



FOURTH SESSION - TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

of the

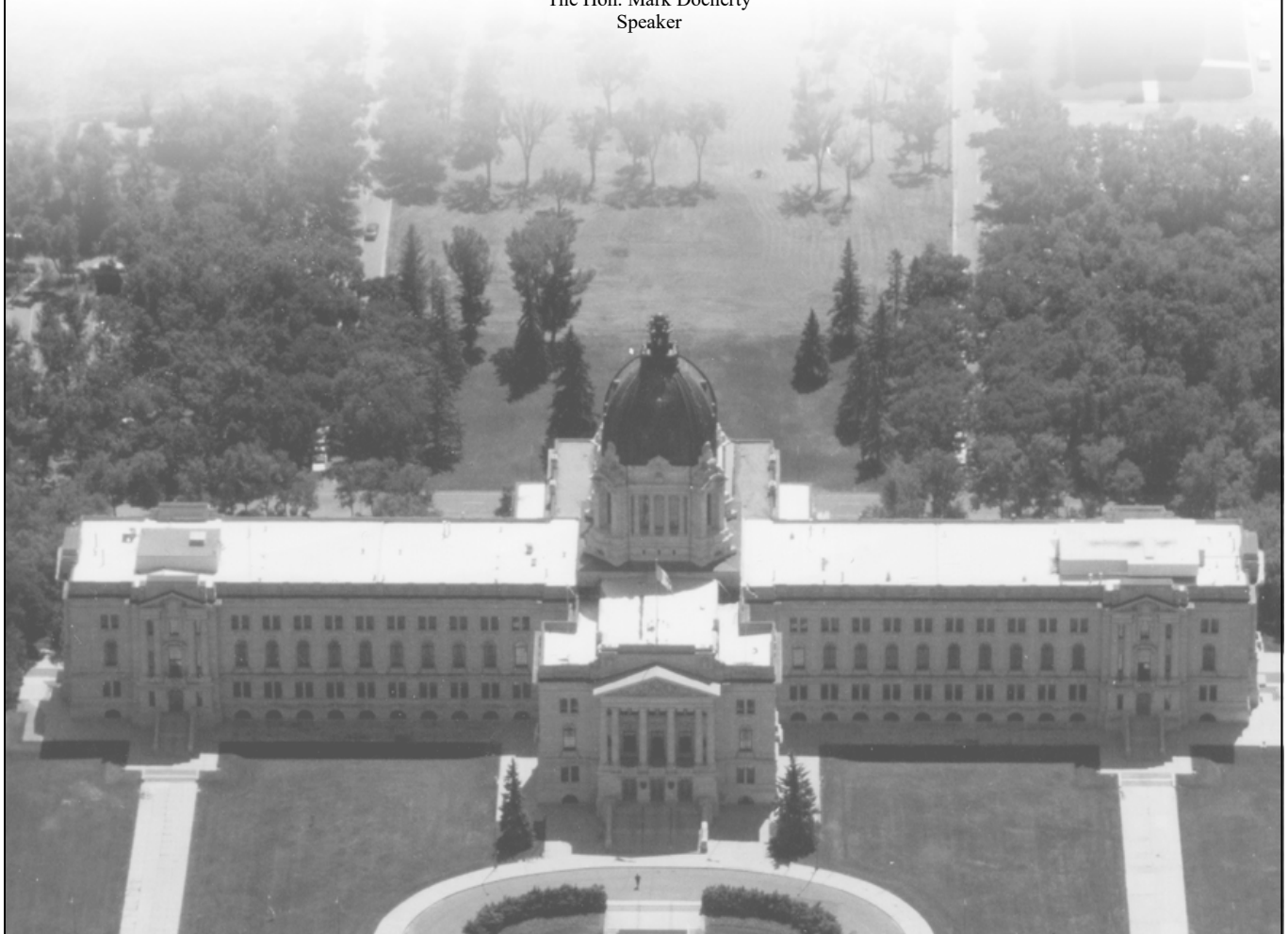
**Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

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**DEBATES  
and  
PROCEEDINGS**

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(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

<b>Beaudry-Mellor</b> , Hon. Tina — Regina University (SP)	<b>Makowsky</b> , Hon. Gene — Regina Gardiner Park (SP)
<b>Beck</b> , Carla — Regina Lakeview (NDP)	<b>Marit</b> , Hon. David — Wood River (SP)
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<b>Bonk</b> , Steven — Moosomin (SP)	<b>McMorris</b> , Don — Indian Head-Milestone (SP)
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<b>Brkich</b> , Greg — Arm River (SP)	<b>Merriman</b> , Hon. Paul — Saskatoon Silverspring-Sutherland (SP)
<b>Buckingham</b> , David — Saskatoon Westview (SP)	<b>Michelson</b> , Warren — Moose Jaw North (SP)
<b>Carr</b> , Hon. Lori — Estevan (SP)	<b>Moe</b> , Hon. Scott — Rosthern-Shellbrook (SP)
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<b>Cox</b> , Herb — The Battlefords (SP)	<b>Nerlien</b> , Hugh — Kelvington-Wadena (SP)
<b>D'Autremont</b> , Dan — Cannington (SP)	<b>Olauson</b> , Eric — Saskatoon University (SP)
<b>Dennis</b> , Terry — Canora-Pelly (SP)	<b>Ottenbreit</b> , Hon. Greg — Yorkton (SP)
<b>Docherty</b> , Hon. Mark — Regina Coronation Park (SP)	<b>Pedersen, Yens</b> — Regina Northeast (NDP)
<b>Doke</b> , Larry — Cut Knife-Turtleford (SP)	<b>Rancourt</b> , Nicole — Prince Albert Northcote (NDP)
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<b>Eyre</b> , Hon. Bronwyn — Saskatoon Stonebridge-Dakota (SP)	<b>Ross</b> , Laura — Regina Rochdale (SP)
<b>Fiaz</b> , Muhammad — Regina Pasqua (SP)	<b>Sarauer</b> , Nicole — Regina Douglas Park (NDP)
<b>Forbes</b> , David — Saskatoon Centre (NDP)	<b>Sproule</b> , Cathy — Saskatoon Nutana (NDP)
<b>Francis</b> , Ken — Kindersley (SP)	<b>Steele</b> , Doug — Cypress Hills (SP)
<b>Goudy</b> , Hon. Todd — Melfort (SP)	<b>Stewart</b> , Lyle — Lumsden-Morse (SP)
<b>Hargrave</b> , Hon. Joe — Prince Albert Carlton (SP)	<b>Tell</b> , Hon. Christine — Regina Wascana Plains (SP)
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<b>Harrison</b> , Hon. Jeremy — Meadow Lake (SP)	<b>Weekes</b> , Randy — Biggar-Sask Valley (SP)
<b>Hart</b> , Glen — Last Mountain-Touchwood (SP)	<b>Wilson</b> , Nadine — Saskatchewan Rivers (SP)
<b>Heppner</b> , Nancy — Martensville-Warman (SP)	<b>Wotherspoon</b> , Trent — Regina Rosemont (NDP)
<b>Hindley</b> , Everett — Swift Current (SP)	<b>Wyant</b> , Hon. Gordon — Saskatoon Northwest (SP)
<b>Kaeding</b> , Hon. Warren — Melville-Saltcoats (SP)	<b>Young</b> , Colleen — Lloydminster (SP)
<b>Kirsch</b> , Delbert — Batoche (SP)	
<b>Lambert</b> , Lisa — Saskatoon Churchill-Wildwood (SP)	<b>Vacant</b> — Regina Walsh Acres
<b>Lawrence</b> , Greg — Moose Jaw Wakamow (SP)	<b>Vacant</b> — Saskatoon Eastview

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

**Clerks-at-the-Table**

**Clerk** — Gregory A. Putz

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

**Principal Clerk** — Iris Lang

**Clerk Assistant** — Kathy Buriannyk

**Sergeant-at-Arms** — Terry Quinn

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[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Yorkton.

**Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all the members of the Assembly, it's my pleasure to introduce this afternoon, in your gallery, members from the Association of Consulting Engineering Companies in Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, seated in your gallery — I'd ask them to give a wave as I mention their names — Lawrence Pinter, Peter Zrymiak, Phil Bruch, David Smith, Alyson Stout, Brett LaRoche, Darlene Leamon, Paul Pinder, and Scott Neurauter.

Mr. Speaker, the Association of Consulting Engineering Companies in Saskatchewan, or ACEC, is a non-profit organization representing the majority of consulting engineering and consulting geoscience firms in our province. They are valued contributors to our province and our economy. I know they had a great meeting with multiple ministers this afternoon. I had a great meeting with a number of them that have expertise in highways and infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker, we'll be seeing them later today at a reception they're hosting in the building. But I ask all members to join me in welcoming these representatives.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to join with the minister opposite to give a very warm welcome to the association of consulting engineers of Saskatchewan to their Assembly on behalf of the official opposition. It was a pleasure to sit down here today, and we're thankful for that meeting. But we're thankful for what they do in Saskatchewan each and every day, building and ensuring high-quality infrastructure that serves people and growing communities and our economy, working in both, of course, the private sector and the public sector.

They've brought a voice to this legislature to push for important improvements to procurement within Saskatchewan that would be a benefit to Saskatchewan people. We're thankful for them leading that conversation. That's one we're very interested in and want to continue to be a part of, making sure that we have procurement that serves Saskatchewan people. So we value their voice.

So on behalf of the official opposition, I ask all members of this Assembly to join in the very warm welcome to the association of consulting engineers of Saskatchewan.

And while I am on my feet, Mr. Speaker, I'll just turn my attention to another group of economic leaders within our province that have joined us here today, and that's the insurance brokers of Saskatchewan. We also value the chance to sit down with the insurance brokers of Saskatchewan here today. They

brought forward proposals to improve consumer protection for Saskatchewan people and to make sure that there's measures in place that are improved around flood mitigation and many more items.

We're thankful for their voice on these fronts, but we are really thankful for the role that the Insurance Brokers' Association of Saskatchewan, what the independent insurance brokers do all across Saskatchewan. They're there to ensure consumer protection and they're on the front lines of our economy and on the front lines of our Main Streets across the province. It's hard to go into a small town without seeing their important role within those local economies, front and centre on Main Street.

So on behalf of the official opposition, I welcome the Insurance Brokers' Association of Saskatchewan for their presence here today, for what they do each and every day within the province.

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

**Hon. Mr. Hargrave:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you, it's my pleasure to introduce to you and all members of the Assembly, three individuals seated in your gallery today representing the Insurance Brokers' Association of Saskatchewan. These three folks are members of the new IBAS [Insurance Brokers' Association of Saskatchewan] Emerging Brokers Council launched earlier this year to help cultivate the next generation workforce of the insurance industry. They are, and I'd ask if they'd give us a little wave when I call out their name, from Regina is Jessica Yelland; from Saskatoon, Nicole Crump; and right from Melville is Justin Kozakevich.

Mr. Speaker, insurance brokers truly are a vital part of the economic and social climate of our province. IBAS has 205 brokerage members, operate 378 branches across 249 Saskatchewan communities. Please join me in thanking them for their contributions and in welcoming these representatives to the Assembly as part of IBAS's annual day at the legislature. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Pedersen:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to draw your attention to some folks in the west gallery here behind me who work or who have worked at a facility in my constituency, the Co-op Refinery. And we know that they are in a difficult situation right now where there's a lockout and the parties are at mediation right now. I know that they would very much like to be back to work and I know that they know that on this side of the House that we 100 per cent support oil and gas workers. So I'd just like to ask the members of the Assembly to join with me in welcoming them to their Assembly.

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

**Hon. Ms. Beaudry-Mellor:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the member from Northeast to welcome these members who have worked at the Federated Co-ops in our city here in Regina to their Legislative Assembly, and thank them for all the work that they do to move oil and gas across the province on behalf of the people of Saskatchewan.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Regina . . . for Last Mountain-Touchwood.

**Mr. Hart:** — Yes, Mr. Speaker, it is Last Mountain-Touchwood. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There's someone in your gallery that I'd like to introduce to you and to all other members. That is Travis Keisig seated in the Speaker's gallery giving us a wave. Travis and his wife, Sheila, live and farm in the Balcarres-Ituna area. I believe Travis's mailing address is Ituna. They have two daughters, and I've been showing them around the building today, and I know one of them is graduated and away from home and I'm not sure about the second. We had such a busy schedule today.

But, Mr. Speaker, Travis also does something else. He has a keen interest in politics and he is the nominated candidate for the Saskatchewan Party in Last Mountain-Touchwood, and I have no doubt that he will be taking a seat here. And I just have one request of him. I would ask that he would work with whoever is the minister of Highways after he arrives here to have Highway 310 perhaps have the initials of GPH along it. With that, Mr. Speaker, I'd ask all members to welcome Travis Keisig to his Legislative Assembly.

#### PRESENTING PETITIONS

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from The Battlefords.

**Mr. Cox:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise today to present a petition from the citizens who are opposed to the federal government's decision to impose an unfair and ineffective carbon tax on the province of Saskatchewan.

I'd like to read the prayer:

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

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by the good citizens of North Battleford and Delmas.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present petitions on behalf of Saskatchewan people and residents and communities from all across Saskatchewan as it relates to another tax that Saskatchewan people are rightfully concerned about, and that's of course the billion-dollar increase to the PST [provincial sales tax], the biggest increase to the PST in Saskatchewan's history, that was brought forward by the Sask Party government.

In the case of the Sask Party, they saw a slowing economy and they chose to slam on the brakes with the imposition of the PST, something that's hit families and households hard. The average household of course is now paying more than \$800 per year in added PST costs, Mr. Speaker. You see that playing itself out in all sorts of negative ways within our economy and added household strain for so many across the province.

But as it relates to the imposition of the PST onto construction labour, well quite simply this is the epitome of a job-killing tax, Mr. Speaker. Sadly the results speak for themselves: projects have been shelved all across the province, permits have plummeted across the province, and thousands of hard-working tradespeople have been forced out of Saskatchewan in the pursuit of employment, Mr. Speaker, hurting our economy, hurting our communities, and representing a tremendous loss not just for them and their families but for our province as well.

The prayer reads as follows:

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

These petitions today are signed by concerned residents of Archerwill and Kelvington. I so submit.

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

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition to restore public control over Wascana Park. Mr. Speaker, Wascana Park is a treasured urban park and conservation area that has been responsibly and well managed with an equal partnership between the province, the University of Regina, and the city of Regina for over 50 years.

The Sask Party saw fit two years ago to throw aside that 50 years of precedent and take control over the board, while at the same time pushing forward a commercial, for-profit building that's over 70,000 square feet and four storeys high and will also benefit one of the Sask Party's largest corporate donors. More and more people in Regina and Saskatchewan at large are becoming concerned with the growing commercialization of Wascana Park and want to see it stopped. As a result, they are signing this petition.

I'd like to read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the government to restore the governance structure of the Wascana Centre Authority and end the commercialization of Wascana Park.

Mr. Speaker, the individuals signing the petition today come from Saskatoon and Macdowall. I do so present.

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

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition calling for a \$15 minimum wage. And the undersigned residents of the province of Saskatchewan want to bring to our attention the following: that Saskatchewan now has the lowest minimum wage in Canada and a minimum wage should not be a poverty wage, but you know, Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan people working full time at minimum wage jobs are living in poverty; and that \$15 an hour will improve health and well-being and lift

Saskatchewan workers out of poverty; that a \$15 wage will benefit local businesses and support local economies by putting money in workers' pockets to spend in their communities.

[13:45]

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

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Sask Party government to adopt a plan to raise the minimum wage to \$15 an hour for all workers.

Mr. Speaker, people signing this petition come from the city of Saskatoon. I do so present. Thank you.

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

**Ms. Beck:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise this afternoon to present a petition calling on the Sask Party government to fix the crisis in our classrooms. Those who have signed this petition, Mr. Speaker, wish to draw our attention to a number of points that are facing our students today: that the Sask Party government's cuts mean falling per-student funding and fewer supports for students who need a little help; we see more and more complex classrooms, Mr. Speaker, and fewer, fewer supports; that the Sask Party government's cuts leave educators simply without the resources they need in order to do their jobs; and that the Sask Party government's cuts and underfunding and overcrowding have left our classrooms overcrowded because of their inability and unwillingness to track class sizes; that the Sask Party government's lack of funding for school infrastructure has led to crumbling schools and overcrowded classrooms right across the province, Mr. Speaker; and that the Sask Party government's failure to invest in classrooms is having serious consequences in our classrooms today and will continue to have serious consequences for this province and the economy if we don't fix it.

So I will read the prayer:

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

Mr. Speaker, those who have signed the petition today reside in Regina. I do so present.

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

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

emergency room wait times and has no meaningful strategy to get emergency room wait times under control.

I'd like to read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Sask Party government to fully fund and execute a plan, as they promised to do in 2012, to lower and eventually end ER wait times across Saskatchewan.

This petition is signed by individuals from Saskatoon and La Ronge. I do so present.

## STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Lloydminster.

### Family Donates Vans to Lloydminster High School

**Ms. Young:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm consistently amazed by the generosity of Saskatchewan people. J. William Gow was a husband, a father, a business owner, a coach, and a mentor to many in the Lloydminster community. The Gow family were well-known by many in the community as they owned and personally worked hard at all their McDonald's franchises. Mr. Speaker, William had a great love of sports and coached many teams.

Sadly, William passed away in 2017 due to a motor vehicle accident, but his legacy lives on. Over a decade ago, William began saving money that he could eventually give back to the community through scholarships and donations. Mr. Speaker, in memory of William, his wife, Diane, used part of the fund to purchase two vans for the Lloydminster Comprehensive High School. The first van has already been delivered and will help get young athletes to games and tournaments safely. The second van will be delivered in a couple of months and will be used by the entire Lloydminster Public School Division for anything from field trips to festivals to academic competitions.

Mr. Speaker, William was also an advocate of mental toughness and willpower. To remember his passion and drive, the back door of the vans proudly read #WillPowered. Mr. Speaker, I can assure you that William Gow's dedication to athletics and passion for motivating the next generation will never be forgotten by the people of Lloydminster. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

### Upcoming Election and Government's Record

**Mr. Belanger:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. When the Sask Party came to power, they were handed record revenues, a booming economy, and a growing population. And after a decade of squandering that boom and only looking out for their friends and insiders, Saskatchewan people are the ones being forced to pay the price through cuts to health care and education, sell-offs of our Crown Corporations, and record tax hikes and \$23 billion in debt.

This government has failed to diversify our economy. They've failed to get our products to market. They've failed to protect our

environment. And they've failed to make any progress on reconciliation with First Nations and Métis people. In fact they've made things worse by stoking division. Perhaps if the Sask Party pulled their head out of the sand and started listening to the Saskatchewan people, they'd realize that they're on the wrong track. They'd realize that Saskatchewan people are sick and tired of this government who never propose a solution but simply points to shift blame to others, Mr. Speaker. The Sask Party is not up to the job.

In all of his wisdom, this Premier also thought it would be a good idea to talk about calling an election under a threat of a pandemic, thinking of his party's interests and not public safety. So, Mr. Speaker, bring it on. Whether it's early this spring or later this fall, it's time for the people of Saskatchewan to tell this tired, old, and entitled Sask Party government to fade away. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Estevan.

### Telemiracle Helps People in Need

**Hon. Ms. Carr:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to remind everyone across Saskatchewan about a very important event: Telemiracle week. This year Telemiracle will be celebrating its 44th year with a 20-hour telethon happening over this upcoming weekend. As always, Mr. Speaker, this telethon will bring Saskatchewan communities together to help their friends and neighbours, with all proceeds going towards the Kinsmen Foundation for specialized medical and mobility assistance and medical travel.

Mr. Speaker, this charity fundraiser has a long history in our province and has helped so many in need of these medical services. For 44 years talented artists, dancers, volunteers, and supporters have been showing up and helping ring those phones to help people like young Milania. She's a bright, vibrant young girl who was born with both legs missing. Thanks to donations made to Telemiracle, she was able to have a custom bicycle built for her so she can ride around the block with her friends and just be a kid.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage everyone in this Assembly to tune in this weekend. And I'd also like to thank those members on both sides who will be helping answering phones during the telethon.

Mr. Speaker, I now ask all members to join me in wishing Kinsmen Foundation all the best on another Telemiracle.

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

### Student Highlights Contributions of Women in Science

**Ms. Chartier:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Saskatoon's Montgomery School is a centre for science excellence with the Saskatoon Public School Division's grade 8 ScienceTrek program. Visitors to the school can navigate the hallways by following street signs bearing the names of scientists who have made great contributions to our lives.

Last year grade 8 student Asia Southichack-Rattana noticed that all the names on those signs were those of men — not a woman

in their midst. So Asia had a chat with her science teacher. A learning opportunity for the entire school community sprang up, as students and teachers focused on enhancing diversity by recognizing women of note for their contributions to scientific research. Name suggestions for a new street sign included Saskatchewan's own biophysicist, Dr. Sylvia Fedoruk; Canadian Nobel Prize winner, Dr. Donna Strickland; and primatologist, Dr. Jane Goodall.

Asia decided to write the primatologist at the Jane Goodall Institute of Canada. Jane Goodall's handwritten response to Asia, complete with her sketch of chimpanzees, excited Asia and her fellow students and staff. The result was that the installation of a new street sign reading Dr. Jane Goodall Way was installed.

Now a grade 9 student at Tommy Douglas Collegiate, Asia says she is a fangirl of Dr. Goodall and that she might also work with chimpanzees in the future. She's interested in Dr. Goodall's Roots & Shoots four-step sustainability education program that encourages students to take action to solve problems and raise awareness of issues affecting people, animals, and the environment in their communities.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the staff of Montgomery School as they deepen students' connection to science through their ScienceTrek program, and I congratulate Asia Southichack-Rattana for valuing and highlighting the contribution of women scientists to our world. Thank you.

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

### Agriculture Literacy Month

**Mr. Stewart:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this month has been proclaimed as Agriculture Literacy Month in Saskatchewan. Ag Literacy Month is celebrated in schools across the country. Mr. Speaker, last year classroom presentations took place in 216 schools in Saskatchewan and reached more than 9,000 students with the help of 234 volunteers.

Ag Literacy Month brings producers and other industry professionals to the classroom to meet and educate students about the industry. Agriculture in the Classroom has coordinated classroom visits in Saskatchewan for several years, and we are grateful for their hard work and dedication. Mr. Speaker, their outreach helps students understand the hard work our producers and others do to feed the growing population.

Building public trust in agriculture is important, and it's best to start this conversation early. This year students will learn about technology and its use in operations through hands-on activities and reading storybooks on the topic. Classroom visits are met with great enthusiasm and curiosity about agriculture. We should all recognize the importance of educating our youth about where their food comes from.

I'd like all members to join me in recognizing the work done by Ag in the Classroom, our producers, industry professionals, and other volunteers this month. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### Engineer Receives Meritorious Achievement Award

**Mr. Doke:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. From roads and bridges to power plants and water treatment centres, engineers touch every aspect of our lives. To recognize the engineers who have benefited Saskatchewan through industry leadership and societal contributions, the Saskatchewan branch of the Association of Consulting Engineering Companies created the Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan Meritorious Achievement Award.

Mr. Speaker, the 2019 recipient of this prestigious award, Shawna Argue, has achieved some incredible accomplishments. Shawna began her engineering career by studying industrial systems engineering at the University of Regina. After working in industry for a few years, Shawna started her own consulting firm, Argue and Associates Management Consultants. Mr. Speaker, when Shawna started her business, hers was the only company in Saskatchewan to offer environmental auditing.

In 2010 Shawna served as president of the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, in addition to her most recent award, Shawna's also received the YWCA Women of Distinction Award in Science and Technology, the Engineering Excellence Award from the Regina Engineering Society, and a fellowship in the Canadian Society of Senior Engineers.

Mr. Speaker, last year I was pleased to co-chair the PNWER [Pacific North West Economic Region] summit in Saskatoon with Shawna. With Shawna's help the summit grew into one of the greatest summits in PNWER's almost 30-year history.

Mr. Speaker, I now invite all members of this Assembly to join me in congratulating Shawna Argue on her most recent award, the Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan Meritorious Achievement Award. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### Growing Saskatchewan Trade and Exports

**Mr. Buckingham:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Saskatchewan's 2019 export numbers are out and they show that Saskatchewan has what the world needs. Saskatchewan exported nearly \$30 billion worth of products to international markets, an increase of 50 per cent since 2007.

Unfortunately we are facing external headwinds, including poor federal policies that have targeted our export industries, and challenging trade decisions from China. That is why we have pursued an aggressive international engagement agenda over the past year. This included the Premier and various ministers conducting trade missions to the United States, Japan, South Korea, Mexico, Singapore, Bangladesh, the Philippines, and the European Union. And I will remind the NDP [New Democratic Party] when they try to smear members on their travel expenses, our government has reduced travel expenses by 53 per cent compared to the NDP.

Mr. Speaker, growing our province's trade and exports is a key component of our government's plan for growth. We are undertaking a number of initiatives to achieve these goals like

opening new international trade offices in Japan, Singapore, and India. By undertaking new Sask-first growth tax incentives and by expanding our export infrastructure, we'll keep working to support our Saskatchewan exporters. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — Well no noise. That's amazing . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Yes, and it won't be for long is right.

[14:00]

### QUESTION PERIOD

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

### Preparedness for COVID-19 Outbreak

**Mr. Meili:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As we all know in this House, Saskatchewan jobs and the Saskatchewan economy are deeply tied to events around the world. And we unfortunately had some more negative international economic news today with, in response to the coronavirus outbreak, the US [United States] Federal Reserve dropping their interest rate by half a point — the biggest drop since the 2008 crash.

Yesterday when asked how the COVID outbreak would affect the budget for Saskatchewan upcoming, the government said, and I quote, that they would “. . . incorporate [some] recent private sector forecasts into some fiscal assumptions to mitigate some market related risks.” That kind of language doesn't exactly inspire confidence that there's a plan, that they're taking these risks seriously, Mr. Speaker.

So I ask the question again because we didn't get an answer yesterday. I ask the question again to the Premier: what is his plan to prepare the province for the serious economic disruptions posed by this global outbreak?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Premier.

**Hon. Mr. Moe:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member opposite again. As we know, COVID-19 is not only having an impact on the health, literally, of people around this world and ultimately in Canada — fortunately no cases here in Saskatchewan — and we are dealing with that on absolutely a daily measure as the Minister of Health is in touch with his counterparts across the nation and ultimately reaching out around the world.

There is also the other impact with respect to the economic impact. I met with members of the Canada Business Council this morning. We discussed precisely this. And I can assure the people of this province that as we build towards a provincial budget here in this province and ultimately the release of our Q3 [third quarter] of the existing year, Mr. Speaker, we most certainly are working on the best estimates that we can with respect to the provincial finances, working with our partners across Canada. We know that the Canadian interest rates will be discussed tomorrow and likely released if there's any changes tomorrow, the Bank of Canada rate, Mr. Speaker.

So the fact of the matter is I know that all members of this government are hard at work, not only on approaching the health and safety of Saskatchewan residents with respect to COVID-19

but also with respect to what if any prediction we can have as to how this coronavirus will impact the economy here in Saskatchewan.

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

### Funding for Health Care

**Mr. Meili:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again in relation to COVID-19, the Premier's public health knowledge was on full display the other day when he said that a worldwide outbreak might be a good reason for a snap election. Send everybody here out shaking hands door to door, gathering in large groups — that's some next-level infection control.

When it comes to the Minister of Health's knowledge of public health care, his commitment to that was on full display recently as well when he said, and I quote, "I think it's easy to get hung up on the ideology that nobody should be paying for anything in the health care system."

Mr. Speaker, because of medicare, as a family doctor, when patients came to see me, I asked them how they are feeling, not how they are paying. How they are feeling, not how are they paying, because of medicare. Mr. Speaker, we have a universal public health care system that works for everyone. My question is: does the Premier think that's important? Or does he want to go along with the Minister of Health down the road of American-style, two-tier, patient-pay health care?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Premier.

**Hon. Mr. Moe:** — The fact of the matter is, Mr. Speaker, is that the public health care system, the valuable public health care system that we have in this province is paid for by the people of this province through taxation. And, Mr. Speaker, it most certainly is, always has been, and will continue to be into the future.

Mr. Speaker, we have attempted at every turn to be as prudent with those investment dollars as we possibly can, whether it be in infrastructure . . . And we have invested and invested heavily in infrastructure like a new hospital in North Battleford — the Saskatchewan Hospital — a new hospital in Saskatoon in the Jim Pattison Children's Hospital, Mr. Speaker. Invested in specialists that are coming. Invested in specialists that are offering services in that hospital, Mr. Speaker, services that have never before been offered in the province of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

Yesterday the Minister of Health had announced that we are going to look to the private sector to construct a parkade here in Regina because it is needed, Mr. Speaker, much needed not only for the employees and the staff that are working in that facility, but for the families and patients that are staying in that facility, Mr. Speaker. And if this is able to come to fruition, then that will preserve the public health dollars to be further invested into our public system here, Mr. Speaker. More infrastructure. More people providing the services that the people of this province expect the provincial government to provide.

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

**Mr. Meili:** — Mr. Speaker, under this government what we've

seen grow are wait times. What we've seen grow are wait times in surgery. What we've seen grow are wait times in our emergency rooms which are overcrowded and overwhelmed. And we've seen wait times grow for diagnostics, in particular for MRIs [magnetic resonance imaging].

Mr. Speaker, Brad Wall promised that his patient-pay scheme would reduce wait times for MRIs. It wasn't true. In fact the wait times have gotten longer. There's twice as many people waiting today. Mr. Speaker, he said that that scheme would pay for itself. Well that wasn't true either because now we face losing federal health dollars because this scheme is against the *Canada Health Act*. It violates the *Canada Health Act*.

When BC [British Columbia] was found to be in violation of the *Canada Health Act*, they lost \$32 million because they were charging user fees for MRIs. These dollars that we need for our overcrowded emergency rooms, for our understaffed long-term care facilities, we need these dollars. But only the Sask Party, only the Sask Party would risk that money so that a few people could jump to the front of the line.

Mr. Speaker, why is this Premier so committed, so committed to this queue-jumping scheme that he's willing to risk damaging the rest of the health care system just to protect it?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Health.

**Hon. Mr. Reiter:** — Here's a thought, Mr. Speaker. The Leader of the Opposition could support the government and the people of Saskatchewan instead of Justin Trudeau and the federal Liberals.

Mr. Speaker, they're talking about a two-tiered system. When it came to MRIs, you know when there was a two-tiered system, Mr. Speaker? Under the NDP, because the Saskatchewan Roughriders and Workers' Compensation Board members could get an MRI, but nobody else in Saskatchewan could, Mr. Speaker. How was that logical? How was that fair, Mr. Speaker?

The member opposite frequently praises what's happening in health care in Quebec, Mr. Speaker. You know what, Mr. Speaker? There is a private MRI clinic in Gatineau, 15 minutes I believe, by Google Maps, from Parliament Hill. The only difference between what we're doing and what's happening there, Mr. Speaker, is here when somebody pays for a private MRI, the provider has to take somebody off the public queue. It helps the public queue, Mr. Speaker.

I wonder if the member opposite would suggest what he would like. Would he like to go back to what was done before? As much as I love my seatmate, Mr. Speaker, and he was eligible for an MRI back then, I think it's important that all Saskatchewan citizens should have the same support.

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

**Mr. Meili:** — Mr. Speaker, I support Medicare. I support the *Canada Health Act* because I support patients being seen based on their need, not their ability to pay, not going down the road where the ones who can pay get the best care, Mr. Speaker. That's not good for Saskatchewan. That's not good for our health, Mr. Speaker . . .



[Interjections]

**The Speaker:** — All right, order please. I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

**Mr. Meili:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know what else I support? I support the idea that when we're building our roads, our schools, our hospitals, our power plants, with our tax dollars, that we should be building them with our companies and our workers, Mr. Speaker. And that includes the money that we spend in health care. That includes the money we spend in health care.

The minister recently announced a new MRI machine for Saskatoon, Mr. Speaker. But he didn't give that contract, that \$14 million contract didn't go to the Saskatoon doctors that submitted a bid. That \$14 million contract went to a company in Calgary. A company that lobbied the Sask Party extensively. A company that donated thousands of dollars to the Sask Party. The company's profits are going to Calgary, and the company's radiologists are sitting in Calgary. That's where they'll read the scans. That's where they'll buy houses. That's where they'll pay taxes.

How is it that this Premier manages every time to give the contract to the company that gives the most money to the Sask Party? Why is he so committed to making sure that Saskatchewan dollars go anywhere but Saskatchewan?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Health.

**Hon. Mr. Reiter:** — Mr. Speaker, that's absolutely despicable. That member should be ashamed of himself. Mr. Speaker, that RFP [request for proposal] went through an appropriate procurement process, handled by the SHA [Saskatchewan Health Authority], not by politicians. It was awarded appropriately.

Mr. Speaker, here's something that might catch the member off guard. The vast majority of businesses in this province and across the country support parties like ours; not the NDP. Mr. Speaker, he's hung up on ideology instead of providing proper services for the people of Saskatchewan. The MRI, the privately delivered, publicly paid, has worked very well in Regina, Mr. Speaker. It's going to work very well in Saskatoon.

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

#### Development in Wascana Park

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Mr. Speaker, speaking of the Sask Party rewarding its donors, let's talk about the giveaway of Wascana Park. The Provincial Auditor flagged serious concerns with how the consultations were done, or rather how they were barely done at all. And last week the Sask Party used their majority on the Public Accounts Committee to shut down our motion calling for the giveaway of Wascana Park through the Brandt project to be scrapped.

How can the Sask Party justify using their majority to ram this giveaway for their friends down the throats of the people of Regina?

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

**Hon. Ms. Carr:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I thank the member opposite for the question. We also thank the Provincial Auditor for the work that she has done and we've accepted her recommendations.

And instead of a restart, the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, who is the proponent for this project, will continue down the path that they have. There are conditions of approval that will include the following: first of all, the proponent is to show how land use is compliant to the master plan principles; and secondly, the proponent is asked to conduct additional public communications and engagement to discuss the project as a whole and the associated benefits. I have no doubt that they will achieve these conditions.

As reported in the *Leader-Post* on February 28th this year, the Canadian National Institute for the Blind plan on holding two more open public sessions where residents can comment about the project and have input. This is the type of communication and engagement we would expect to see. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Mr. Speaker, the people of Regina and Saskatchewan just don't believe that minister from Estevan when it comes to their treasured Wascana Park. And they know they can't trust the Sask Party to do what's right for people instead of what's right for their friends and their insiders.

What is the Minister for the PCC's [Provincial Capital Commission] response to the overwhelming majority of Regina residents who know that this project needs to go back to square one?

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

**Hon. Ms. Carr:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank once again the member opposite for the question. I'd also like to reiterate that I do thank the Provincial Auditor for taking time to engage in this work and the officials of the Provincial Capital Commission for working to act quickly on her recommendations. So no, we won't be restarting the process.

As was discussed in December, I ensured all involved that the Provincial Capital Commission would be addressing the concerns that were brought forward by the Provincial Auditor. And I am very pleased to report that that is exactly what has been taking place. The Provincial Capital Commission has responded to the auditor's report and created clear processes for implementation that enhance process transparency, communication, and public engagement.

Of the five recommendations, they have already fully implemented three of them and by the end of 2020 or before, all recommendations will be fully implemented. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Regina Douglas

Park.

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Mr. Speaker, let's go over this one more time. One of the Sask Party's largest corporate donors came up with a plan to build a for-profit office building in our park, one that didn't conform with the law, one that was opposed by the architects and that is opposed by the people of Regina. And of course this came after the Sask Party hijacked the board to give themselves a majority of the votes.

So if the Sask Party won't send this project back to the drawing board like they should, at the very least will they undo the damage they did with their Wascana Park takeover? Will they restore the governance structure and return the power of the park over to the people?

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

[14:15]

**Hon. Ms. Carr:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have proportionate representation on that board. It's based on a funding model. The majority of money is given by the Saskatchewan government, and so that's why we have three members. And there's one member from the University of Regina and one member from the city of Regina. It's all proportionate, Mr. Speaker.

I think it's important for the members opposite to remember that the final design of the building still does require final approval and will require it complies with the park principles. The principles of the master plan will continue to govern the park development. Currently they're in step 23 of a 38-step process and that process will continue.

Most importantly this project will provide a much-needed new home for the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, allowing them to dedicate their resources to providing valuable services to Saskatchewan people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### Support for Education

**Ms. Beck:** — Mr. Speaker, last week 96 per cent of STF [Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation] members voted 90 per cent in favour of job action. The Premier dismissed teachers' concerns last week, claiming "... that our student growth has been addressed over the last number of years." Well, Mr. Speaker, 90 per cent of teachers in this province beg to differ with him. Hundreds of dollars have been cut per student since 2016.

Why won't the Sask Party government tell it like it is and accept that they simply haven't adequately resourced our classrooms? And when will they actually make public education the priority that we need it to be?

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

**Hon. Mr. Wyant:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well as I mentioned many times on the floor of this House, this year, record investment in public education, Mr. Speaker, almost two

and a half billion dollars in funding. Mr. Speaker, this government's committed to ensuring that we provide the resources to our classrooms to ensure that children get the best possible quality education, Mr. Speaker. And in two weeks, Mr. Speaker, my good friend the Minister of Finance is going to stand on her feet and deliver a balanced budget for the people of Saskatchewan which is again going to demonstrate this government's commitment to supporting public education, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we continue to have conversations with the STF and the SSBA [Saskatchewan School Boards Association] on the very important issues that are before us in the hopes that we can get a contract with teachers as quickly as possible addressing the important issue of class size and composition. Mr. Speaker, we continue to have those conversations. I have another one coming up this Thursday with the president of the STF and we're very, very hopeful, Mr. Speaker, that we're going to get to the end of that conversation.

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

**Ms. Beck:** — Mr. Speaker, it is hardly, hardly surprising that the teachers in this province have a hard time trusting what that minister says because when he sits down with them, he tells them that he understands the class size and composition issue. But as soon as he gets away from that table, he and that Premier stand up and say there's no problem in our classrooms, Mr. Speaker. Well teachers know there is, and they're ready to take action on it.

And of course, Mr. Speaker, job action is a last resort in any situation. The STF has made that clear, but this government has an opportunity — and I would say a responsibility — to be a faithful partner in those negotiations and avoid a strike. This government's education strategy simply has not worked, and 90 per cent of teachers in this province agree, Mr. Speaker.

Will this government bargain in good faith? Or will they shrink from accountability, call an early election, and kick that can even further down the road?

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

**Hon. Mr. Wyant:** — If there's anyone that's not listening, Mr. Speaker, it's that member. I stand on my feet in this House, Mr. Speaker, in classrooms around this province, in meetings with the SSBA and the STF acknowledging that we've got a challenge in our classrooms. Everybody acknowledges that, Mr. Speaker. Last week when I met with the STF, Mr. Speaker, that was the principal acknowledgement.

We haven't backed away from our commitment to fund, properly fund public education, and we haven't backed away, Mr. Speaker, from our obligation to deal with that issue, Mr. Speaker. And as for teachers, as for teachers, Mr. Speaker, we're always prepared to bargain in good faith. I'll remind the House that it was the STF, it was the teachers' bargaining committee that walked away from negotiations, asked for conciliation, Mr. Speaker.

That conciliation report now — and I've said this publicly — is going to form the basis of the conversations which we're having

to get to the end of the two very important issues which teachers have identified to us, Mr. Speaker. We're committed to that, Mr. Speaker, and I believe the STF, the SSBA, and the teachers of this province are committed to getting there as well.

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

### Provincial Economy and Housing Market

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Saskatchewan has the highest rates of mortgage arrears in the country. To make matters worse, many in our province are watching the value of their largest asset decline — their home. All of this has been made worse by the Sask Party's damaging choices. CMHC [Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation] says this about the housing market in Regina: "The persistence of higher inventories over the past year together with an elevated rental vacancy rate have led us to maintain our high rating on overbuilding."

And who fuelled that overbuilding in Regina, Mr. Speaker? The Sask Party, with a strategy that flooded the market with market-priced units rather than the truly affordable units that were so desperately needed years ago, all before the Sask Party imposed damaging choices onto our economy as well. What does the Sask Party have to say to thousands of Regina residents who can't sell their home or are watching the value of their homes plummet as a result of the Sask Party's choices?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — Mr. Speaker, I really don't even know where to begin with that because the Sask Party is not building luxury homes in Regina, and I'm not sure why they're insinuating that we are. We build social homes. We have always built homes, the social housing, for our low-income families and for our low-income seniors. And we have actually built record housing for the low-income seniors and low-income families, which I would have thought that the members opposite would support, but maybe not so much.

Mr. Speaker, it's interesting that they blame us for the entire situation that has happened in housing without recognizing that the economy has had an impact. It impacted Alberta as well in a huge way because of what's happening in our gas and oil situation, Mr. Speaker. And they don't have PST at all on their housing, and yet they've been very dramatically affected. They also ignore the federal government's stress test while the housing industry time and time again has said that that's taken 20 per cent of the buyers out of the market.

But they don't want to ever mention that Justin Trudeau might do something wrong, Mr. Speaker. They don't want to ever, ever say that we need our oil industry; we need pipelines; and we need Justin Trudeau to change some policies.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Mr. Speaker, this is the biggest investment in people's lives and they're worried about growing losses. The fact that the Sask Party shows no concern for the damage that they've caused just shows how out of touch the Sask Party is with Saskatchewan people. This was a problem created by the Sask Party and made so much worse by their damaging

choices. Just as the economy started to slow, the Sask Party slammed on the brakes by adding the PST to construction labour, on top of the relentless outsourcing of public project after public project, forcing many construction workers to leave the province, putting even more houses on the market in that beat-up and damaged economy that the Sask Party presided over.

Instead of pointing fingers and shifting blame to someone else, why won't the Sask Party take some responsibility for the damage they've done over and over again to the housing market in Regina?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — Yet again in one question, the member opposite says that we've flooded the market and now he said that we've put a halt on the market. It's got to be one or the other, Mr. Speaker.

And quite frankly, Mr. Speaker, there was a difficult time. It was a \$1.6 billion shortfall in oil revenue and we made difficult decisions. Time and time again we have said in this Assembly and elsewhere that we know every tax that we apply affects the economy, and so we have to have a balance. Because we also want money for education. We want money for health care. We want to have services for our citizens. And there is no magic wand here, and there is no pot of gold that we can dig up.

Mr. Speaker, we had to balance some difficult decisions in taxation, Mr. Speaker. It was an additional 3 per cent to construction, Mr. Speaker. What would those members do? Because right now they have a billion-dollar deficit in promises that they are . . . And that's without an election, Mr. Speaker. Every single day they want more money for education. They want more money for health care. They want more money for municipalities, Mr. Speaker. How are they going to pay for it? I'll tell you what, Mr. Speaker. They're going to run a huge deficit or they're going to tax those very single companies that they say they defend. Or they're going to do both.

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

### Management of Government Program Funds

**Ms. Sproule:** — Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Minister for CIC [Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan] blamed the loss of about \$7 million on other people, not on CIC's management, Mr. Speaker. But remember, these are public dollars that that minister's responsible for. Westcap Mgt. received an average of \$375,000 in fees for every loan that came out of the FNMF [First Nations and Métis Fund], Mr. Speaker, \$375 per loan.

So what checks and balances did the minister put in place to ensure that these dollars were invested wisely? What role did the minister play in providing oversight to ensure that the companies would be successful? Or did the Sask Party just give Grant Kook his own private slush fund and walk away from any responsibility for those public dollars?

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

**Hon. Mr. Hargrave:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker,

firstly I'd like to correct the member opposite on her statement yesterday. The First Nation and Métis Fund did not invest in Bridgen Welding as she stated. The First Nation and Métis Fund investment was made through Western Region, Métis Nation of Saskatchewan, not Bridgen Welding, Mr. Speaker.

I'd also stress, Mr. Speaker, that the structure of the program was designed by the NDP. The management of the program and the fees associated with the program, with that fund, were also set up by the NDP, Mr. Speaker, launched by the NDP, managed, fees structured by the NDP. Our government honoured the agreement and chose to continue to invest in First Nations and Métis people, and we won't apologize for that, 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 your point of order?

#### POINT OF ORDER

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During question period, the member for Regina Douglas Park directed comments to the Minister of Government Relations saying, "... cannot believe the member from Estevan." There's a long history and many precedents I could point to, Mr. Speaker, that that's out of order, and I'd ask the member to withdraw and apologize.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

**Ms. Sproule:** — Mr. Speaker, it's not really clear what's out of order and what was said, so we'd ask that you review the comments.

**The Speaker:** — I can certainly review, but things were getting personal on both sides here. So we're going to get on with it for tomorrow, but both sides are guilty of the same personal comments. I ask all of you to remember and be cognizant of where we are. Thank you.

#### PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Chair of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

##### Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

**Mr. Lawrence:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 174, *The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Amendment Act, 2019*, a bilingual bill, without amendment.

**The Speaker:** — When shall this bill be considered in Committee of the Whole on Bills? I recognize the minister.

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this bill and that the bill be now read the third time.

**The Speaker:** — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration of Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 174 and that the bill be now read a third time. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — The minister may proceed to move third reading.

#### THIRD READINGS

##### Bill No. 174 — *The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Amendment Act, 2019/Loi modificative de 2019 sur l'exécution des ordonnances alimentaires*

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — I move that the bill be now read the third time and passed under its title.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 174 be now read a third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

**The Speaker:** — Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

**Principal Clerk:** — Third reading of this bill.

#### PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Chair of the Standing Committee of Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

##### Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

**Mr. Lawrence:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 176, *The Fiduciaries Access to Digital Information Act*, a bilingual bill, without amendment.

[14:30]

**The Speaker:** — When shall this bill be considered in Committee of the Whole on Bills? I recognize the minister.

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this bill and the bill be now read the third time.

**The Speaker:** — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration of Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 176 and that the bill be now read a third time. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — The minister may proceed to move third

reading.

### THIRD READINGS

**Bill No. 176 — *The Fiduciaries Access to Digital Information Act/Loi sur l'accès des fiduciaires à l'information numérique***

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — I move the bill be now read the third time and passed under its title.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 176 be now read a third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

**The Speaker:** — Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

**Principal Clerk:** — Third reading of this bill.

### PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Chair of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

#### Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

**Mr. Lawrence:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 177, *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Electronic Register) Amendment Act, 2019* without amendment.

**The Speaker:** — When shall this Bill be considered in Committee of the Whole on Bills? I recognize the minister.

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this bill and the bill be now read the third time.

**The Speaker:** — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 177 and that the bill be now read a third time. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — The minister may proceed to move third reading.

### THIRD READINGS

**Bill No. 177 — *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Electronic Register) Amendment Act, 2019***

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — I move the bill be now read the third time and passed under its title.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 177 be now read a third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

**The Speaker:** — Pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

**Principal Clerk:** — Third reading of this bill.

### PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Chair of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

#### Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

**Mr. Lawrence:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 175, *The Marriage Amendment Act, 2019*, a bilingual bill, without amendment.

**The Speaker:** — When shall this bill be considered in Committee of the Whole on Bills? I recognize the minister.

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this bill and the bill be now read the third time.

**The Speaker:** — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in the Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 175 and that the bill be now read a third time. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — The minister may proceed to move third reading.

### THIRD READINGS

**Bill No. 175 — *The Marriage Amendment Act, 2019*  
*Loi modificative de 2019 sur le mariage***

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — I move the bill be now read the third time and passed under its title.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 175 be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

**The Speaker:** — Pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

**Principal Clerk:** — Third reading of this bill.

## SECOND READINGS

### PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Chair of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

#### Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

**Mr. Lawrence:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 188, *The Public Guardian and Trustee Amendment Act, 2019* without amendment.

**The Speaker:** — When shall this bill be considered in Committee of the Whole on Bills?

I recognize the minister.

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this bill and the bill be now read the third time.

**The Speaker:** — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration of the Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 188 and that the bill be now read a third time. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — The minister may proceed to move third reading.

### THIRD READINGS

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — I move that the bill be now read the third time and passed under its title.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 188 be now read the third time and passed under its title.

Is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

**The Speaker:** — Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

**Principal Clerk:** — Third reading of this bill.

### ORDERS OF THE DAY

#### GOVERNMENT ORDERS

#### ADJOURNED DEBATES

#### 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 Cumberland.

**Mr. Vermette:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, to join in on adjourned debates, *The Coroners Amendment Act, 2019*, Bill 189. Initially I guess there was a review done by the Chief Coroner for the province. He was asked to do a review. Sometimes we wonder, like, why do certain things come forward before legislation amendment changes? What's interesting, Mr. Speaker, is sometimes a review is asked. And from my understanding and from looking at the notes, there was a review requested. So the Chief Coroner's office went ahead and did the review, came back with a report, came back with . . . I think there was something like 44 recommendations that was brought forward, from my understanding. So there's quite a few recommendations that were brought forward.

Now obviously it is an important role that our Chief Coroner does for our province, looking at the many areas. And it gets to a point . . . And I think the changes here, if I am understanding, he's going to be able to appoint coroners to look into, I guess, deaths, situations where it warrants having somebody investigate, inquest. There's many different roles that sometimes are played. This is going to give powers to the Chief Coroner's office and the individual to have a deputy as well with him, to work with him in his capacity, that he cannot fulfill it or he's away, that somebody takes over and continues doing the good work that needs to be done for the people of our province, to make sure.

So having said that, there's quite a few recommendations that are made here. I know that my colleagues . . . I know committee work will be done. Our critic will ask some tough questions. And these are things that I guess are being requested by, you know, the Chief Coroner's office and the good work that they're doing. So I would say at this point, I don't really have a lot more comments on this, and I know there will be more work and more questions in committee. And hopefully after the report, the recommendations come forward. The consultation that was done — and it was needed — hopefully was done correct, and we will be served by legislation amendments that will make the office work well. So with that, Mr. Speaker, I'm prepared to adjourn debate on Bill 189.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

#### Bill No. 194

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Carr that **Bill No. 194** — *The Miscellaneous Municipal Statutes Amendment Act, 2019* be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. McCall:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Good to take my place here in the Assembly and join debate this afternoon on Bill No. 194, *The Miscellaneous Municipal Statutes Amendment Act, 2019*.

Mr. Speaker, it's a highly valuable order of government, and there have been a lot of different things going on in the municipal sector over the immediate past and the not-too-distant past as well, Mr. Speaker. But it's interesting to see a number of statutes coming forward here today, and the way that that will hopefully provide for a better regime in the valuable municipal sector.

Of course the citizens that we all serve, be they citizens in the city of Regina or municipalities throughout the province, Mr. Speaker, or be they constituents in a place like Regina Elphinstone-Centre, Mr. Speaker . . . These laws have multiple impacts. So when something comes forward with the kind of suite entailed in Bill No. 194, it's of interest for not just people that pay attention come civic election time, Mr. Speaker, but certainly for all of us. And I also say this as someone, you know, never met an election I didn't want to vote in, and that's certainly been the case for each of the municipal elections I've been party to.

But I will be looking forward to the comments from the Government Relations critic for the official opposition for a more well-informed and a more forceful rendering of the analysis to date on this legislation, I am sure. But in terms of . . . Some of the things are kind of, you know, recognizing practices, process that is already in place, Mr. Speaker.

I think of a number of years ago when a number of municipalities in the Regina region joined together and said that they didn't want to be pushing the elephant anymore; rather they wanted to ride the elephant and make sure that the municipality regions that they served were working in the fullest co-operation possible and to pursue that. So when Bill No. 194 amends *The Cities Act* to allow a council of a city to merge with the council of another city to form a municipal district, Mr. Speaker, I would submit that that's, you know, more new wine for old vessels of what's been practised in many regards to date. So nothing too earth-shattering there.

In terms of allowing municipal wards commission to authorize the use of population data other than the latest census taken pursuant to the *Statistics Act* to determine ward boundaries, again, Mr. Speaker, that's good to spell that out in law. It's certainly common sense but given the great sort of shifts that are ongoing in population, that makes sense to allow for a more timely sounding of population in a given ward.

And again, Mr. Speaker, it's representative population, or rep by pop that we try to practise here in Saskatchewan, in Canada, and the different municipalities that we're all party to. It's not the take on proportional representation that was referenced in question period, Mr. Speaker, where, you know, if you've got the most cash then you get the most votes, Mr. Speaker. It's rather about making sure that you've got citizens that are entitled to vote in a process and being able to have a good idea of how many are there. So it would be interesting to know if that — the process

that was referenced in question period — if that entered into the considerations at all, Mr. Speaker, for that particular measure under the Act. But, you know, the mind does reel sometimes, Mr. Speaker.

In terms of changing the rules regarding the suspension of full-time city solicitors, again, Mr. Speaker, fair enough. Increasing the protection of city employees from reprisal and providing for the imposition of a fine for that offence — \$10,000 for an individual; \$25,000 for a corporation — absolutely that should be the case, Mr. Speaker, because of course again the city employees are not just there to serve, you know, boss X, Y, or whatever. They are very truly public servants, Mr. Speaker, and we should always make certain that when they see something going wrong that that whistle-blower protection be afforded and be, well understood in those workplaces, Mr. Speaker, in terms of who the real boss is for the public service, which is of course the citizens in a given municipality or the citizens of Saskatchewan.

Changing the rules for the preservation of public documents, changing the rules for the inspection of municipal documents, changing the rules for the disqualification of members of council, extending the period of suspension from council to 3 to 12 years for a member held financially liable for unauthorized transactions, Mr. Speaker, changing the rules for assessment notice, establishing a provincial registrar to facilitate the appeals for the boards of revision, and to change the rules for appointment of members of the boards of revision — again, these are things that the terrain changes, the situation evolves, Mr. Speaker, and you need to make certain that your regulatory regime is keeping up.

Mr. Speaker, changes that have been anticipated under *The Municipalities Act*, again we're informally allowing a rural municipality to review the division boundaries of the rural municipality in the manner set forth in the Act. Again, Mr. Speaker, it's not the big reveal on the Caramilk secret. These are things that are part and parcel of what has been in practice over the years. The authorization of the minister to establish a special service area at the request of a rural municipality for taxation purposes, again, Mr. Speaker, we'll see how that plays out.

But you know, there are different things that get kicked around over the years. And the appropriate relationship between population and representation, Mr. Speaker, and the way that that plays out through the municipalities, I'll be very interested to see.

[14:45]

You know, sometimes you see people that take a very firm stance on the one side of it and then, you know, years pass by. And then I think, Bob Bjornerud, when he was the minister of Municipal Affairs, he performed some pretty interesting contortions in that regard. And again like I mean, he did it well. The guy could always swing it pretty good in terms of speaking in this Assembly, and there'd be no mistake about that. But some of the gymnastics involved and different in the stances taken over the years, pretty interesting.

Again expanding protections for municipal employees, the preservation regime around tax and assessment rolls — all these things are, you know, again keeping up with the times. So, Mr.

Speaker, I know that other of my colleagues much more learned than I will have more interesting things to say on this certainly and despite your generous exhortation, Mr. Speaker, I think I'll conclude my remarks at this time on Bill No. 194 and move that we do now adjourn debate on Bill No. 194.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Thanks, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to enter into debate albeit briefly this afternoon with respect to *The Lobbyists Amendment Act, 2019*, that's Bill No. 195, Mr. Speaker.

This is an important piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker, to ensure that trust is preserved or in place for Saskatchewan people. And you know, there's been serious questions of trust in this province under this Sask Party government, Mr. Speaker, and we have been pushing for loopholes to be closed and for changes to be brought forward on this front.

With respect to Bill 195, there's some important changes that are finally coming, late coming, Mr. Speaker. This is of course a Sask Party government that's in their third term with big majorities, Mr. Speaker, that often run roughshod over people, Mr. Speaker, over consultations, over the trust relationship that they hold with Saskatchewan people. So we support much of what we see in this bill.

An important place where we see that this bill is woefully inadequate is the threshold that they've placed for lobbying, Mr. Speaker. Setting that at 30 hours, Mr. Speaker, just is simply insufficient as our critic, the member for Saskatoon Centre has weighed in on this piece of legislation. You know, a smaller loophole simply isn't good enough, Mr. Speaker, and the fact of the matter is it's pretty easy for any person to make an effective lobby certainly well below, in a time frame well below 30 hours, Mr. Speaker. Not hard for someone to bend any one of our ears on that front, Mr. Speaker, and that's why this loophole should be closed. That 30 hours should be scrapped and the lobbying that we receive from organizations and from businesses and from entities that are speaking up for their interests, Mr. Speaker, that should be recorded and part of the process that's adjudicated by our commissioner, Mr. Speaker.

And if we look at this current Sask Party government, this is a government that fills its coffers, Mr. Speaker, with large out-of-province corporate donations, Mr. Speaker, that has failed to make reform when it comes to this important area, Mr. Speaker. And it begs to question who one is serving, Mr. Speaker, when large dollars are flowing in from out-of-province

corporations, Mr. Speaker. And we've been calling to get big money out of Saskatchewan politics, Mr. Speaker, and you know, that's awfully important.

Now the member, the minister, wants to heckle, you know, from across the floor. That's the same very minister who was at the helm as Wascana Park was not only . . . that the public control was taken away from the city and the university, Mr. Speaker, but that was also at the helm guiding forward that process — well in fact there was no real process — guiding that giveaway to one of their largest corporate donors, Mr. Speaker, to put a commercial office building in Wascana Park, Mr. Speaker. That's the minister who's heckling me on this very front, Mr. Speaker.

So certainly we call for this loophole to be scrapped, for 30 hours to become zero hours, and for lobbying to be registered and recorded and to be governed by the commissioner, Mr. Speaker. But we also want to get big money out of Saskatchewan politics, Mr. Speaker.

In the case of the former premier, Mr. Speaker, it wasn't just filling the coffers of the party, Mr. Speaker, that was the concern. Of course we saw that dollars that were then directly transferred to him personally, Mr. Speaker, begging to question again, Mr. Speaker, who was that premier serving when he was making those choices.

I think at the end of the day, the premier of Saskatchewan is paid just fine to serve the people of this great province, Mr. Speaker, and there is no need for those pockets to be lined with out-of-province corporate donations, Mr. Speaker. And we could do a lot to bring around greater trust in our democratic process by, of course, improving the lobbyist legislation that we have before us here today, but getting big money out of politics again.

And I thank again the minister, the former minister, the member for Saskatoon Willowgrove for shouting across the floor as we're addressing this important matter, Mr. Speaker, because in many ways the Wascana Park situation that he presided over and that his government is presiding over, that ran roughshod over due diligence and process in the law, Mr. Speaker, to give away a chunk of the park to one of their largest donors, Mr. Speaker, speaks to something greater. There we had that park, that gem, Wascana Park, in the heart of Regina that's a treasure for all of us, Mr. Speaker, everyone in this province. Something that's public, Mr. Speaker. Something for all of us.

Instead we have a government more interested in making deals that are interested in a select few, Mr. Speaker. And that's not good enough. We need a park that's there for all. We need a government that's there for all, Mr. Speaker. And we certainly don't have that with this Sask Party government, Mr. Speaker.

With that being said, we'll weigh in on the changes to the lobbyist registry constructively as we move forward, but we will continue to press for that change around the number of hours. Take that 30 hours; let's scrap that. Let's take it to zero and let's make sure that we ensure trust for the people of this province with the very important democratic process.

With that being said, I'll adjourn debate with respect to Bill No. 195, *The Lobbyists Amendment Act*.



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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

### Bill No. 196

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

**Ms. Beck:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my pleasure as always to rise this afternoon and enter into debate on Bill No. 196, *The Members' Conflict of Interest Amendment Act, 2019*.

I think I will find myself repeating some of the same arguments that my colleague from Rosemont has just repeated. And starting first of all with that, talking about the importance of public trust in the work that we do here. I know often people will want to know what are the most difficult conversations on the doorstep, and there are a lot of them.

But one of the things I find most concerning is when I talk to someone and they say, well you're all the same, Mr. Speaker. It's that level of distrust in politicians. And it only takes one bad apple to sort of, you know, taint the whole barrel I'm afraid, that we really have to actively work against. And we have to work to improve trust in the work that we do here because the work that we do here, regardless of where we sit, does matter, Mr. Speaker, and that we act with integrity and transparency is really, really important.

And as my colleague from Rosemont pointed out, you know, we have some very unfortunate and very public concerns that have been raised with, you know, the dealings of members who are no longer in this place. And I think that it's incumbent upon all of us, Mr. Speaker, to do everything that we can to protect the honour and integrity of those who serve here.

And so it was with that in mind I believe, Mr. Speaker, that the Conflict of Interest Commissioner back in 2018, Justice Barclay, outlined a number of recommendations for *The Members' Conflict of Interest Act*. In fact there were seven — and I'm just going to read from my computer here, Mr. Speaker — around the broad themes of private and public disclosure statements, departing members' disclosure, advice to former members, gifts, renaming of the Act and commissioner, the term of the commissioner, and then a number of administrative matters.

So, Mr. Speaker, I know that a lot of work goes on in these offices every day, really important work that supports the work and, as I mentioned, the integrity of the Legislative Assembly. And I think that we all should . . . Sometimes it's easy to forget that, but I think that it's worth thanking those independent officers and those who work in their office for the hard work that they do, because really the work that they do is in service of the people of Saskatchewan and the good of people in Saskatchewan. And I think that definitely is to be commended and we're thankful for

that.

So there are a number of pieces of this proposed legislation that I think the minister, who stood on his feet on the 26th of November of last year to deliver second reading of this bill, sought to address and I think took the recommendations of Justice Barclay. One of the first pieces was around allowing the commissioner to use his:

. . . discretion under the Act to require that members provide a description of assets of private companies in which they have a controlling interest. The proposed amendments [in this Act] will codify this new practice and require this information as part of all disclosure statements.

So this is something that has already been done in practice, but this brings the legislation up to date with what is the practice, and I think that is wholly reasonable, Mr. Speaker.

Another change that's proposed with this bill is placing requirements on new and existing members to file disclosure statements. And currently, unfortunately I think, Mr. Speaker, there is no requirement on a former member. So if a member were to leave service in the middle of a term before filing a disclosure statement, currently there is no way to ensure that they do file that statement. So this is an improvement that was recommended by the Conflict of Interest Commissioner and I think is very reasonable. You know, if a minister or a member of the legislature is leaving this place under suspicion, there is no . . . It's not incumbent on them to update their disclosure statement and I'm afraid that may allow some less than honourable things to happen. So I think that this is a good proposal.

This bill will require those members to file a disclosure statement within 60 days of being a member. That time period varies around the country, some jurisdictions within 30 days. This doubles that and allows for 60 days but still that seems reasonable, I guess, especially when there's no current requirement for those to be filed for former members.

Another thing that will be changing should this bill pass is that it will permit a former member to ask the commissioner for an opinion or recommendation regarding his or her obligations under the Act for one year after ceasing to be a member. So of course if now those former members are brought under this Act in that period of 60 days following being a member, it would seem reasonable I think that they would have access for advice to the Conflict of Interest Commissioner. So I don't think that there's any issue with that, Mr. Speaker.

[15:00]

And then one of the other . . . And I think this is one where I think we could have gone a little bit further. The commissioner requested that the bill add a definition of "personal gift or benefit" for the purpose of section 7 of the Act. But there is no definition that's provided here, Mr. Speaker. I know we have an obligation to report gifts or benefits over \$200, but I think that there's a place here to further define that benefit and to define the definition of a gift.

Again, you know, sometimes gifts are simply that, someone wanting to express appreciation. But of course always the

concern is the perception, not only the material conflict but the perception of conflict that, you know, that there is something that is being requested or expected in exchange for that gift, be that an item or influence or money or anything like that. So very important that as much as we can, we have that on the table and be transparent with that, so that again that all being in service of protecting the honour and the public support and confidence in the work that we do and the reasons that we do it, Mr. Speaker.

Again I know that my colleague from Douglas Park has had considerable time with the Minister of Justice last night and tonight in committee, and I suspect she will have even more on some of these other bills, including this one. But she will be prepared and ready to ask the questions. But I will leave that to her capable hands and at this time will move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 196.

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

**Ms. Sproule:** — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and welcome back to the spring session. It's been interesting so far and I'm sure will continue to be so. I'm rising today to speak to Bill No. 187, *The Automobile Accident Insurance Act*, and some changes that are being proposed to the existing automobile insurance Act, Mr. Speaker.

As you know, we're fortunate here in Saskatchewan to have a strong Crown sector, and a large part of that is the Saskatchewan Government Insurance. Or I remember back in the days — I'm dating myself — when it used to be SGIO, the Saskatchewan Government Insurance Office, and they had a really funny little jingle that you would hear on TV. I won't sing that for everybody today, but some of my colleagues remember; some of my colleagues don't. So we'll sing it along afterwards. I'm sure it's going to be an earworm.

But anyways SGI [Saskatchewan Government Insurance] has, and the provisions of automobile insurance in Saskatchewan, I think, has led the way nationally and certainly is well regarded across the country. And having SGI as a strong Crown is an important part of that, Mr. Speaker.

And I think, you know, having no-fault insurance, it didn't do me so well last winter because I ended up backing into somebody else in a parking lot and they split the fault with two of us. So I wasn't too happy about that, Mr. Speaker, but at least I only have to pay half the premium, so there you go. I just have to not back out against somebody else in a parking lot, Mr. Speaker. But I do have a policy on my car, and thankfully I'm able to use insurance

to help pay for some of those costs.

Now *The Automobile Accident Insurance Act* deals mainly with if there are injuries and how injuries are paid for and how death benefits are paid for, so that is a very important piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker. As you know, if an injury in an automobile accident is . . . It can change your life quite drastically and, Mr. Speaker, I think it's important that we have legislative provisions that help people get healed and back to their lives as best they can when an automobile accident occurs.

I wish this would extend . . . And I talked many times with the former minister of Justice where this type of provision in our society doesn't always apply across the board. Because those who are catastrophically injured as victims of other incidents, such as getting beat up on the street, Mr. Speaker, or at a house party . . . I knew one young gentleman who spent years and years in a hospital bed and in a coma who was a victim of a random beating, and he had no access to insurance.

And I know we worked with the former minister of Justice at the time, who is now the Minister of Justice again, and he'll know who I'm talking about. We worked really hard to find ways to have similar coverage for people who are injured in automobile accidents, for people who are severely injured in events beyond their control in other contexts of society. However that hasn't happened, and I believe that . . . His name was Cutler Lange, Mr. Speaker, and one of the first people I met when I got elected was Cutler and his mom, Sharlene. And she was a very good advocate — and I think the Minister of Justice would remember that as well — to try and get justice for her son.

And we used to have a catastrophic accidents insurance Act in the province, but when no-fault came in, it kind of got amalgamated with that. And of course most of the catastrophic injuries to people in Saskatchewan do occur in automobile accidents, but it doesn't mean it's exclusive. So I just want to put one final plug in for Cutler Lange and his mom, Sharlene. And I hope that this government will consider, before they are no longer in government, that they would consider some sort of catastrophic injury benefits for people who are victims and not perpetrators, Mr. Speaker.

This particular Act is fairly housekeeping. There's almost all housekeeping changes, but there are three particular changes that the minister mentioned in his introductory comments in the second readings on November 27th. And one of the things that he talked about is a change so that you have to have leave from the Court of Appeal before appealing a decision of the Court of Queen's Bench or the Injury Appeal Commission.

So currently, Mr. Speaker, the bill allows a person to go directly to the Court of Appeal without getting leave. And the Chief Justice of the Court of Appeal has asked that the government change this, because many times — and you will see this in anything that goes to the Supreme Court, Mr. Speaker — you have to get leave of the court. They have to look at it and say, is there anything here that we want to rule on or is it something that was sufficiently dealt with at the Queen's Bench level, or I guess in this case, the Injury Appeal Commission as well.

And I think that's a fair request on the part of the Court of Appeal. We know how busy they are, and we know how complex the

caseloads are for the judges at the Court of Appeal. So to be able to make a determination quickly whether leave should be given will actually save time and resources in the Court of Appeal.

There's another change in here that makes it so that if you are in another jurisdiction . . . They're saying anywhere, anywhere, anywhere, anywhere in the world, Mr. Speaker. Before, it was being interpreted, the way the wording was, to mean only Saskatchewan. So now I'm thinking, I could be in Kyrgyzstan or Uzbekistan and get a speeding ticket and get my licence taken away there, and I wouldn't be able to drive in Saskatchewan. So I sort of wonder how this will be enforced. And I don't know how the World Wide Web and the Google will deal with tracking traffic violations in remote portions of the world, but if that's the case you will be responsible, Mr. Speaker.

So if your licence is revoked, cancelled under any law of any jurisdiction, your licence is automatically suspended or revoked or cancelled in Saskatchewan. So I guess you'd have to have a licence in another jurisdiction or a driving permit before this would take effect. But I guess it's like dual citizenship; you can have dual driver's licences. I'm sure they exist. And of course it would mean . . . For me enforcement is the question here. How would you go about enforcing this if someone in northern New Guinea had a driver's permit there and had it revoked? I'm just not sure how easily that would be enforced. But there it is.

There's also some talk in here, a couple other changes about conditions of first party property damage insurance and third party liability insurance that vehicles cannot be operated in violation of any laws of any jurisdiction restricting weight, use, hours of operation, territory, number of passengers, and transportation of goods. Again I question how this would be enforceable, but if it did come to the attention of the authorities here then I assume they would be able to act on it.

But, Mr. Speaker, generally I think this proposed bill is one that does some cleanup and deals with issues that the Court of Appeal are having in a reasonable way. It deals with those issues. So at this point I would move to adjourn the debate on Bill No. 197, *An Act to amend The Automobile Accident Insurance Act*.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member from Saskatoon Nutana has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 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 Centre.

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise and enter into the debate here. This is always timely that we look at how we can improve safety on our roads

here in Saskatchewan, you know, from the horrible tragedy we had a few years ago in Humboldt to the ongoing issues we have around distraction.

But I do want to say that we were encouraged by the stats that came out this year about the lowest number of fatalities on our highways in the last number of decades. I believe that was the case. I think that's encouraging for us all, and so it's something that we all should take a lot of pride in. And I do want to recognize the good work at SGI and the people who are enforcing the rules because it's so important that we don't have the tragedies that we have. And when we experience them, we just wish we could rewind the movie.

But making good rules is part of it, but it's also commitment to follow those rules that we have to have from our citizens and education. But that was something. When I caught it on the news I thought, good stuff. That's really good work and we really appreciate that, and hats off to the folks who are making that happen over at SGI and through the leadership and all of that. So that's good. I just want to take a moment and say that that doesn't go unnoticed. We look at those stats and we think about that all the time.

The other thing that's interesting, today we had the visit from the insurance brokers and that was one that was a bit of an eye-opener for me. And I appreciate that the minister introduced them. But the one that caught my attention was the issue around the minimum liability that we have on our plates — \$200,000. And they raised the fact that that hasn't been increased from the late '70s, I understand, and it might be something that we look at because, you know, in this day and age where we try to make things easier and easier, we don't really think a lot about what we are purchasing.

And for me, you know, I've got a . . . You know, because I've been in the same place, lived in the same place, my licence gets renewed. It's a seven-year licence, I think it is what the deal is. And so I don't really think a lot about these things. I get my plates renewed. I pay my monthly fee on that and that's good.

But I've never really thought about how much liability insurance we should really carry. And the folks were talking about what it is across the country, and that we're actually one of the lowest ones. So I would encourage this might be a priority for us to take a look at, because \$200,000 is not an awful lot of liability insurance.

And they were talking about some of the settlements that were in the millions, 3.6 million I think was a settlement in BC. And it's not so much what would happen here in Saskatchewan with an accident, but as we drive more across Canada and into the States, where we don't really have . . . Well what might be a reasonable settlement here in Saskatchewan, what a reasonable settlement in Florida is very different. Or a reasonable settlement in New York state might be a different settlement. And so that was a real eye-opener for me.

Not that I'm getting older and thinking about my driving habits . . . Maybe I am, but I'm thinking I don't want to be caught with a big bill at this time in my life. I don't think anybody wants to be caught with a big bill. So SGI's a good thing and we want to make sure our minimum liability reflects the protection that it

really should reflect for our drivers.

And you know, I think \$200,000 is a lot of money, but boy, the settlements these days — 200,000 is not a lot of money. And if you're really expecting you're going to be in the million, 2 million, or 3 million ballpark . . . I know I'm going to be going back and taking a look, talking to my insurance people this week about where am I in all of this and making sure that I'm protected and our family's protected, because you get these settlements and they can be really, really significant.

[15:15]

So it's always good when we have people come and talk to us about some of these issues. They're eye-openers. And I hope that we can see something along that way because, as I said, something that's not been raised from the late '70s, well that's 40 years ago. That's over 40 years ago. And we thought it was sufficient at that time, you know. And you can think if you want to, what a ballpark comparison would be, you know, what \$200,000 would be worth in 1978, what kind of a house it would buy. Well with \$200,000 now, what kind of a house would it buy, you know? So just use that as a benchmark. It's something we should be thinking about.

But at any rate, I do appreciate the fact that we're debating this. This is important. Of course we want to protect the overreach of the government too, you know. And we get our photo radar tickets in the mail and you go, what just happened here? Is there proper signage? You know, there's always that debate about is it a bit of a cash grab or what's really happening here? And I think, you know, when we see that in particularly speeding through school zones and making sure that we're protecting our kids going to school.

But you know, I can tell you a couple of stories about a traffic light, or I should say a camera, on the corner of one of the streets, 33rd and Idylwyld. And the mailout from the tickets were like two or three months after the fact and you were so hoping that you had stopped that bad habit, you know. But some of these things then can cause people to take shortcuts through neighbourhoods to avoid these traffic cameras. And that's not the point.

The point is to make sure we have safe streets and main streets are used as main streets. That's where the heavy traffic is and not people taking shortcuts through neighbourhoods to avoid traffic cameras. That's not the point. You know, I think most of us when we do get a ticket we think, okay I can learn from this. But you know, it's that old saying, justice delayed is justice denied. And so if we are taking too long to get some of these things done then it's not appropriate.

So I wanted to just reflect a little bit on what the minister talked about. He talked about the various housekeeping regulations or amendments that they had done during this time. And I know that . . . It's always interesting. They rely on stats and that's very, very important, but I'd be curious to know in terms of who they're consulting with too. And of course it might be CAA [Canadian Automobile Association] or some of the other associations that represent the interests of drivers.

But he talks about distracted drivers, whether it be impaired

drivers or cellphones. And cellphones . . . It's still amazing when I'm driving and you see people talking on cellphones and you know that they're talking on cellphones. And this is something that we really need to have stronger regulations so people get the message — do not do this. And the same with drinking and driving and we've been fighting that one for decades. And that's one that we really, really have to get a handle on here in Saskatchewan. And that's very important.

He does talk about the issues around semis and training regulations and we're seeing . . . We're glad that they're improving those regulations, enforcing the idea that anyone driving a semi must be trained. And then the issue that sometimes you'd have people from out of province driving and they wouldn't be liable to the same rules, but now they would be. And that is a good thing. That's a very important thing.

So the other one that I find very interesting, of course now, the idea of automated, autonomous vehicles. And, Mr. Speaker, you know, the bypass has been a big, big issue in this House, and the cost of it. When I was coming in on Saturday, I thought I'd take a drive around the bypass because I had a little extra time and I thought, I'm just going to see what this bypass is actually like. And I have to tell you it was something else. Talk about overbuilt. There was on the west side, I think there were four vehicles. And I thought, where am I? Where am I, you know?

Now a little closer to Victoria it picked up. It picked up and that's important over there and I think that's an area that really needed some attention. But when you're talking about the west side, I thought where . . . And talk about overbuilt. And I thought this is really, this is really being built . . . I don't know whether autonomous vehicles or what, but there weren't semis on that side. And I thought I'm going to be seeing semis all over the place going to the Global Transportation Hub. This is what this is all about. This is what this pile of spaghetti is all about, getting the semis to the Global Transportation Hub.

Now maybe that hub is closed on Saturdays. I don't know. Maybe that's the situation, that they do five days a week. It's banker's hours over there. I don't know. But there were no semis in sight on that west side and just like I said, three or four other vehicles. And I don't know if they were looky-loos like me, just try taking a drive on a Saturday afternoon to see what we've spent \$2 billion on, you know. I mean I'm sure that's the case for some of them but it was really quite a thing, you know.

And so I guess this is all part of the future thinking and this government's buying into that and you know, drivers of the driverless vehicles, 2030 no drivers in the truck. No drivers in the truck, just circling around Regina looking for the Global Transportation Hub that happens to be closed on a Saturday. I don't know, but anyways maybe that's vision 2030. I don't know.

But if this is . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Clearly, Mr. Speaker, I've woken up the Sask Party here with their 2030 vision and their bypass, spending \$2 billion on a project. You wonder, man oh man, four vehicles on . . . I looked this way and I looked that way. Where was everybody? You know, maybe they were home. Maybe they were home. I don't know. But anyways, I don't know. Maybe they were on a bus to Alberta. I know it wouldn't be a Greyhound or an STC [Saskatchewan Transportation Company] but it'd be a school bus, eh — a school bus bound for

Alberta.

But, Mr. Speaker, I want to say that this is work that we have a lot of questions for in committee. And I do want to say this is very, very important that we keep going in the right direction for traffic safety here in the province. Thank you very much. I adjourn the debate on this bill. Thank you.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member from Saskatoon Centre 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 Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

**Mr. McCall:** — Mr. Speaker, sometimes you hit different sort of segues in this House that are a little difficult to engage in, Mr. Speaker, because of course coming on the thoughtful and quite, at turns, funny speech from my colleague, the member from Saskatoon Centre, on the various misadventures of this government, Mr. Speaker, it's now my duty to rise in this Assembly and to speak on Bill No. 199, *The Opioid Damages and Health Care Costs Recovery Act, 2019*.

And, Mr. Speaker, this is a subject and a whole field of public crisis that I come to with some personal grief to offer up, Mr. Speaker. And I think you don't have to go very far in the city of Regina or in Saskatchewan or indeed throughout North America, Mr. Speaker, to come across people who have had their lives horrifically damaged or ended by opioids, Mr. Speaker, by the various sort of generic presentations, be it OxyContin or hydromorphone or what have you, Mr. Speaker, or of course fentanyl.

And, Mr. Speaker, alongside the way that fentanyl is taking a worse and worse toll in the province of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, in terms of lives ruined, lives ended, Mr. Speaker, you of course have what has rolled across our communities again with crystal meth. And of course the way that crystal meth in Saskatchewan is often as not intravenously injected, and all the more worse the impact for it, Mr. Speaker, in terms of how that hurts a life, hurts a community. And I know that again, Mr. Deputy Speaker, there are people in this Chamber that know exactly what I'm talking about.

Mr. Speaker, in the city of Regina, I think three short weekends ago from Friday to Tuesday morning, there were 20 overdoses dealt with. And relating to fentanyl, Mr. Speaker . . . And I, you know, I thank God for the good work of our emergency medical service personnel and for the police who are now administering naloxone on a level never ever seen before in this province, Mr.

Speaker, nor in the city of Regina. But you know, in one weekend, Mr. Speaker, 20 overdoses. And like, I've been paying close enough attention to this, Mr. Speaker, because there are far too many of my neighbours that have been mixed up in this. And you know, one of those 20 overdoses took place at a house right across the alley from where I live in the middle of North Central Regina, Mr. Speaker.

And in terms of the toll that takes on that family, on that individual, and the way you replicate that out almost exponentially, Mr. Speaker, in terms of the effect that the opioid crisis — and it is that, Mr. Speaker — the way that that works alongside fentanyl, it is not for nothing that we see crime rising year after year. It is not for nothing that again . . . And I've spoken about this in this Assembly, Mr. Speaker, in terms of the gains that we make over at that beautiful new Scott Collegiate, Mr. Speaker, the way that they are lost down the block to addiction and to the dealers, Mr. Speaker, to the gangs, and the way you couple that alongside increased gun violence, Mr. Speaker. This is a step that we can take to fight that, Mr. Speaker.

And I'm very glad to see this legislation before the Assembly. And I'm very glad to see this government joining in with other jurisdictions. And I want to thank . . . I want to go on record and thank the Government of British Columbia for taking the lead in this effort to try and recoup through the courts something of the damages that have been wrought on our community, Mr. Speaker.

But I do know this: I do know that, you know, I have a friend who was born the same time, October 28th, 1972 at the Grey Nuns, Mr. Speaker. And my friend went out to British Columbia and passed away suddenly. And it wasn't until the funeral of my friend that his mother stood before that, all of his friends and family and said, you know, here's what happened to my son. And I want you to know this, that this can happen to anyone in terms of the way, the insidious effect of fentanyl.

Because I think in our society, Mr. Speaker, when it comes to addictions, you know, we deal in stereotypes. We all have a picture of who, well who's going to be on the front lines of getting addicted or, you know, going through the terrible health problems that come along with that, Mr. Speaker, or in fact dying from an unintended overdose, Mr. Speaker.

But my friend who, you know, we share a birthday and we'd, you know, get to kibitz back and forth sometimes in person, sometimes over Facebook or what have you, Mr. Speaker, he died far too young. And we all got to stand in awe of the courage of his mother standing before that room and telling people, you've got to be bloody careful about these things, that this is something that you can't be too careful about, and that her son, who should have had another 40, 50 years in front of him, Mr. Speaker, was going into the ground.

[15:30]

So, Mr. Speaker, the statistics that keep racking up in a lot of sort of mind-blowing ways in terms of the . . . You know, in the past number of years we've seen the crystal meth-related criminal offences increase. I think the number's now like 22,000 per cent, Mr. Speaker, over the last six years. Like the way that again, you know, try to cast your mind back to a weekend when we've had,

you know, 20 reported overdoses in the city of Regina — the city of Regina.

And the worst thing about that, Mr. Speaker, is that there are other communities throughout the province that they've had similar sort of experience with this, the carnage, the crisis this represents, Mr. Speaker. We've got to do a better job for this. We've got to do a better job on prevention. We've got to do a better job on draining the swamp of poverty that underwrites a lot of this, Mr. Speaker. We've got to do a better job in terms of, you know, people understanding just what the stakes are and how there's almost no margin for error when it comes to messing around with something like fentanyl, Mr. Speaker.

There's a good friend of mine who's a pastor in our community, Mr. Speaker, and is one of the real pillars of the community. And last year, Mr. Speaker, that individual got to preside over a funeral from a fentanyl overdose, and then two months later one of the siblings who had been a pallbearer at that funeral, my friend Pastor Bert got to preside over that funeral as well.

So again, Mr. Speaker, I don't know that I've got much more to say on this than, you know, this is good. There are some big structural interests at play that have seeded the ground for this to bloom into this horrible harvest that we're reaping, Mr. Speaker, in death and destruction. And those big interests should be made to pay, Mr. Speaker. They should be held to account. But it should also stand as a call to the rest of us, Mr. Speaker, that we've got to do better, and pray God that that be so.

So, Mr. Speaker, I stand in favour of this Bill. I want to see more like it. And I want to conclude my remarks and move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 199.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 199, *The Opioid Damages and Health Care Costs Recovery Act*. 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 Prince Albert Northcote.

**Ms. Rancourt:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. As always it's a pleasure to join in with regards to the adjourned debates and I'm happy to put in my own remarks on Bill No. 201, *The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Amendment Act, 2019*.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, some of the changes within this piece of legislation will authorize SLGA [Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority] to enter more agreements with any person for warehousing and delivery of specialty liquor products. This also

clarifies that only retail store permittees will be able to purchase alcohol directly from a person with whom SLGA has entered into an agreement. And it also creates a penalty for a person who refuses to produce identification to a liquor permit and creates an offence to having or keeping beverage alcohol not purchased from or through SLGA. So hopefully it's tightening some of the regulations within this piece of legislation.

But, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think having this bill come right after the one that my colleague spoke so passionately about with regards to opioids and the issues with drugs and alcohol within our province, it's good timing because we also know that alcohol plays a huge role within our province and issues with crime in our communities. And whenever I have an opportunity to speak to the police officers within our community, they say that alcohol is still the number one drug that they're dealing with on a daily basis and the costs of alcohol to our communities is extreme.

And we know that some data from 2014 indicate that in Saskatchewan we had generated \$391 million in revenue from alcohol sales but it cost the province around \$563 million with regards to the cost to the health care system, social services, corrections, and policing, and many other areas. So I think when we're making changes to this piece of legislation that has such an impact on our communities that we've got to be mindful of that and ensuring that we're taking responsibility of the impacts that addictions has on our community.

My dad was a drug and alcohol addictions counsellor at what used to be the St. Louis rehab centre, which is moved now in Prince Albert but lots of people still refer to it as that, and he spoke around the province about the impacts of alcohol on our communities. And I remember as a young girl listening to his speeches and hearing the situations that he would talk about of how alcohol tears apart families and really can ruin people's lives. And I think we've got to be mindful of that, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Also talking with municipal leaders, they've indicated that they would like to have a bigger role on being able to have some control over alcohol use and distribution within their communities. And they've been advocating the government to make changes so that they can determine how many liquor stores they have, how many cannabis stores they have, what hours those stores are open.

I remember, and this might age me a bit, but I remember there was a time when liquor stores had really reduced hours and they couldn't be open on certain days such as Sunday, or couldn't be open late after hours of supertime and such. And there was very few places that you could purchase alcohol. And so now it's very readily available; people can access it at all hours.

And I think some other provinces still have some pretty rigid time frames of when you can access alcohol. I think having off-sale stores open until 3 in the morning is ridiculous and it's not necessary. But that's just my personal opinion and one that I've seen that . . . My dad used to say nothing good happens after midnight, so be mindful of that as well.

So the need to be responsible and ensuring that when individuals develop a problem with alcohol, that they have the services available, Mr. Deputy Speaker. We hear from addictions

counsellors that they say that getting people into detox, getting people into addiction beds is hard because the wait times are long. And so I think if they're looking at increasing availability, we really need to look at increasing supports as well. So I would have a lot of questions with regards to how the two ministers are working together to ensure that this is happening.

And also with an increase of availability, will public education be increased as well? Like the proper use of drinking, how like if you see people funnelling alcohol or doing things like that? That like having some education for kids to realize that alcohol poisoning is very real, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and how that could have a huge impact on individuals and it's very scary. And when you talk to ER [emergency room] workers, they talk about the emergencies that come in there with regards to especially young people overusing alcohol, you know, and how that has an impact on them.

So I'm hoping there'll be more public education with regards to that, and also drinking and driving. We know that's a big issue in our province too and how we can curb that so when we increase availability of alcohol, that can make more people making poor decisions on driving after they have been drinking.

So there's also been lots of concern of more privatization of our liquor sales. We know that the liquor sales help offset these costs that we're talking about with regards to health, education, and many other services that people rely on. But if we privatize these sales we can't use that profit that we earn from it to pay for those services. It will just be probably higher taxes or more taxes that'll have to pay for those services, because I don't know how we would pay for it if we are not generating that income that we do from our public liquor sales.

And we also have got to be mindful of how public liquor stores, the employees there are really properly trained. They're professionals. They know not to over serve individuals, or if they see that individuals they believe might have an issue with addictions, they give them the resources that they feel that they would need to get the services and the support that they deserve. And so they also are good mortgage-paying jobs with benefits, and they're people that work in our communities, and we've got to be mindful of that as well. So I'm hoping when this budget comes forward that we're not going to see any more privatization of our public liquor stores.

Also there was some issues and it was brought up when cannabis sales came into the province that the inspectors, that we don't have enough inspectors already to manage the regulations that we have for liquor, how are they going to meet even more demands? So if we're going to allow more availability, are they going to increase the amount of inspectors that are available in the province so that they can ensure that regulations are being managed?

We know now that there was some changes also I believe with the cannabis sales that they're going to increase availability of those locations and stores so again, like, are we going to make sure we are doing our due diligence with having the proper amount of inspectors available as well? And like always when we make changes to an important piece of legislation such as this, how are we going to ensure that the public is informed of the changes that are being made?

So I think those will be good questions to ask in committee. And I know the critic that will be representing us in committee and having these discussions with the minister will do their due diligence, and my colleagues have a lot more that they'll probably want to add to the record with regards to discussion to the changes to this piece of legislation. So with that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'm going to adjourn debate on Bill No. 201.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member from Prince Albert Northcote 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 Saskatoon Fairview.

**Ms. Mowat:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's my pleasure to enter into debate today on Bill No. 203, *The Financial Planners and Financial Advisors Act* of 2019. We're talking about a new piece of legislation here today. So it's often when we're debating bills in this Assembly we're talking about amendments, but on occasion we get new pieces of legislation. So this is an example of that.

This bill sets out to provide some regulations around financial planners and financial advisors, providing definitions and terms that are to be used under legislation and provides for the requirement of a credentialing body to assess the credentials and education of financial planners and advisors, which makes perfect sense when you think about it. You want to know that there's some standard to the background of an individual who's giving you financial advice when you're seeking that out.

[15:45]

It also authorizes the Financial and Consumer Affairs Authority to approve credentialing bodies and the credentials offered through these institutions, sets out the conditions for suspension and revoking of credentialing bodies, sets out the duties and powers of credentialing bodies, as well as the procedures for inspection and investigations of the activities of financial planners and advisors. And it also provides for administrative penalties to be observed under the legislation.

So there are definitely some important considerations as we look here. When the minister was giving his second reading speech he talked a little bit about, you know, how this legislation, the goal of it is to be able to provide some clarity around these two titles of financial planner and financial advisor, and providing some regulation. I understand that it's based off a piece of legislation in Ontario that only came into operation this year.

So I think we'll certainly have questions about what folks in the

industry are saying about, you know, whether it's a balanced approach and whether the parameters that it sets out are reasonable and still allow them to operate within the industry, but also to ensure that there's a protection for consumers who are going to these individuals looking for advice, looking for help with planning their future, essentially. So you want to know that those folks are being regulated and that there are credentials involved in that situation.

There is also some mention about the fact that . . . There's a discussion about regulations being consistent across Canada, so I'd certainly be interested to see if there are any other provinces that are moving toward this level of regulation and what that looks like as well. So I know my colleagues will have more questions about this, but with that I would move to adjourn debate on this bill today.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member from Saskatoon Fairview has moved to adjourn debate on Bill 203, *The Financial Planners and Financial Advisors Act*. 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 Regina Rosemont.

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll enter in briefly here today, into what is actually very important legislation and very important work for this province, and that's Bill No. 204, *The Jury Amendment Act, 2019*. This legislation and its considerations are very important to this province. I know our Justice critic has been leading on this front and so many of my colleagues have as well, and they're going to be continuing to consult and listen and bring those perspectives forward through this parliamentary process into this debate, importantly into the committee. And we'll be looking to, you know, be bringing forward constructive suggestions and possibly amendments to make sure that we get this right.

This is one of those pieces of legislation that if we don't get right has too negative of impacts for the people of this province. I know that some of the changes laid out by the government are that they make changes to the juror selection and summoning processes, exclude certain members as jurors such as chiefs and council members from bands, as well as spouses of Reeves, mayors, city councillors, Mr. Speaker. And it has some other items that it addresses that seem reasonable.

But what we really need to get to, and where the focus needs to be, is making sure that we're improving the jury process to make sure that juries are more representative of the communities, the makeup of their respective communities, Mr. Speaker. There's a strong and important call for justice on this front that has to be

listened to, Mr. Speaker. So I trust in our Justice critic to engage on behalf of Saskatchewan people to bring those perspectives forward, Mr. Speaker.

And I guess I would just urge the Sask Party if there's a piece of legislation that they shouldn't just push forward regardless of the perspective of stakeholders, this would be one that they should not simply be pushing forward. Too often we've seen that approach from the government. Please take the time that's needed to engage the public and make sure the voices are heard, to make sure that improvements are actually brought to ensure juries are reflective of the makeup of respective communities, Mr. Speaker.

I won't get into too much more. This gets into certainly sensitive and important conversations within this province, and we owe it to the people of this province to get it right. At this point in time, I'll adjourn debate with respect to Bill No. 204, *The Jury Amendment Act, 2019*.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member from Regina Rosemont has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 204. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

**Hon. Mr. Merriman:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. In order to facilitate the work of committees, I move that this House do now adjourn.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — It's been moved that this House adjourns. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

[The Assembly adjourned at 15:52.]





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Minister of Crown Investments  
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan  
Government Insurance  
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan  
Transportation Company

**Hon. Donna Harpauer**  
Minister of Finance

**Hon. Jeremy Harrison**  
Minister of Trade and Export Development  
Minister of Immigration and Career Training

**Hon. Warren Kaeding**  
Minister Responsible for Rural and Remote Health  
Minister Responsible for Seniors

**Hon. Gene Makowsky**  
Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport  
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Liquor  
and Gaming Authority  
Minister Responsible for Tourism Saskatchewan

**Hon. David Marit**  
Minister of Agriculture  
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Crop  
Insurance Corporation

**Hon. Paul Merriman**  
Minister of Social Services

**Hon. Don Morgan**  
Minister of Justice and Attorney General  
Minister of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety  
Minister Responsible for the Saskatchewan  
Workers' Compensation Board  
Minister Responsible for The Global  
Transportation Hub Authority  
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan  
Telecommunications

**Hon. Greg Ottenbreit**  
Minister of Highways and Infrastructure  
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan  
Water Security Agency

**Hon. Jim Reiter**  
Minister of Health

**Hon. Christine Tell**  
Minister of Corrections and Policing  
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan  
Gaming Corporation

**Hon. Gordon Wyant**  
Deputy Premier  
Minister of Education  
Minister Responsible for SaskBuilds and  
Priority Saskatchewan