section that I read out to you.

And also the other thing is in terms of the . . . I thought this was interesting, that when one person turns in their licence, that they had put into the Act that at that point when the licence is turned in to the judge that the licence becomes void. So it's important. In the past it was if you turned in a licence it would be just like leaving your licence at home; your licence was still active. But I don't know if that was the case. But just to be sure about that, they've made the language clear that when you turn in your licence at the court, that actually at that point the licence becomes void and you can't be saying, I left my licence somewhere else or I've lost my licence. No, you do not have a licence. That makes a lot of sense as well.

So as I said, there's a lot of housekeeping. It talks about first-party property damage and that type of thing. So I know that the critic will have much more thorough knowledge of the issues at hand, and I'll leave that to them when they have it in committee. But at this point, I know many others will want to talk to this, so I'm just going to move adjournment of Bill No. 197, *An Act to amend The Automobile Accident Insurance Act*. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Saskatoon Centre has moved to adjourn debate on Bill 197. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 198

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Hargrave that **Bill No. 198** — *The Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2019* be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Again it's my

pleasure to enter debate on bill number . . . this time Bill No. 198, *The Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2019*. Just a little bit of history here, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I had the privilege of being on our all-party committee back in 2013 on traffic safety. And my colleague from Cumberland and I had written a minority opinion what we believed was based on the evidence that we were hearing from both the people who presented evidence and also some of the literature that we were presented with as well. And I know it took a few years but that provision from the minority opinion was enacted in 2016, which felt really good. I wish it would have happened sooner. I believe it could have saved lives.

But when it comes to this particular Act, I'm always happy to see strengthening of penalties or sanctions and looking at evidence to make sure that the changes that we make will keep people safer on our roads. And there's always new and emerging things that happen to distract people from driving, where this bill also deals with automated vehicles, which is interesting here.

But just to get to the substance of the bill here, Mr. Deputy Speaker, as the minister points out in his second reading comments, there are inconsistencies in the sanctions between driving while using or holding a cellphone or driving without due care and consideration, which driving while holding cellphone could in fact be considered due care and attention and consideration but they're two different offences, Mr. Deputy Speaker. So with respect to this bill, it will be:

Drivers caught for a second cellphone offence within a year are subject to a vehicle impoundment . . . [But] driving without due care and consideration, impoundments don't happen until the third offence.

So the goal here is to pull those two sanctions in line with one another so they are both happening after the second offence. I know just hearkening back to 2013 when we really pushed hard around impaired driving, and I'm looking what other provinces like Alberta and BC [British Columbia] were doing around those who weren't driving impaired in the criminal range at the .08 but in the administrative range. Vehicle impoundments were working far better than removing licences from people in places like Alberta and BC. And the government finally went there in 2016, but had been reluctant to do that.

So vehicle impoundments can be very effective, because it's difficult explaining to your spouse, your parent, whomever — if it's someone else's car you're driving — why you don't have your vehicle. It helps you police yourself a little bit more. And with just removing a licence, there are many people . . . Unfortunately, stats show that many people will drive while disqualified. And the removal of the vehicle after a certain number of offences can really make a difference in causing people to be a little bit more considerate in their choices. It's about sort of that culture shift that we don't accept certain behaviours and there are big consequences for those behaviours.

The minister points out in his second reading speech again that impaired driving continues to be one of the leading causes of deaths here in Saskatchewan on our roads. So one of the things in this piece of legislation:

If the driver is charged under the Criminal Code with an impaired driving offence, the driver is suspended from

driving until the charge is resolved in court. During the suspension period the driver cannot participate in the ignition interlock program.

So the ignition interlock program is where you have a Breathalyzer on your vehicle and it allows you to drive. You blow, and if you aren't drinking or impaired at that point or impaired at all, then you can drive your vehicle, Mr. Speaker. It will start.

So during the suspension period, while the person has their Criminal Code with their impaired driving offence, the driver can't participate in the ignition interlock program. And as well, "... if convicted of an alcohol-related offence, the driver can't participate in the ignition interlock program till they have completed mandatory educational programming." So this particular change in this amendment Act "... would permit participation in the ignition interlock program prior to the disposition of the charge, after the driver serves a 90-day suspension." And some people ...

So the minister goes on to say, "If convicted, eligible drivers would be able to participate in the ignition interlock program before completing the mandatory education." And the minister points out that:

This change is intended to remove barriers that might prevent drivers from installing an ignition interlock, which will hopefully result in higher participation and lower instances of individuals driving while disqualified ... [And it] also allows individuals to maintain employment and manage personal and family responsibilities prior to a court disposition.

So it's not so much that you're rewarding the impaired driver, but allowing them again to change habits and learn how to not drink while driving, Mr. Deputy Speaker, which is the real key here. Because if a person perhaps doesn't have the opportunity to install the ignition interlock, he or she, whether or not they have their licence suspended, may still choose to drive without that. That ignition interlock makes people safer, but it also helps change habits.

So another part of this bill is around class 1 vehicles and licensing. So last year there was the implementation of mandatory training for class 1 vehicles, but it was done through regulations, and changes to rules around driver's licensing for non-residents requires a legislative change. So this particular amendment, the requirement for mandatory truck training doesn't apply to non-residents, so that means non-residents can drive semis using their foreign commercial driver's licences.

[15:30]

So the changes to this Act, as the minister points out, ensures non-residents are also subject to the mandatory training program, which is very important, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that anybody who's driving those classes of vehicles on our highways have the appropriate training and licensing, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

There's amendments related to the transportation of children in taxis or ride-share vehicles. So currently it is the responsible of the driver of that vehicle to ensure that kids under the age of 16

are properly restrained, whether it ... And this change would require parents and guardians accompanying the child to be responsible for that instead.

Another revision, Mr. Deputy Speaker, will allow law enforcement to lay a charge for an intentional obscured licence plate. That's not on those occasions where some of us might have a very muddy licence plate or a very packed, snowy plate, although it's always good to try to make sure your plates are clear, Mr. Deputy Speaker. But it's when it's intentionally obscured in a manner to purposefully prevent the plate from being read accurately.

Bear with me, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's a pretty fulsome bill here. It also, with respect to another change, relates to autonomous vehicles. So as my earlier comments, I mentioned that things are always changing, whether it's cellphones, which weren't a thing really not that long ago for all of us. Now we all have a little hand-held computer and phone in our possession. Most of us have those kinds of things.

And here this particular part of the bill talks about autonomous vehicles, and that area of research and that work continues to grow around the world. I can't quite wrap my head around autonomous vehicles but I know I've read, a few years ago, some studies around the safety of autonomous vehicles. But I know that there's still lots of work to go there. But this particular bill puts in place some measures to address registration, licensing, and enforcement. So some changes are required to prepare for testing and deployment of those vehicles here in the province.

This bill also, as the minister says:

... administratively SGI treats a provincial driving-while-disqualified offence similar to how it treats a Criminal Code offence ... [coming] with an automatic licence suspension for a minimum of one year.

And the minister says that "SGI does not believe the same sanctions are appropriate in this case. This amendment will address that." And I'm not quite sure how I feel about that, but this is our opportunity here over the next few months to chat with other folks — people who know these issues very well, people who will be impacted by these issues — and in committee, the chance to ask some more detailed questions as to perhaps why SGI doesn't believe those sanctions are appropriate for both cases here, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

But there'll be ample time between now and spring session to continue to have discussions about this bill with those who will be impacted, which are many people. Because many of us, I don't know what the percentage is, but I would argue that a large number of people in Saskatchewan are driving vehicles and are on our roads. And we need to make sure that we are doing everything humanly possible from a public policy perspective to ensure people are safe.

So with that I will conclude my remarks for today on Bill No. 198. And I move to adjourn debate.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Saskatoon Riversdale has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 198, *The Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2019*. Is it the pleasure of the

Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 199

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Reiter that **Bill No. 199 — *The Opioid Damages and Health Care Costs Recovery Act*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's an important thing that we get up and we have this debate. This is a very important bill that we have before us, this Bill 199, *An Act respecting Opioid Damages and Health Care Costs Recovery and making related amendments to The Health Administration Act*.

It's one of the saddest things we see in our communities now, the damage, the wrath of opioids and related drugs that are happening on our citizens, starting out in an innocent way through trying to find pain relief but clearly it's been exploding. And it's been something that we've needed to do for a long, long time. So it's good that we have this bill before us and that allowing the government to participate in the lawsuit that BC has initiated and that other provinces and the federal government have joined in. And we've seen it happening across North America. It's one where there is no rhyme or reason for the excessive profits that we see that some of the drug companies have been making off of this and we need to get a much better handle on it.

We know that between April 1, 2018 and March 31st, 2019 there were over 440,000 — in fact 441,354 — opioid prescriptions filled in Saskatchewan. There were another 359,681 prescriptions dispensed to treat addictions such as methadone. And unfortunately, unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, there were 119 deaths in Saskatchewan due to opioid toxicity. And this is something that we need to do better, we need to get a handle on from all directions, from all directions.

And the lawsuit is appropriate, and I know that we've been calling for it. And in fact when we look at the news release from the Provincial Auditor that came out this summer in which she talks about . . . And this was in her 2019 report volume 1. The title was *Provincial Auditor Examines Opioid Prescribing and Dispensing Practices in Saskatchewan*. And she goes on to say, and I quote, and this is June 6th, 2019:

For the six most prescribed opioids, Saskatchewan's prescribing stands well above national averages. Physicians prescribe 95% of prescribed opioids with dentists and nurse practitioners prescribing nearly the remaining 5%. Opioid poisonings resulted in an average of 16 hospitalizations daily in Canada in 2016-17.

And she goes on to say:

“Because the Ministry does not monitor all opioids prescribed in the province or actively monitor the Program,” said Ferguson, “It does not know whether the Program helps reduce prescribed opioid misuse.”

And she's talking about the prescription review program.

And so this is something that we need to make sure we get a handle on, and this is something that is killing our citizens. And it's one that, I think both sides of the House can agree, it's a provincial and national tragedy when we see those kind of numbers, you know, 119, nearly 120 deaths in our province last year. This is something that we need to take strong action, quick action on.

And so the government has brought this forward. And while they have talked about other things that they do, we are urging them to recognize this in a much more fuller way. I know our critic has been talking a lot about this and our critic for mental health and addictions as well. It is a crisis. It's one that we have to address completely. And I know both sides of the House really feel very strongly about it, but we cannot be dragging our feet on this. This will be one action that we can get behind. Well overdue.

We're glad that BC took the lead on this and were in many ways causing reluctant, or for whatever reasons, other provinces who felt that they couldn't join in or couldn't take the leadership in it. So we're glad that they did and now that Saskatchewan is joining in on this as well.

So I know that we'll have a lot more to say about this. This is a crisis. This is very important legislation. Unfortunately it's a little bit behind but better that it's better late than never. But again I just urge the government to really think as we head into the Christmas holidays, the number of people who are suffering from addictions and what their lives are, and the number of families that'll be changed this year because of the opioid crisis. And we want to make sure they are feeling well supported, and those facing addictions have the supports they need so that they can live and get back to as normal a life as possible.

So with that I would move adjournment on Bill No. 199, *An Act respecting Opioid Damages and Health Care Costs Recovery*. I do so move. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Saskatoon Centre has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 199. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 200

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 200 — *The Saskatchewan Employment Amendment Act, 2019*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I rise again this afternoon to enter into debate on Bill No. 200, *The Saskatchewan Employment Amendment Act*. Mr. Speaker, the minister rose on December the 2nd, short days ago, to provide second reading comments on this bill, and in introducing the bill noted that the key changes introduced include increasing and expanding leaves, strengthening roles of radiation health officers, and clarifying adjudication processes and roles, Mr. Speaker.

So on the first order, extending parental leave from 63 to 71 weeks, I think that that certainly has an impact on families right around the province. But I know, you know, we've had the thrilling opportunity to watch the benefit of flexible parental leave and extended parental leave benefits right here in front of us with the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and her partner.

Mr. Speaker, this allows for parents to be able to work their schedules and have some opportunity for extended leave, which really is important. I know those first weeks go by very, very quickly, and any opportunity that we can provide to ensure that parents have support that they need to be able to stay home is important. I think we still have work to do around adequacy sometimes of benefits. And you know, some families have a large difficulty being able to make it work financially to be away from work for a long time. But for those who can, it certainly does provide benefit.

By way of personal experience, I had my oldest daughter, who turns 20 this year . . . was under the old, old, old regime where you only had six weeks of maternity leave. Or six months rather, not six weeks. Six months. Sadly that is the case in some states, I believe, but not here in Canada. So six months under the old system before the changes were put in place. The other two children under the one-year leave provisions, and I tell you it made a huge difference for so many things, for being able to breastfeed, to be able to, you know, just enjoy some time at home and establish those bonds. With the oldest, I was back to work after five weeks . . . or five months, working nights. It felt like five weeks. With the other two, taking a longer provision.

And to see that extended and to have further expansion of parental leaves, I think really is a point of important evolution in Canada. And I'm glad to see this legislation catch us up here in Saskatchewan, and to really note how important those early, formative years are for families and for children. So I suspect that that will have largely favourable reviews, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

[15:45]

One of the other pieces that is contemplated in this bill is expanding candidate public office leave to include employees that are running for election to band council, something that has been an oversight to this point but is very important, a very important level of government. And this bill would allow job protections for those who take that very important step of putting their name forward for elected office, in this case at the band council level.

And that's always important that we encourage, we look at ways to encourage participation at all levels of governance. And the fact that this anticipates providing that protection, I again think is very important, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

The bill also allows the Labour Relations Board to produce a written decision following a delayed adjudication process and to replace the adjudicator if a decision isn't provided. This is an instance that maybe a lot of folks wouldn't know about. But I did have a constituent a little while back bring a very similar issue, where you have an adjudication process that becomes, I guess, essentially orphaned if the adjudicator is sick or isn't able to provide a decision, rendering that person without benefit of a decision.

I believe the only remedy up to this point was to go before the courts to ask for another adjudicator. This allows someone to go before the Labour Relations Board to ask for another adjudicator. And again, my reading of this from here, that seems to be a positive development. Because again, maybe not something that the average person would think about or have knowledge of, but for those who are waiting for those decisions, these are very important decisions to people. You know, their livelihood, their financial situation, their ability to pay bills sometimes is held in the balance waiting for those decisions. So I think that seems to be positive.

This bill also provides the director of occupational health and safety and the director of employment standards to have the right to appeal an adjudicator's decision within 30 business days of receipt of that decision, Mr. Speaker. I actually don't know if that is a reasonable time frame, but that is exactly the kind of thing that critics like to dig into and make sure that we've got that time frame right, that we are keeping with the needs of the people of Saskatchewan and also that we are in a place that is comparable to other jurisdictions in Canada.

This also looks at authorizing radiation officers to issue compliance undertakings and notice of interventions, something that they, I take, that they are not currently able to do. And it would also establish higher penalties for second or subsequent offences. And it establishes an appeal process that's consistent with those outlined for occupational health and safety officers. Again perhaps an oversight or, you know, as a result of some of the concerns.

I know in the second reading speech the minister noted that this was in response to some of the high and really unacceptable levels of occupational health and safety concerns in the province. So if this is something that goes a way towards keeping people safe in their workplaces and deals with non-compliance issues in a way that dissuades workplaces from not complying with orders, I think that that is all to the good, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

As I noted, it also amends penalty provisions and increases those provisions for second and subsequent offences, again which . . . Hopefully, you know, just the first ruling would be enough, but in the case that that ruling falls on deaf ears, that there is an increasing and an escalating penalty for that. And I think that seems more than reasonable.

But this is not just for my eyes and my scrutiny. I know that there will be others on this side of the House who would like to have a good look at that. Certainly when I look at Saskatchewan employment Act amendments, immediately, you know, I want to go through with a fine-tooth comb to make sure. You know, we've had some difficulties before with bills under that name, Mr. Speaker, bills that have taken us all the way to Ottawa. So

we will be doing our due diligence on this side and ensuring that all of the nooks and crannies are . . . a light is shone in them and that there are not any unintended consequences.

But until then I am prepared to adjourn debate on Bill No. 200.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Regina Lakeview has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 200, *The Saskatchewan Employment Amendment Act, 2019*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 201

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Makowsky that **Bill No. 201 — *The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Amendment Act, 2019/Loi modificative de 2019 sur la réglementation des boissons alcoolisées et des jeux de hasard*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's my pleasure to enter into debate again today, this time on Bill No. 201, *The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Amendment Act of 2019*. I do not think I will endeavour to pronounce the French version. Out of respect for all of the francophones of Saskatchewan, I will not try that. And for the record, my partner is teaching in French right now, so there's an interesting dynamic in our relationship.

The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Amendment Act. So when I was looking at this, there's a few different changes that it proposes to make, but the big amendment here is that it's authorizing SLGA [Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority] to enter into agreements with any person for warehousing and delivery of specialty liquor products. So we're talking about another arm of privatization in the deliberate attempt to privatize our liquor and gaming through the province. So you're probably getting a sense of what my thoughts are on this, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

I think that certainly folks want modernization when we talk about providing these services to the province. You know, I enjoy craft beer as well and beer on tap and sometimes being able to get liquor after 5 p.m., Mr. Deputy Speaker. I think those modernization changes can happen and we can still keep our public system. Every attempt to further privatize our services raises suspicions for me. People often think that we can't have it both ways and protect public liquor, but I would be a proponent of that.

We are talking about warehousing in this case, so I would be curious to see what the impacts will be on our delivery. But that is something we'll have to look into a little bit further.

One of the questions that I have is what the plan is to address the recommendations that came out of the Canadian alcohol policy evaluation. So two of the main recommendations were reducing

privatization. And I think that those are some things that we need to be looking at, specifically when we're talking about the problems that exist with alcoholism across the province. We've had colleagues today talking about the issues that we face in terms of drinking and driving in our province. There are some key questions here in terms of how we protect folks, as well, from harm.

So I will leave it at that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and allow other colleagues to engage. But with that I will move to adjourn debate on this bill for today.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Saskatoon Fairview has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 201. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 203

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 203 — *The Financial Planners and Financial Advisors Act*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And it is my pleasure this afternoon to rise on what I believe is the second-last second reading comments of this session. So that certainly seems like we've hit . . . It's momentous. And hopefully I can do it justice with my comments being the second to last to speak on bills before we break for the holidays.

The bill that I'm speaking on, of course, is *The Financial Planners and Financial Advisors Act*. You never know what you're going to learn, Mr. Deputy Speaker, when you're sitting here and reading through the binders. When I first saw this bill, of course I was reminded of conversations about regulation, about regulation of terms. We certainly see that with the term "massage therapist" for example, or the term "massage." Being a registered social worker, that is something that means something to me, you know, "social worker" being a regulated term and having to have credentials and to meet certain standards to be able to use that term. And here we have in front of us an Act that would provide some of those credentialing clarification and . . . Well clarification and also potential suspensions or revocation of those terms in legislation.

Of course it only takes one bad apple as they say, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Those who do provide financial advice and use the term very much want to see the regulations in place so that there is a certain standard. Those that use that term have a fiduciary duty to their clients.

I was just reading a story going back I think to 2017, out of Ontario — it doesn't say Ontario but it I think assumes we know it's from Ontario — posted March 29th, 2017 around the difference between a financial advisor with an "o" and financial adviser with an "e." Who knew that the former term was at that

point unregulated, but the latter term did have a specific prescribed fiduciary duty to their clients? And who said we don't learn anything in here, Mr. Deputy Speaker?

This is I think important legislation that sets out to provide definitions of “financial planner” and “financial advisor” and other terms used under the legislation. It provides for the requirement of a credentialing body to assess the credentials and education of financial planners and advisors. I think that is something that we will want to look further into. I think it prescribes that those would be set out in the regulations.

It authorizes the Financial and Consumer Affairs Authority to approve the credentialing bodies and the credentials offered through these institutions. Again that is something that would bear scrutiny and I know that the critic will have more to look into with regard to that credentialing.

It also sets out, as I noted, the conditions for suspension or revocation of credentialing bodies. So not only are those who are using those terms regulated and prescribed in this legislation, but also the bodies that do the accrediting, the credentialing, would also have conditions for suspension if they go awry and are in contravention of the Act. It sets out again the duties and the powers of the credentialing bodies as well as the procedures for inspections and investigations of the activities of financial planners and advisors.

[16:00]

Not only are those in the industry those with an interest in this bill. Of course anyone who has their money, has their life savings invested, you know, there's a high level of vulnerability there and a high level of trust that is put into those professionals, you know, dealing with people's, as I noted, their life savings. And the return on those savings, you know, makes the difference between whether they can afford to go into a care home or remain in their own home, Mr. Deputy Speaker, so certainly very, very important.

But I think that I have had the opportunity to say my piece on Bill No. 203 and am prepared at this point to adjourn debate.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Regina Lakeview has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 203. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 204

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 204 — *The Jury Amendment Act, 2019/Loi modificative de 2019 sur le jury*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Rancourt: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's always a pleasure to join in with regards to bill debate and today I get to

put my remarks on Bill No. 204, *The Jury Amendment Act, 2019*.

This particular piece of legislation amends *The Jury Act* of 1998, so it's been a long time since this piece of legislation has been reviewed and I think a lot has changed within the 20 years. So it is probably due time to look at the jury process and any improvements that can be made and ensure that the legislation is modernized. And probably there is a lot of housekeeping and some amendments that need to be done with regards to that. I believe some of these amendments here will improve and modernize the jury selection process and increase jury participation, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

I've always had an interest in the court process and always wanted to be on the jury but I hear that I'm one of very few because a lot of people are absolutely terrified of having to be on a jury and the time-consuming process it is. And just living in a small community . . . Prince Albert, even though it has over 30,000 people there, it is considered quite a small community. And some people are a bit concerned about being selected on a jury and it could be a high-profile case of some sort.

And so I think some of the changes within this legislation also will help protect the jurors' information, which is very important with regards to ensuring that their private information is kept private and only the individuals who are involved with the court process will have that information. And so my understanding though is it is quite a lengthy process to choose individuals for jury, to send out their notifications, to go through the process of selecting one. It's important and it's very valuable. It's an important civic duty to be selected as a juror and to go through that process.

The two times I did get summoned I couldn't participate and I had to send in the reasons why I couldn't participate. And now I think in the role that we're in, I think we're automatically eliminated from that process as well. And so yes, some of the grounds of exclusion have been expanded within the changes to this legislation so chiefs and council members of First Nation bands will also be excluded from being able to be on jury, which is I believe a similar practice for municipal leaders.

But one of the changes with the legislation is that they're going to remove the exclusion of spouses, because previously if you were a spouse or a child of an individual who is an elected member, you would also be excluded from being a juror. But now they are going to include them as being allowed to be jurors, so hopefully that will expand the pool of potential jurors.

Also I was surprised, Mr. Deputy Speaker, from reading this information, that the actual jury process is done by hand, for lack of better terminology. And so they're changing some of the wording in this legislation so that it can be done electronically, which I would've already thought we would have had that process now. I can't imagine how the process works manually. So hopefully that is something that can be done and I think that would free up a lot of resources and make the selection even seem more transparent and fair to all. So the whole purpose of making some of these amendments is to make the system more efficient. And I believe a lot of the recommendations for changes with this piece of legislation was provided by a multi-year review that was done by the jury management system.

Also one of the big changes here as well is they're going to replace a two-draw process to a one-draw process. They're going to be more specific on the geographic area that's going to be included, so hopefully that reduces the travel time for jurors. But I hope that doesn't reduce the amount of variety of jurors that you can have on a jury process.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I don't have a whole lot more to add to this. I think it's just so important that when we're selecting a jury that we ensure that the representatives on the jury have a good complement and is a good makeup of the local community that it's representing because we want to ensure that this is a very fair process. And when people are going through the court system, it's really important to ensure that they have a fair trial and the people who are going to decide whether they are guilty or not, they should feel that they're being represented appropriately.

So with that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I know that I have colleagues that will want to add their remarks to this debate, and our critic will do her due diligence like always when it comes to committee. So with that I adjourn debate on Bill No. 204.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Prince Albert Northcote has moved to adjourn debate on Bill 204, *The Jury Amendment Act, 2019*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

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

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried. This House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 10 a.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 16:08.]

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