



FOURTH SESSION - TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

of the

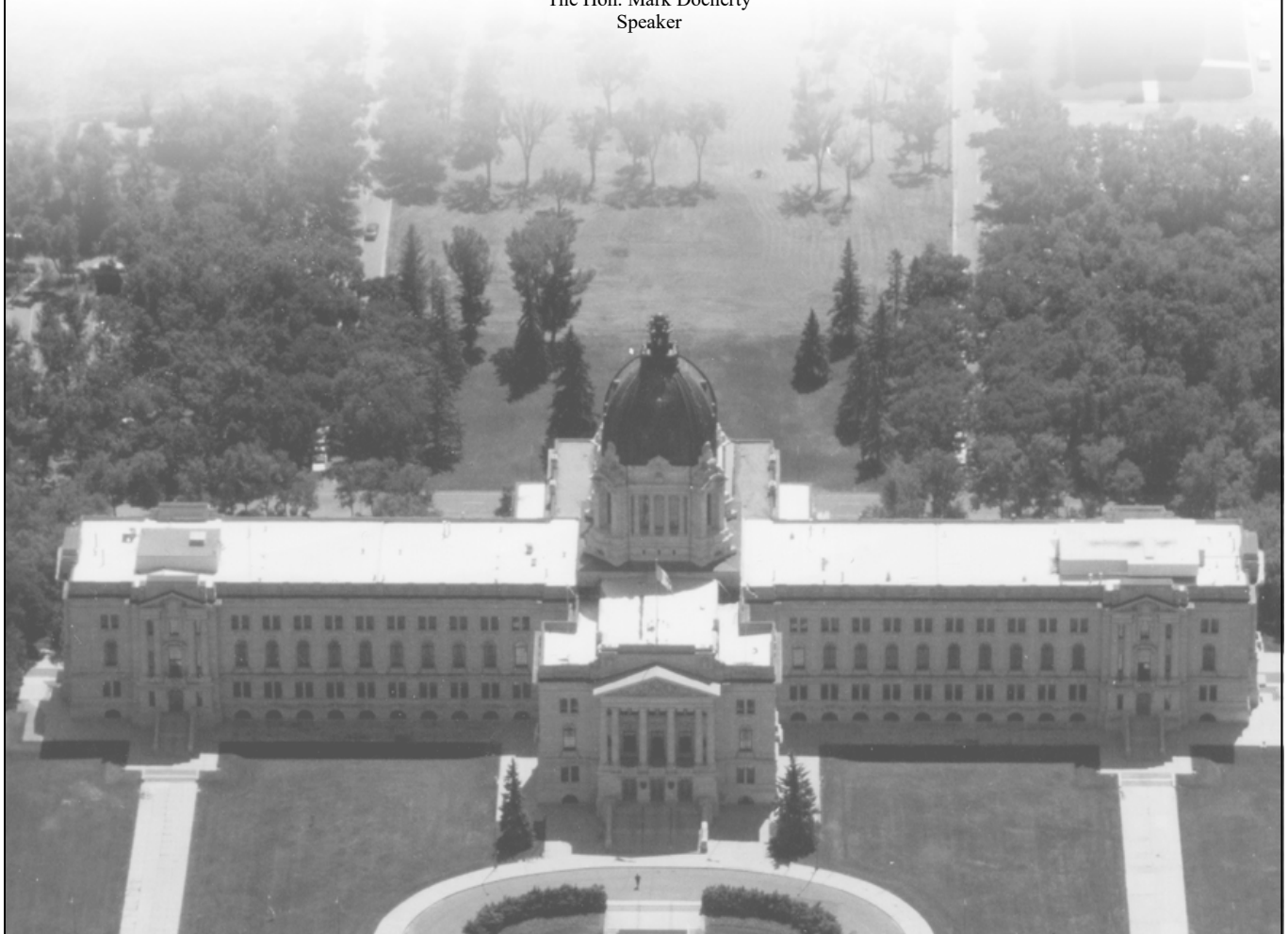
**Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

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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)
<b>Belanger</b> , Buckley — Athabasca (NDP)	<b>McCall</b> , Warren — Regina Elphinstone-Centre (NDP)
<b>Bonk</b> , Steven — Moosomin (SP)	<b>McMorris</b> , Don — Indian Head-Milestone (SP)
<b>Bradshaw</b> , Fred — Carrot River Valley (SP)	<b>Meili</b> , Ryan — Saskatoon Meewasin (NDP)
<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)
<b>Chartier</b> , Danielle — Saskatoon Riversdale (NDP)	<b>Morgan</b> , Hon. Don — Saskatoon Southeast (SP)
<b>Cheveldayoff</b> , Hon. Ken — Saskatoon Willowgrove (SP)	<b>Mowat</b> , Vicki — Saskatoon Fairview (NDP)
<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)
<b>Duncan</b> , Hon. Dustin — Weyburn-Big Muddy (SP)	<b>Reiter</b> , Hon. Jim — Rosetown-Elrose (SP)
<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)
<b>Harpauer</b> , Hon. Donna — Humboldt-Watrous (SP)	<b>Vermette</b> , Doyle — Cumberland (NDP)
<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 for Regina Pasqua.

**Mr. Fiaz:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you, through you, to all the members of the Assembly, I would like to introduce a person sitting in the west gallery, a friend of this House, very much familiar by my colleagues and my friends, Syed Waqar Bukhari. He is my CA [constituency assistant], my personal friend as well, and he is working in my office having one week off, Mr. Speaker, because just recently he lost his nephew, and we are very sorry about that. And, Mr. Speaker, also sitting right beside him, Syed Aqeel Shah-sahib. He came from Edmonton. He is a friend of the community, imamia community, and he was here since the last couple of days to provide the funeral service for Bukhari-sahib's nephew. I ask all my members to welcome Bukhari and Syed Aqeel Shah-sahib in this Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Pedersen:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, I would like to welcome a number of people seated in the west gallery, some proud oil and gas workers who are currently locked out from the Co-op Refinery here. I'll ask that they give a wave as I read out their names. We have Jesse Anderson, Dean Funke, Chad Nameth, Bryan Dubord, Nathan Fazakas, Mike Santangelo, Brad Collins, Mike Sveinbjornson, and Jeff Strain. So I'd ask that all members join with me, Mr. Speaker, in welcoming these men to their Legislative Assembly.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport.

**Hon. Mr. Makowsky:** — Thanks, Mr. Speaker. I would like to join the member opposite in welcoming these hard-working individuals here to the Legislative Assembly. They live and work in Regina and area in a very important sector of the economy for Saskatchewan but also right across Canada, so we thank them for their work and I ask all the members to help me welcome them as well.

### PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise once again here today to present petitions on behalf of concerned citizens, people, communities from all across Saskatchewan as it relates to the Sask Party's damaging choice to impose the PST [provincial sales tax] onto construction labour, of course to also increase the take of PST dollars by a billion dollars to double the take, Mr. Speaker, a really hard hit on Saskatchewan families and households, something that has hurt our economy.

Mr. Speaker, the average family, of course, is now paying more

than \$800 per year more than they were just four years ago in PST, and those are dollars taken directly out of our economy and causing a whole lot of hurt for Saskatchewan households.

As it relates to the imposition of the PST onto construction labour, well quite simply that's the epitome of a job-killing tax, Mr. Speaker. Sadly, the results speak for themselves: projects that are down all across Saskatchewan; permits that have plummeted, Mr. Speaker; and sadly, thousands of hard-working tradespeople, construction workers, Mr. Speaker, that have lost their jobs, and so many of them that have been forced from Saskatchewan — a loss for them and their families, a loss for us as a province, Mr. Speaker.

The prayer reads as follows:

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

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

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

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

I'd like to read the prayer:

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

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by the good citizens of Alsask and Kindersley.

**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, the individuals who have signed this petition wish to remind us that Wascana is a treasure of this province and a treasure of this city that has been managed effectively through an equal partnership between the city of Regina, the University of Regina, and the province of Saskatchewan for over 50 years. The Sask Party sought to take that precedent and throw it in the trash two years ago when they changed the governance structure so that they could have majority control over the board.

Mr. Speaker, the city of Regina and the University of Regina both expressed an openness to return to a governance model based on equality. More and more people in Regina and across

Saskatchewan are becoming very concerned with the growing commercialization of Wascana Park and want to see it stopped.

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 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 Abernethy, Regina, and Morse. I do so present.

**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. The many, many people across this province who have been signing our petition wish to draw our attention to a number of very urgent points: that the Sask Party government's cuts mean falling per-student funding and fewer supports for those students who need extra help; that the Sask Party government's cuts leave educators without the resources that they need to support the students in their classroom; and that the Sask Party government is ignoring overcrowding in our classrooms by refusing to track maximum class sizes; that the Sask Party government's lack of funding for school infrastructure has led to crumbling and overcrowded schools right across this province; and that the Sask Party government's failure to invest in our classrooms is having serious consequences today and will continue to do so well into the future if we don't deal with these issues.

I'll read the prayer:

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

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 Marquis and Moose Jaw. I do so present.

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

**Ms. Rancourt:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm proud to stand in my place today to present a petition calling for a \$15 minimum wage. Mr. Speaker, the individuals who signed this petition want to draw the following points to your attention: that Saskatchewan has the lowest minimum wage in Canada; that minimum wage should never be a poverty wage; that Saskatchewan people working full time at minimum wage jobs are living in poverty; that a \$15-an-hour minimum wage will improve health and well-being and lift Saskatchewan workers out of poverty. The \$15 minimum wage will benefit local businesses and support local economies by putting money in workers' pockets to spend in their communities.

I'll 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, the individuals who signed this petition come from the communities of Saskatoon, Meota, and North Battleford. I do so present.

## STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

### Government Record

**Mr. Pedersen:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This government talks a big game, but let's review their record. Most shameful, one in four children in Saskatchewan live in poverty. Now over the past decade, 20,000 new students but fewer counsellors, fewer psychologists, fewer teacher-librarians, and fewer than 200 new teachers.

Since introducing their two-for-one, American-style MRI [magnetic resonance imaging] experiment, the number of people waiting for an MRI has doubled. The Sask Party promised that emergency room waits would be gone by 2017, but instead those waits have grown every year since and now it's commonplace for patients to be stuck in hallways with curtains instead of walls.

Families are paying an extra \$800 in PST since this government's billion-dollar tax grab. And although they promised to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 20 per cent, instead emissions have increased by approximately 5 million tonnes, reflecting how they have all but abandoned environmental stewardship.

Since this government took office, home foreclosures have increased by nearly 400 per cent, the proportion of mortgages in

arrears has tripled, and 10,000 more Saskatchewan households are receiving income assistance.

Mr. Speaker, this Premier is all about smug leadership because this record is his government's growth agenda, and in reality they are letting Saskatchewan people down.

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

#### Plans for 2020 Grey Cup Festival

**Mr. Fiaz:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on February 28th, the Saskatchewan Roughriders announced the first details about the Grey Cup Festival that will be hosted in Regina in just nine short months. The Grey Cup festivities will kick off on November 17th and run through the week until the big game on Sunday. Mr. Speaker, I cannot wait to see how the province comes together to make this event just as successful as it was in 2013.

This will also be the first time the Grey Cup will be hosted at the new Mosaic Stadium. Organizers plan to convert the outdoor space west of Mosaic Stadium into the street festivals, which will offer a little something for every fan.

And, Mr. Speaker, the people of Regina are not the only ones excited about hosting the Grey Cup. The Saskatchewan Roughriders and the entire province are hoping the 2020 season will see the Riders repeating their storybook 2013 season.

This year's festivities will also include the first-time-ever League of Legends Canadian National Esport Tournament and the Richardson Pioneer Community Celebration, which will award six communities \$25,000 to help build infrastructure in their hometown focused on health, wellness, and active living.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot wait for November. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[13:45]

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

#### 2019 Prince Albert Citizen of the Year

**Ms. Rancourt:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On January 25th I attended this year's Citizen of the Year banquet, hosted by the Prince Albert Kinsmen Club and the *Prince Albert Daily Herald*, where Janet Carriere was honoured as this year's recipient. Janet is so deserving of this recognition. She has a big heart and is passionate about helping those with addiction and mental health issues and the homeless. Janet was very proud to be the first-ever Citizen of the Year recipient to be drummed into the room, a sign of reconciliation.

Janet is the executive director of the Prince Albert Indian Metis Friendship Centre. She sits on the board of the police commission, the Community Advisory Board for Homelessness, the Prince Albert Community Housing board, the Prince Albert Food Bank, and the Prince Albert women's shelter.

Mr. Speaker, Janet took the opportunity to speak about white

privilege and how it has been used and continues to be used to keep Indigenous people down. She told elected leaders in attendance to use our influence to stop racism and to work towards reconciliation. Janet never misses an opportunity to speak up for the marginalized, and that is why she is so respected in Prince Albert. Janet's nominator said, "She is my hero." And, Mr. Speaker, that is how many of us feel about Janet.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members join with me in congratulating Janet Carriere on being this year's Prince Albert Citizen of the Year. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Wood River.

#### Athlete Inducted into Canada West Hall of Fame

**Hon. Mr. Marit:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in this House today to recognize a very talented athlete from my hometown of Fife Lake, Sarah Crooks. Sarah grew up on a farm just 4 miles down the road from our farm.

Sarah is a talented basketball player who had an impressive high school and university career. Not only is she the greatest scorer in Canada West women's basketball history, but she is also the all-time leader in rebounds, with 1,181 in her university career.

Mr. Speaker, Sarah is a two-time CIS [Canadian Interuniversity Sport] and Canada West Player of the Year, sitting with 1,999 regular-season points. She was recognized as the conference's Defensive Player of the Year back in 2006 and was also named the Huskies' Female Athlete of the Year for the 2005-2006 season. That year, she led the Huskies to win their first conference championship. In 2011 the Huskies retired number 14 in her honour and she continued her professional basketball career in Spain.

And this year, Mr. Speaker, she very deservedly is being inducted into the Canada West Hall of Fame. Sarah's talent and heart for the game has earned her a spot amongst some of the greatest athletes to play in Canada. And, Mr. Speaker, she is very much deserving of that recognition. I now ask all members to please join me in congratulating Sarah Crooks on her induction into the Canada West Hall of Fame. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### Durum Summit 2020

**Mr. Hindley:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This past January I brought greetings on behalf of our Premier and Minister of Agriculture at the Durum Summit 2020 event in Swift Current. Mr. Speaker, it was sold out, nearly 300 people. In fact it was standing room only in the afternoon.

Canada contributes a major share to the global trade of durum wheat, and Saskatchewan is leading in production, with a lot of that produced right in the Southwest. In 2018 Saskatchewan produced 80 per cent of Canada's durum and we're also supplying 30 per cent of the world's total durum exports.

Mr. Speaker, the Durum Summit was a chance to celebrate the success of the industry, but also a time to evaluate some of the economic and environmental pressures that producers are facing.

The quality of Canadian durum is prized by domestic and international buyers, and the integration of the latest cropping technologies creates opportunities for producers to reduce their environmental footprints and increase sustainability.

Presenters also talked about countering some of the fear with respect to food safety by appealing to consumers with pride, pride in our industry and in the cutting-edge farming practices of today's producers. Mr. Speaker, our government has a plan for growth which will support the agriculture industry and ensure that Saskatchewan stays on top for exports and production.

I now ask my colleagues to please join me in thanking SeCan for organizing Durum Summit 2020 in Swift Current. Thank you to Ron DePauw and Robert Chapman for the invitation to be there. And thanks of course to the producers in our province who are continuously working hard to drive our economy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Saskatchewan Medical Association Recruitment of Rural Doctors**

**Hon. Mr. Goudy:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For people in rural Saskatchewan, doctors aren't just health care professionals. They and their families are honoured and appreciated as an integral part of our communities. But despite their necessity, some rural communities are finding it difficult to recruit doctors. That's why I'm pleased to say that the Saskatchewan Medical Association is working hard to make this undertaking a little easier. For us they're a kind of medical matchmaker.

Mr. Speaker, last month 45 medical students came to Melfort for the Saskatchewan Medical Association's Roadmap program to learn about what practising medicine in rural Saskatchewan is really like. The students spent the morning in our hospital touring the facility and working on their suturing and casting skills, Mr. Speaker. Surprisingly, none of my kids were in as patients that morning, Mr. Speaker. During the tour the students were interrupted by a code blue, reminding us that no one plans to have a heart attack but we're all very thankful to have doctors at hand when we do.

Mr. Speaker, the life of a rural doctor is never dull and always appreciated. Rural Saskatchewan would not be what it is today without these men and women weaving their lives into the fabric of our communities. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank the Saskatchewan Medical Association for hosting this program and welcome all medical students to come and experience what rural Saskatchewan has to offer. Our hearts and our doors are always open for them to make our community theirs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Martensville-Warman.

#### **Statements by the Opposition**

**Ms. Heppner:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For years, the NDP [New Democratic Party] member for Rosemont has accused us of putting forward policies that he says have killed the housing construction industry in Saskatchewan. But just yesterday he

claimed our policies have actually "fuelled . . . overbuilding" in housing construction in Saskatchewan. The same member issued a press release just a few short weeks ago lamenting the drop in building permits, but just yesterday said that we ". . . flooded the market with market-priced units."

Mr. Speaker, of the Regina bypass, numerous NDP members have said this project was nothing more than a few kilometres of highway. It was so small it should have cost less. But just this week the member for Saskatoon Centre said it was massively overbuilt. Apparently it's too big.

Mr. Speaker, the NDP complains that not enough Saskatchewan people are getting government work, but when a Saskatchewan company gets a government contract, the NDP lose it and accuse us of benefiting friends and insiders.

But even better, Mr. Speaker, just this week the NDP leader, with great theatrics said, "I don't see a single member on this side of the House that likes Justin Trudeau's carbon tax." Well maybe, Mr. Speaker, he should look in the mirror instead at the rest of his caucus because he said and I quote, ". . . we applaud the federal government's recent announcement of a minimum price on carbon."

Mr. Speaker, the NDP caucus confusion is evident every day. Their problem isn't weak leadership, Mr. Speaker; it's no leadership at all.

#### **QUESTION PERIOD**

**The Speaker:** — With that preamble, we're ready to go for question period. I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

#### **Management of Provincial Economy and Preparedness for COVID-19 Outbreak**

**Mr. Meili:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We spoke yesterday about how the US [United States] Federal Reserve has decreased interest rates by half a point in response to the threat of the coronavirus to the world economy. We saw today that the Bank of Canada has followed suit in doing the same thing. The US is taking action. Canada is taking action. The Sask Party is pretending everything is fine — again.

Which is no surprise, which is no surprise because that's what they've been doing all along, Mr. Speaker. They spin, cherry-pick high-level economic numbers, but they ignore the economic realities faced by households that are struggling across this province. They're ignoring people, Mr. Speaker, people with more personal debt, people living paycheque to paycheque, people who are unable to pay their mortgages, unable to pay their power bills.

Mr. Speaker, when will this Premier acknowledge the real hurt caused by his economic policies? When will he admit that he has zero plan for what to do with the upcoming economic troubles, or is he just hoping people won't notice as he breaks Brad Wall's law and calls a snap spring election?

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

**Hon. Mr. Moe:** — There's a lot of questions in there, Mr.

Speaker, ranging from the timing of an election to the wealth of our families here in the province, so I'll try to address a few and maybe in a subsequent question we'll have the opportunity to address a few more.

With respect, first and foremost again today, on the impact of coronavirus, I'll speak first to the economic impact that we can foresee. Mr. Speaker, I'm not going to preclude what's going to happen on the floor of this Assembly on March the 18th as we introduce yet another balanced budget on behalf of the people of the province of Saskatchewan. And, Mr. Speaker, and we are making every effort to incorporate into our financial plan here in the province any economic impacts that may or may not occur as we move forward with what is a global challenge in addressing COVID-19.

Mr. Speaker, one thing you can rest assured of is in this province with the health investment, not just last year but the record of health investment over the last number of years, not only in infrastructure like the Jim Pattison Children's Hospital and 15 long-term care and acute care centres in rural Saskatchewan, a Moose Jaw hospital, 900 more physicians, over 3,600 more nurses, Mr. Speaker. We have a public health care system that we can be so very proud of to ensure that we can deal with the challenges that come each and every day, including, including, Mr. Speaker, the challenges that will come once in a while with respect to a pandemic like COVID-19.

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

#### **Funding for Construction of Hospital**

**Mr. Meili:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once again no acknowledgment of the hurt that people are feeling, the way that people are stretched and stressed. He never talks about it; you'd think he didn't care.

Mr. Speaker, the member for Prince Albert Northcote has pointed out many times that Prince Albert needs a new, a larger hospital, a bigger hospital to deal with the growing health needs in northern Saskatchewan. New Democrats are committed. We will build a new, larger hospital for Prince Albert.

But unlike the Sask Party, unlike the Sask Party, Mr. Speaker, we'll do it as a conventional build, not as a P3 [public-private partnership]. And we'll make sure that it's Saskatchewan workers on the job because on project after project, the Sask Party finds a way to hand the work out to out-of-province countries. They find a way to hand the work to the companies that donate the money. They find a way to hand the work to the companies that lobby them non-stop, Mr. Speaker. And their expensive P3s have driven up costs. They've eliminated transparency . . .

[Interjections]

**The Speaker:** — Have a hard time hearing the question there. Please continue.

**Mr. Meili:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The expensive P3s from the Sask Party: they've driven up costs; they've eliminated transparency; and they've helped the friends and donors of the Sask Party get ahead while leaving the rest of us behind, Mr.

Speaker. A Prince Albert hospital needs to be built, and it needs to be built right.

Will the Premier commit today to building a hospital in Prince Albert, built by Saskatchewan workers? Because New Democrats will.

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

**Hon. Mr. Moe:** — Mr. Speaker, I wonder if New Democrats used Saskatchewan workers when they tore down the Holy Family Hospital in Prince Albert, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the fact of the matter is, is the Saskatchewan Party has committed not only to build a new and expanded Victoria Hospital in the city of Prince Albert, we have also committed to fund 100 per cent of that hospital.

Mr. Speaker, the reason that we have stepped forward to do that, which is unprecedented in this area, Mr. Speaker, is because the Victoria Hospital, and more importantly a new and expanded Victoria Hospital in Prince Albert . . . Maybe it will be as large to make up for the Holy Family Hospital that that party ripped down, Mr. Speaker. But a new and expanded hospital serves not only the city of Prince Albert, it serves the entire region. Mr. Speaker, a new and expanded hospital in Prince Albert will serve the entire North, Mr. Speaker.

That's why it's this government that has stepped forward and said that we will fund 100 per cent of that facility, Mr. Speaker. And if the member from P.A. [Prince Albert] Northcote wants to learn more about that, she isn't going to have to wait very long.

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

**Mr. Meili:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No answer on P3s. No answer on P3s, no answer on making sure that it's Saskatchewan workers and Saskatchewan companies building that much-needed hospital, Mr. Speaker.

On February 6th, the government posted a tender on the SaskTenders website asking for advice on how to proceed with a \$200 million social infrastructure project. This looks an awful lot like the Sask Party's looking for someone to guide them in how to plow ahead with yet another P3 project and leave Saskatchewan workers behind — maybe a P3 hospital in Prince Albert, Mr. Speaker, the \$2 billion Regina bypass, schools where you can't open the windows, a North Battleford hospital that continues to leak. Problem after problem, Mr. Speaker.

P3s haven't worked. They're more expensive. They're less transparent. And they leave Saskatchewan companies and Saskatchewan workers bidding for the scraps instead of making the profits and leaving those profits here in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

With this latest tender, what is the Premier building with the new P3 project? And why does he insist on continuing with this failed P3 model?

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

[14:00]

**Hon. Mr. Moe:** — Mr. Speaker, if the Leader of the Opposition, the member from P.A. Northcote want to learn more about how the facility in Prince Albert is going to be built, I would invite them to what will be a very public announcement in the next number of days in the city of Prince Albert, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, with respect to how we procure our infrastructure here in the province, Mr. Speaker, all of that procurement goes through a value-for-money audit with our very trusted Provincial Auditor here in the province, Mr. Speaker. And fortunately we have some work for her to do on this file as we have constructed 46 schools in this province, Mr. Speaker, relative to the members opposite when they had the opportunity, 176 schools were tore down in this province, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we are hiring teachers to put in those schools. Over 1,300 educators . . .

[Interjections]

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

**Hon. Mr. Moe:** — Mr. Speaker, we are building hospitals across the rural areas of the province. We built, as I mentioned, the Jim Pattison Children's Hospital in Saskatoon; a hospital in Moose Jaw, Mr. Speaker; the Saskatchewan Hospital in North Battleford, Mr. Speaker.

As I said, we're hiring teachers. Mr. Speaker, the members opposite were firing teachers. Four hundred left this province under their rule. Mr. Speaker, we're hiring physicians, with 900 more physicians working in the province. Members opposite were firing physicians in this province, Mr. Speaker. We're hiring nurses, over 3,600 nurses. Mr. Speaker, members opposite when they had the opportunity, they were firing nurses . . .

[Interjections]

**The Speaker:** — Member for Athabasca, please come to order. You can finish up your response.

**Hon. Mr. Moe:** — We will make no apologies for the infrastructure that we have constructed on behalf of the people and communities in this province. It's building strong families. It's building strong communities, Mr. Speaker. And we're going to continue to invest, starting with the Prince Albert hospital very shortly.

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

**Mr. Meili:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's no wonder the Sask Party loves P3s so much. They're both designed to prevent transparency.

Mr. Speaker, when we build our roads, our schools, our hospitals, our power plants with our tax dollars, shouldn't we build them with our companies and our workers, Mr. Speaker? Shouldn't we build them with our companies and leave those dollars here, Mr. Speaker?

The money we spend, the money we spend, our public dollars, should stay in the province. Those public dollars, those companies that hire more local workers, those local workers that buy locally, that pay taxes to pay for health care, to pay for education, to pay for more hospitals and more schools, Mr.

Speaker. It just makes . . .

[Interjections]

**The Speaker:** — Will the government side please come to order. I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

**Mr. Meili:** — It would be lovely if the group across the way would listen once in a while. People would like to hear this instead of making all this noise. The fact is, Mr. Speaker, local companies and local workers, they don't just build our buildings. They build our communities. What does the Premier not like about our idea of a Sask-first procurement model? What does he not like about accounting for the full value of the spending that we do? Why is he against making sure that our companies and our workers are the ones that are doing our public projects?

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

**Hon. Mr. Moe:** — Mr. Speaker, what I don't like is their record. Mr. Speaker, their record is that they didn't even invest enough in the highways to offset the gas tax they collected. That's their record, Mr. Speaker. Their record is that the Leader of the NDP in years gone by told the people of this province to go out and fix the potholes themselves, Mr. Speaker. That is their record. Mr. Speaker, that is what I don't like, is they say one thing and they do another.

Mr. Speaker, very shortly we are coming to a point . . . This year, actually, we are coming to a point in this province where the people of this province will have a choice to make. They'll have a choice to make between a party that advocates for a growing economy and a party that would destroy that economy in this province, Mr. Speaker. People of this province will have a choice to make between a party that is building schools and building hospitals and yes, building highways with Saskatchewan workers, Mr. Speaker, or a party that was not building schools; they were ripping them down. They were shutting down hospitals, and they were sending our teachers and nurses to other areas of the nation.

Mr. Speaker, this is the choice the people of Saskatchewan will have to make very, very shortly. They will have that choice this year, Mr. Speaker, and I look forward to it.

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

### Funding for Schools

**Ms. Beck:** — Say one thing and do another, Mr. Speaker. We hear from parents all over this province that the schools that their kids go to are crumbling and busting at the seams. We've got hallway medicine and now we've got portable education. Something simply isn't working, Mr. Speaker.

Teachers are telling us that they have a crisis in their classrooms, and sometimes the crisis is the classroom. New documents show that the total deferred cost of maintenance in our children's schools is \$1.3 billion. It's shameful, Mr. Speaker. Will the minister stand in his place today and tell the parents of Saskatchewan why he has allowed our schools to fall into such a sad state of repair?



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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, the member opposite should know full well that the NDP record of repairing schools was closing them, closing one a month, during their term. During their term in government, 176 schools were closed. Mr. Speaker, under their term in government, money provided to the schools, money that was provided for preventative maintenance . . .

[Interjections]

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, under the NDP, zero dollars were provided for PMR [preventative maintenance and renewal], not a red cent in any of their budgets. This year the Saskatchewan Party budget included over \$40 million. In each and every year that we've been in government, we have provided money for PMR so that it has gone up. And it is increased each and every year so that we can repair buildings that have been in place 50 and 100 years in our province. And some of those buildings are in great shape, as well as the 47 new schools that we've built. We'll make no apologies for our record to those people.

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

**Ms. Beck:** — Mr. Speaker, teachers are on the front lines of this government's failure to invest in our classrooms. Hundreds of Saskatchewan teachers have taken to social media to voice their concerns and frustrations about the learning environments in our schools. One such Twitter message was this, and I quote:

My students are packed in a classroom like sardines. This is not right. Please, @GordWyant do something about this.

We all know that schools and 80 per cent of Saskatchewan's school divisions are in poor condition or worse, with Regina Catholic board facilities listed as critical. And we now know that the price tag to fix all of these repairs has climbed to \$1.3 billion.

Will that minister commit today to reversing the damage that his cuts have made to our classrooms?

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, the member opposite ought to take a drive around her own constituency and the constituencies next to hers because there's more new schools and more school development in her area than there is virtually anywhere else in the province. There's been an incredible input and injection of capital into that area.

Mr. Speaker, I'll give them some numbers. We've invested \$2.48 billion this year — \$1.9 billion in school operating, the largest operating fund in the history of the province, an increase of \$26.2 million from 2017, 2018. Mr. Speaker, operating funding to school divisions is up 34 per cent since we formed government.

Right now, Mr. Speaker, we have 1,307 more teachers in the province than we did when we formed government, an increase of some 14 per cent. Mr. Speaker, we've provided \$41 million in funding over the last three years from the federal government of

Canada to support early learning and child care agreements. Mr. Speaker, the list goes on and on about the financial commitment and, Mr. Speaker, we're proud of our record.

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

**Ms. Beck:** — Mr. Speaker, elementary schools are bursting at the seams and this government has shown little understanding that these students are poised to move on to high school, let alone any sign that they have an actual plan to address this growth. The Sask Party has balked for years at a high school in the southeast of Regina, despite the fact that projections show that one is desperately needed in just a few years. So my question is simple: what is the plan to deliver on the infrastructure needed to deal with this projected over capacity?

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, just in this very question period the members opposite went on a big rant against P3 schools. Mr. Speaker, drive around and have a look at some of those schools. The member opposite should go for a walk in some of those schools. She'll be impressed with some of those schools. They're great learning spaces. The teachers love them. The students love them. The parents love them.

Mr. Speaker, per-student funding in our province is up over \$10,000 per student, a 23 per cent increase from 2007-2008. Our classroom sizes have remained stable since 2007. Operating grants are now \$1.9 billion. We'll make no apologies and we'll take no lessons from those people opposite on how to fund schools.

Mr. Speaker, we will work with the school divisions. We will work with the parents. And we will work with the teachers to make sure that we provide a quality education for the students in our province rather than send them out of the province the way those members did opposite. They have the worst track record in the history of this province for scaring people away. If they want to know about education, go to the kids they drove to Calgary.

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

### Condition of Saskatchewan Hospital Building

**Ms. Mowat:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You want to talk about scare tactics? I think we've seen a few of those today.

We only need to look at Sask Hospital North Battleford to see how this government's approach to infrastructure has been going. Documents released through freedom of information show this government plowed ahead with modular roofing from the same company that provided faulty insulation panels in the walls. This, despite the fact that they had to rebuild the walls to fix the defects.

On the roof, a SaskBuilds official wrote, "The roof was a serious bone of contention during design and construction, and unfortunately the authority's concerns were well founded."

It's no wonder the SHA [Saskatchewan Health Authority] was worried. Why on earth would this government allow the

proponent to plow ahead and install products that had proven to be faulty in 2017?

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

**Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, for the question. Certainly the Saskatchewan Hospital North Battleford is something that was long overdue. That was another example of something that was ignored by the members opposite for year after year, term after term of their government. We're very proud that we were able to build the facility.

The facility has had some short-term building issues. Back a couple of months ago in January, we awarded a third-party audit. And that is taking place right now, and the report will be offered to us in late spring. There have been some issues, Mr. Speaker, as is normal with many facilities that are built. But most importantly, it was built in a way that the taxpayers aren't responsible for any of those additional dollars.

This is a facility that saved taxpayers \$15 million in construction alone, and \$90 million over the 30-year period that it will operate. So thank you for the question, and I look forward to others.

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

**Ms. Mowat:** — Mr. Speaker, this isn't normal. The roof had more than 20 leaks and acoustic material was falling from the ceiling. We already have more than \$3 billion worth of repairs to do on our existing health infrastructure, and apparently this government thinks Saskatchewan people should accept crumbling infrastructure in our brand new hospitals as well.

Emails between officials indicate there were additional issues with the hospital's real-time location system. And on the day the minister was set to announce the roof issue, communications officials emailed urgently about additional repairs. It's clear that the public doesn't have a clear picture of this issue yet. We called for a full infrastructure audit 10 months ago. Will the minister make the full infrastructure audit of Sask Hospital North Battleford public today?

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

**Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, no I won't make it public today because the audit is still going on. The audit is taking place. The information is being . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . No and, you know, we take this very seriously. We want to ensure that this hospital, one that was long overdue, one that was ignored by members opposite and that wasn't built . . . It's a hospital that will serve the needs of Saskatchewan residents for many decades into the future.

It's having some short-term issues, so we're concerned about that. That's why we initiated the audit. We look forward to the audit's findings, and we'll ensure that the builders of the hospital correct any deficiencies that may show up. Thank you.

[14:15]

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

**Ms. Mowat:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What if they can't pay for those deficiencies? In December, Moody's issued a credit opinion on Access Prairies Partnership that significantly degraded their credit rating based on the mess that's unfolded at Sask Hospital North Battleford. Moody's credit negative rating was based on the full roof replacement as well as "significant remediation work for water damage as a result of faulty shower assemblies that leaked behind the walls across the facility." It says the repairs will cost the proponent \$25 million and construction will not be completed until the summer of 2021, two years after it was supposed to open.

Has the minister seen the report? And is he at all concerned that the P3 partner might not be able to pick up the tab for the needed repairs, leaving Saskatchewan people holding the bag?

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

**Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Thank you very much, and I thank again the member for the question. It is a really important issue because this hospital is so important to the future of health care in Saskatchewan. Again it was a hospital that wasn't built under the NDP, that they ignored, and we were happy to open the hospital one year ago.

And again, Mr. Speaker, it's a hospital that is experiencing some short-term issues, not unlike other hospitals or other facilities as well. That has our attention. We're very concerned about it, but we will make sure that they are rectified and we have the confidence in the companies and their financial wherewithal to get the work done. And we will ensure that that happens for the taxpayers of Saskatchewan. Thank you.

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

### Proposals for Construction of Power Plant

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — When it comes to hiring Saskatchewan workers and Saskatchewan companies for Saskatchewan projects, the Sask Party just keeps failing. We've pushed this issue on the floor of this Assembly before. That Premier and that cabinet have offered it some lip service but it seems that they just aren't willing to learn from their mistakes. Mr. Speaker, the short list for the SaskPower natural gas plant in Moose Jaw includes two companies: one from Nebraska, one from Missouri.

Does the Sask Party really believe that there's not a company in Saskatchewan that can take on that work? And are they seriously going to outsource that work to an out-of-country company like they did with the SaskPower plant down at Swift Current that also shut out Saskatchewan workers?

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

**Hon. Mr. Duncan:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, SaskPower went through a process to identify, through an RFP [request for proposal] and an RFQ [request for quotation], companies that would be interested in bidding on this type of work, knowing that that's the general contractor for the construction and there is a lot of subcontracting that takes place. And in the case of Chinook in Swift Current, over \$140 million went to local businesses, and we certainly expect the same thing to take place in this as well, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I find it odd that the members opposite would ask for essentially 100 per cent Saskatchewan procurement project particularly on a power plant, Mr. Speaker, because to my knowledge there are no companies based in Saskatchewan that build a 350-megawatt steam or gas turbine, Mr. Speaker. So in the case of the NDP, they would build a power plant, Mr. Speaker, and have no way to actually provide the energy, Mr. Speaker, which shouldn't be a surprise. I think when most people in this province think of the NDP they think low energy.

**The Speaker:** — Why is the . . .

**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 Athabasca used some serious profanity directed at the Premier. I'm not going to soil the Assembly with the language that he used, but I know his seatmate and those around him will have been very aware of the word that he used, Mr. Speaker. I know that he will do the honourable thing — stand up, withdraw, and apologize.

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

**Ms. Sproule:** — Mr. Speaker, I heard no such soiled language. And I would ask that you review the record to ensure that what the member opposite is suggesting actually happened.

[Interjections]

**The Speaker:** — Order, please. I didn't hear what the member's accused of, but I can offer this. If the member did say something unparliamentary, I would offer the opportunity to stand up, withdraw, and apologize.

Okay. We'll review the tape.

#### 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. 178, *The Miscellaneous Statutes Repeal Act, 2019* without amendment.

**The Speaker:** — When shall this bill be considered by 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 requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 178 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. 178 — *The Miscellaneous Statutes Repeal 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. 178 be now read a third time and passed under its title. 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.

**Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel:** — 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. 190, *The Expropriation Procedure 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. 190 and that the bill be read a third time. Leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

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

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

**The Speaker:** — It's been moved by the minister that Bill No. 190 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.

**Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel:** — 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. 191, *The Business Corporations 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. 191 and that the bill be 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. 191 — *The Business Corporations Amendment Act, 2019***

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

**The Speaker:** — It's been moved by the minister that Bill No.

191 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.

**Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel:** — 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. 192, *The Legal Profession (Law Foundation) Amendment Act, 2019* without amendment.

**The Speaker:** — When shall this bill be considered in Committee of the Whole of 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. 192 and that the bill be 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. 192 — *The Legal Profession (Law Foundation) Amendment Act, 2019***

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

**The Speaker:** — It's been moved by the minister that Bill No. 192 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.

**Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel:** — 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. 193, *The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2019 (No. 2)* 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 Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 193 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. 193 — *The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2019 (No. 2)***

**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. 193 be now read the third time and passed under its title. 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.

**Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel:** — 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. 205, *The Children's Law 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. 205 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. 205 — *The Children's Law Act, 2019*  
*Loi de 2019 sur le droit de l'enfance***

**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. 205 be now read the third time and passed under its title. 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.

**Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel:** — 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. 206, *The Children's Law Consequential Amendments 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. 206 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. 206 — *The Children's Law Consequential Amendments 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. 206 be now read the third time and passed under its title. 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.

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

### ORDERS OF THE DAY

#### GOVERNMENT ORDERS

#### ADJOURNED DEBATES

#### SECOND READINGS

##### Bill No. 189

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 189** — *The Coroners Amendment Act, 2019* be now read a second time.]

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

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to rise this afternoon to enter into the debate around Bill No. 189, *The Coroners Amendment Act*. Mr. Speaker, this bill makes several changes to *The Coroners Act* after what has been a fairly significant few years in the coroner's office.

As you know well, Mr. Speaker, there has been a lot of public scrutiny over the last few years over this office and the work that was being done. As a result, at the time the office was looked into, I would say, and a thorough audit of the office was

conducted by Mr. Clive Weighill. As a result, overall recommendations were made for improvements to the office moving forward. And to the government's credit, Mr. Speaker, many of the recommendations were subsequently implemented, and in fact Mr. Weighill was later hired as the Chief Coroner.

[14:30]

So flowing out of that and some of the recommendations that the coroner has seen needed to be implemented to improve the office, we have *The Coroner's Amendment Act*. Some of those changes include the bill will allow the minister to appoint a deputy chief coroner who can act as the Chief Coroner in the chief's absence; it grants the Chief Coroner the authority to appoint regional supervising coroners, officers, and employees; discretionary authority to disqualify a coroner from conducting an inquest or investigation; and provides the Chief Coroner with a bit more power in terms of managing his office, his or her office, and the workload of that office.

Also important to note is this legislation expands the investigation powers of the coroner, including the power to reopen an investigation if new evidence is available. Mr. Speaker, there have been some instances, some of which have made it into the public sphere, of situations where families felt that a coroner's investigation needed to be reopened because further information or new information came to light that could have been beneficial to an investigation had it been realized when the original investigation had been occurring. This will allow the coroner to have the discretion to be able to reopen investigation if needed.

It also authorizes a third party to request a review by the Chief Coroner of a coroner's decision to not hold an inquest into the death of a deceased, which is also important. Mr. Speaker, there is a provision where there are some instances where a coroner's review is mandatory of a death; however there are also instances where for the most part the coroner's decision to hold an inquest is discretionary. So allowing that ability for an individual to essentially appeal that decision, Mr. Speaker, just adds a level of scrutiny and oversight over the coroner's office that is, I would say, probably welcome.

Mr. Speaker, one section in particular I do want to highlight, because it has come to my attention that there are a few important organizations in this province who do very good work who are concerned about this section and, Mr. Speaker, that's section 37(1) around standing at inquest. The bill will, Mr. Speaker, provide an amendment that will change the standing recommendation in that section to read the following:

“(1) On application by any person before or during an inquest, a coroner may grant standing at an inquest if, in the opinion of the coroner, the person has a direct and substantial interest in the inquest”.

Mr. Speaker, both the John Howard Society and the Elizabeth Fry Society do incredibly important work in this area in terms of providing representation as a third party in inquests. Often families involved in these inquests very much benefit from having a third party organization like John Howard Society or Elizabeth Fry Society involved in these inquests. They are able to provide more of an oversight — an umbrella-level oversight,

10,000-square-foot oversight — into how the inquest and the issues that flow out of an inquest are important to the larger province and society in moving forward.

What this amendment will do is it'll make it more difficult for organizations like John Howard Society and Elizabeth Fry Society to be able to participate in those inquests because, Mr. Speaker, it adds an extra hurdle that they have to prove that they have a "direct and substantial interest" in the inquest.

Right now, Mr. Speaker, that current provision does not have the direct portion of that test in the language, Mr. Speaker. Rightly so, I would say, John Howard Society and Elizabeth Fry Society are very concerned that in the future that could impact their ability to participate in inquests. And I think, Mr. Speaker, we as legislators should agree that the more . . . that both the Elizabeth Fry Society and the John Howard Society do extremely important work in this province and also that they do extremely important work in these inquests, Mr. Speaker. And we shouldn't as legislators be adding additional burdens to them to be able to participate in that work, Mr. Speaker.

So I'm hoping that the minister will consider the requests of those two organizations, which is to not move forward with that particular piece of this bill, to allow the original standing provision that is currently in place to continue forward in order to allow those two organizations to continue to do their good work, Mr. Speaker. I know I'll have the opportunity to ask several questions about this legislation to officials as well as the minister at committee, and to further that I am prepared to allow this bill to move forward to its next stage.

**The Speaker:** — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the minister that Bill No. 189 be now read a second time. Pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

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

**The Speaker:** — To which committee shall this bill be committed? I recognize the Deputy House Leader.

**Hon. Mr. Merriman:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I designate that Bill No. 189, *The Coroners Amendment Act, 2019* be committed to the Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

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

#### 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 Douglas Park.

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to rise this afternoon, enter into the debate around Bill No. 194, *The Miscellaneous Municipal Statutes Amendment Act*.

Mr. Speaker, this is a fairly lengthy piece of legislation that amends many provisions in *The Cities Act*, *The Municipalities Act*, as well as *The Northern Municipalities Act*. Mr. Speaker, I won't be going through all of those provisions and those changes this afternoon, as I know my colleagues will have the opportunity to speak to this bill in the future. And I know the critic will do a thorough job of asking questions about these legislative changes to the officials at committee.

Some of the changes that I do want to highlight are, in particular, some amendments to *The Cities Act*, which includes an allowance of a council of a city to merge with the council of another city to form a municipal district. There's another provision that allows a 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.

There's some changes to the rules regarding suspension of a full-time city solicitor. One in particular that is quite interesting is that there's a provision which will increase protection of city employees from reprisal and provides for the imposition of a fine if a city employee is subject to reprisal, Mr. Speaker. This is a strengthening of some whistle-blower protection that is sorely needed. You can think of a few examples recently where employees of cities and municipalities who have seen some concerning activities want to raise the alarm, so to speak, Mr. Speaker, and were concerned about being subject to reprisals, for example, the loss of their job if they did decide to speak out, Mr. Speaker. It's important that we ensure that employees are protected to be able to highlight concerning behaviour by their employers and can do so without some sort of financial consequence or other reprisals.

Mr. Speaker, there's also several changes to the rules for the preservation of public documents, the inspection of municipal documents, and the disqualification of members of council. There's also an extension for the period of suspension from council. They could be suspended instead from 3 till 12 years for a member held financially liable for an unauthorized transaction.

Mr. Speaker, it's unfortunate that we have to look at these sorts of rule changes, that we have to consider further penalties for individuals who essentially abuse their position in office. But it is good that this is being reviewed and that these changes are being considered.

Like I said, Mr. Speaker, there are many, many other changes in this piece of legislation. It would take me probably all afternoon to talk about all of them. I won't do that to you, Mr. Speaker, and like I said, I know I have several colleagues who are very interested in speaking to many of these provisions in further debates, so at this time I'm prepared to 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 Cumberland.

**Mr. Vermette:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, to join in on Bill No. 195, *The Lobbyists Amendment Act, 2019*. There's a number of changes, amendments that they're proposing when individuals are lobbying government ministry, agencies I guess, having meetings, and coming into discussions I guess for whatever they're lobbying for. Whether it's a consultant, a company that's doing it or individual groups or organizations that do that, there used to be a threshold of 100 hours that required them then to register as a lobbyist organization that they're meeting. And it would give information as to who they're meeting with, government officials, and that process.

What's been recommended is removing those changes from 100 hours to 30 hours for that individual or organization, firm, to come forward and register with 30 hours. We also, I know that in last year . . . let's see, what bill would that have been? We introduced, as opposition, Bill 615 that called to actually remove the threshold of hours, and anyone who was lobbying, you know, government ministries would have to register with the lobbyist to say that their registration . . . to say that who they're meeting with, with ministry officials or ministers and stuff like that.

So that opportunity was there for them to look at that, but instead they've gone now to 30 hours. I think it would have been good at the time to support anyone who's lobbying ministers and, you know, ministers' officials to register so that we know exactly, the public . . . it's transparent. The public gets to have access to who's lobbying government ministries, the ministers.

So having said that, there's also a provision in there that refers to gifts and non-profit organizations as well with employees, less than five employees, that they don't have to . . . they're under the 30-hour threshold, they don't have to, from my understanding, register because they're a non-profit organization, is the understanding I've got from the amendment to the legislation.

Having said that, there's also, as I said, a gift. There's an opportunity. Right now as members of the Assembly, ministers, you have to claim gifts that you're getting after a certain amount. And some of us record all gifts. Some people . . . There's a certain dollar amount, but in here they'll change it. It's talking about \$200 that they would have to . . . above. Or special, I guess, events protocols, one would be given a gift at some type of a function, organization.

And I know my colleagues will be asking more questions in committee, and I know we'll have a few more members who are just, you know, talking to Bill 195. But at this time, Mr. Speaker, once it goes to committee and my colleague, the critic, has a chance to look into it more and ask more questions — if there are any more questions — to the amendments to this bill, that will take the time that they need to ask those questions. So at this time I am prepared to adjourn on Bill 195.

[14:45]

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

**Bill No. 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 Saskatoon Nutana.

**Ms. Sproule:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and it's my honour to be able to rise in this Assembly once again to enter into adjourned debates. And I note that some of the members in the gallery are still with us, and my apologies to them if this is a little bit dry and not so interesting, but we do our best.

And this is an important part of the process, Mr. Speaker, because this is where we as the loyal opposition are able to review the legislation put forward by the government on the record. So what we're saying is being recorded by Hansard and it will all be on the record for future posterity. So we do like to use this opportunity to get on the record some of the concerns that we have with the legislation that is put forward. Or on the rare occasion, we might actually agree with some of the legislation that's being put forward, Mr. Speaker. But in the role of the loyal opposition, our job is to find those places or those spaces in the government's legislative agenda, for whatever it's worth, to make comment and to reach out to stakeholders in the community and ensure that those concerns at least are on the table.

Mr. Speaker, I've done a little bit of math here considering the remaining bills here in the Assembly. And since I'm not seeking re-election, I've determined that I only have four bills left to speak to in my legislative career because I've spoke to most of the other ones. There's nine left. And so as I'm winding up my career I'm getting a little more reflective, shall we say, of the process and what we've gone through in this Assembly . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . That's right. I feel like the Minister Responsible for SaskPower is correct. He hardly knows me. But you know, I'll be around afterwards and he can get to know me in maybe a more informal way. Perhaps a beverage may be on the books. Who knows, Mr. Speaker?

So in terms of the bills that are before us in this particular sitting, I've said it before and I'll say it again, there's not really a whole lot that's exciting on the legislative agenda for this government. And I think that's a sign of a government that's old and tired. I think it's a sign of a government that's out of ideas.

As you will note, Mr. Speaker, a large, large number of the bills that are before us in the Assembly this spring and last fall are coming from the Ministry of Justice, and Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice Committee has their work cut out for them. But really the number of bills that are not coming forward from officials and showing new ideas and a fresh new look at how a



government should be managing the affairs of Saskatchewan is telling in this agenda.

It's also telling in the refusal to deal with the severe issues that are facing so many people in Saskatchewan today, Mr. Speaker. We see a lot of labour unrest, Mr. Speaker. We see teachers voting in unprecedented numbers with the failure of this government to make changes to the classrooms and all the cuts that they've imposed on education.

We see many other members of the labour movement and certainly workers in general, people who aren't getting a decent wage for their work. And, Mr. Speaker, how anyone can be expected to make money on the lowest minimum wage in Canada, make enough to look after their family, Mr. Speaker, it's disheartening. And we see that in the numbers of children that are in poverty here in this province. So those are the kinds of best-in-Canada/worst-in-Canada numbers that I don't think we should be proud of, and it would be helpful if we heard a Premier speak to his plan for fixing those things.

And you know, today, Mr. Speaker, I heard the Premier say that we would be going to the polls very soon. And so, although he's been coy with the media, he's been coy with the people of Saskatchewan, despite being on the record clearly last year saying there will be a fixed election date and it will be October 26, now we have him playing with the people of Saskatchewan. It's causing problems across the board in terms of preparedness for the election, and I think it's highly unfair, Mr. Speaker, that he says one thing in November and then today he's telling us there will be an election very quickly.

I don't know if he meant to say that, Mr. Speaker, but that's what I heard him say. And maybe it just slipped out because he's not being straight I think at this point with the people of Saskatchewan.

On this particular bill, *The Members' Conflict of Interest Amendment Act*, there are a few changes that are being added. A definition of "gift or personal benefit" is being added; some requirements for former members to file a disclosure statement. So I will have to . . . As a former member after the snap election, Mr. Speaker, I will have 60 days to, after the election is called — possibly after the day after the budget, we don't know — I'll have 60 days to file my disclosure statement because at that point I will be a former member.

And there's another requirement here about public disclosure statements, which is what the public gets to see when they go on the conflict-of-interest registry. It would include the descriptions of the assets of a private company controlled by the member or a family member. So no longer can members hide their assets with their family members, their spouse or their children, Mr. Speaker, or an aunt or uncle, I guess, as far as that goes. Those will also have to be described in the public disclosure statement.

But I'm not sure that this bill goes far enough, Mr. Speaker, because there are many members who own shares in holding companies. They own shares in numbered companies. There's joint ventures. There's sole proprietorships. There are joint ventures that own another joint venture that . . . If you do the corporate registry work, Mr. Speaker, you can see there are some incredibly complex arrangements.

And those disclosure statements therefore don't tell us anything about the assets held by the numbered companies. And, Mr. Speaker, the whole purpose of a numbered company is to keep prying eyes away. There are ways to find out what those assets are but, Mr. Speaker, that is not a reason to not disclose that in your disclosure statement.

And I think hopefully as we move through this, we will see that numbered companies and holding companies and the disclosure statements are more forthcoming with the types of assets that are held by those companies. And our view is that that information needs to be publicly disclosed as much as any other information about the holdings of members because many members come to this table with a number of different holdings. And we all have to disclose those as we come through, but it's not required for numbered companies or holding companies, Mr. Speaker.

So incrementally we are seeing some change, but I think it needs to go farther because we see the connections with insiders that this government seems to spend a lot of time on and perhaps a lot of money, Mr. Speaker. I'll be in committee tonight finding more out about that in relation to some funds that are being managed by this government and by the Crown Investments Corporation. So those kinds of questions, it's just much easier to do that research and have that information in front of the public if it's being publicly disclosed by the members.

And, Mr. Speaker, perhaps we should go even further and for people who are working for the government, like fund managers, perhaps they should do some disclosures as well. Because if we're offloading management of government dollars, which we see this government do a lot, then the people managing those dollars should also have to disclose their own private interests as well because then we know who is lining up at the queue, who's the winners and who's the losers that are being put forward to receive government funding.

So I'm very concerned about that and I think all members should be. And if there's sort of a laissez-faire attitude at the top levels, Mr. Speaker, you will see it work its way down to the various layers of the public service and ultimately to the offloading of those interests to private citizens who may or may not have their own agendas as well, Mr. Speaker. So I think it's very important that we closely look at how public dollars are handled at all levels.

And you will recall, last November we asked the Chair of the Crown and Central Agencies to allow us to ask questions of one of the fund managers, and that was categorically denied by the committee. And I'm very disappointed in that because we are allowing private individuals to handle significant amounts of money, which unfortunately the two funds in question have lost several million dollars, and these are taxpayers' dollars that aren't being accounted for, Mr. Speaker.

Again I'm hoping to have some forthcomingness from committee tonight, but unfortunately many of the questions we have, I don't know if CIC has done the due diligence they need to, to make sure that those answers will be available since the fund manager will not be present. So I'm a little worried about that but we'll see what happens.

At any rate, I know other members will want to weigh in here on

Bill No. 196, so I would move that we adjourn the debate on Bill No. 196, *The Members' Conflict of Interest Amendment Act, 2019*.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

#### Bill No. 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 Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

**Mr. McCall:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Good to join debate this afternoon on Bill No. 197, *The Automobile Accident Insurance Amendment Act, 2019*.

Mr. Speaker, there are a few components to this particular piece of legislation. There's a change to the appeal process. There's a change that affects the portability of the legislation from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. There's clarification around the surrender of licences or driving permits, you know, one jurisdiction to the next, so again something under the heading of portability. And as well, Mr. Speaker, the clarification around the conditions between first party property damage insurance and third party liability insurance to vehicles that 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. Mr. Speaker, the last thing to touch upon in terms of changes contained in the legislation regards the rendering of language gender neutral.

Mr. Speaker, this is pretty . . . There was an expression being tossed around earlier in the question period around, I think, low energy. Mr. Speaker, in reading this legislation to offer up some remarks in this stage of the process, I nearly fell asleep in the reading of it. So I don't know if that's the low energy front is moving through the Assembly but, you know, there it is. So again, like low energy: heal thine self, I think would be something I'd offer up to members of that government.

But one thing we'll be looking for in terms of . . . The hallmark of any good legislation is, you know, can it be enforced. So one of the aspects of this particular piece of legislation regards offences that occur in other jurisdictions being rendered applicable to what happens in Saskatchewan's jurisdiction. And I guess that's sort of an after-the-fact sort of thing where something comes to light where there's a restriction or a licence has been pulled, and then, you know, that is brought out in later legal proceedings.

But otherwise I don't know if they're going to go to the registry for these things, Mr. Speaker, or how that will be enforced in terms of how do you know if somebody's had their licence pulled in another jurisdiction, say — I don't know — that of Ontario or

Ghana or wherever, Mr. Speaker. So we'll be interested to see how that gets enforced and maybe that's something we can be illuminated upon in committee stage. We'll wait with great interest, Mr. Speaker.

The other thing is as regards the appeal process. And again I think there are things that can get done under the heading of streamlining administrative justice. And they're changing some of the procedures in terms of who hears an appeal, what qualifies for an appeal, Mr. Speaker. That in this circumstance is being put forward again under the heading of, you know, better administration of justice. And we'll be interested to see if that is in fact the case, Mr. Speaker.

[15:00]

So not to go against my earlier, you know, part of my speech, but here I've got all these things that we're interested to see how they work out. So maybe it wasn't the low-energy festival that it first appeared to be, Mr. Speaker.

But I await with again great interest, the more learned comments from various of my colleagues that have, you know, greater knowledge on these fronts than I. But for the time being, Mr. Speaker, I move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 197, *The Automobile Accident Insurance Amendment Act, 2019*.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

#### Bill No. 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 Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Regina Northeast.

**Mr. Pedersen:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my privilege to participate in this debate today on the reading of *The Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2019*. Mr. Speaker, I couldn't help but overhear some members on the other side earlier today talking about a low energy. And, Mr. Speaker, I couldn't agree more that low energy is exactly the phrase that defines this session's legislative agenda. This particular sitting we're faced with almost nothing but consequential amendments and housekeeping and tweaks here and there. And to a large extent, Mr. Speaker, this bill, *The Traffic Safety Amendment Act*, is more of the same. We're dealing with a pretty light legislative agenda where we're tweaking definitions, we're fixing typos. But there are some interesting things here in the bill that I'll get to.

But before I do that, Mr. Speaker, you know, as I go out talking to my constituents, in the last few weeks almost every other day I'm learning about another Saskatchewan business that is either on the ropes or shutting down. I'm hearing about families that are struggling to pay their bills. They're struggling economically and they're just having really a hard time of it. And this government's

response is just to tweak definitions and update language. Mr. Speaker, that is just the definition of smug leadership. You could put smug leadership on all those billboards out there and that would be far more apt.

Mr. Speaker, one of the things that this bill does address is actually advances in technology. And, Mr. Speaker, I never thought that I would see the day where we had computer software that could convert somebody's talking to text. I never thought that I would see the day when a computer program could recognize somebody's face from, you know, millions of pixels. I never thought I'd see the day when a computer program could translate somebody talking in one language into another language. And I certainly never thought that I would see the day when you could set a vehicle out on the roads and just have a computer drive it and have no one behind the wheel.

And one of the things that this bill does deal with and is empowering the government to do is to create some rules around this technological advance that is driverless cars. And that's a necessary thing. We haven't quite got to that point in Saskatchewan, as far as I know, but it's probably coming not far because the advances in technology are coming fast and furious. So the fact that this legislation does empower the government to deal with driverless cars is a good thing. Whether those changes to the legislation are good or whether there's something missing there, that's something that we'll dig into in committee, Mr. Speaker.

And before I leave the topic of driverless cars, Mr. Speaker, you know, I just find the whole situation analogous to this government's approach. This government's approach to the economy is like a driverless car. They're asleep behind the wheel and we have an economy that's struggling. The road is getting rough. And this cabinet and this government are just, they're just asleep behind the wheel like a driverless car, except there's no computer there to guide them.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I think I'm going to wrap up my comments on this particular bill and simply move that we adjourn debate on this bill.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

### Bill No. 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 Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Regina Lakeview.

**Ms. Beck:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise this afternoon to enter my comments into the record on Bill No. 199, *The Opioid Damages and Health Care Costs Recovery Act* of 2019. On the surface and I think at the core of this bill, it's intended to allow the province of Saskatchewan to . . . or the Health minister

specifically, to take direct action on behalf of the government to recover past — going back to the '90s I believe — past and future health care costs related to the opioid crisis that we see.

And we certainly are seeing the impacts of that crisis in our community. Unfortunately earlier this month in Regina in neighbourhoods right across this city, we saw this play out in the most disturbing way. And we saw within the span of a few days over 20 accidental overdoses. And, you know, age ranges, ranges of background, but all one thing in common — that they had taken what seemed to be a bad batch of street drugs and opioids and just about paid for it with their lives. And in fact there were a couple of instances where people did pay for that with their lives.

We saw countless numbers of our emergency response crews out on those calls, calls that obviously they were very much needed at. And I think it's important that we take an opportunity to thank those folks who . . . I can't imagine, you know, going to 20 calls in a row to deal with someone who's stopped breathing because they've experienced an accidental overdose. But that's also time that, you know, those police officers, those firefighters, those ambulance professionals aren't doing other roles in our community. And all of this has a terrible cost, has a social cost, has a cost to productivity, has a cost to families, has a cost to our health care system.

So the fact that the government has decided to follow BC's [British Columbia] lead and allow us to join in class action lawsuits against opioid manufacturers, I think makes some sense. There is a responsibility to be borne here for sure by those manufacturers of those opioids. We did see going back last year, I think. This is a trend that we have seen unfortunately both the opioid trend wiping through large swaths of our neighbours to the south in the United States.

We also saw the trend of jurisdictions, states, municipalities positioning themselves to enter into lawsuits with opioid manufacturers, and in fact last year we saw Purdue, one of the largest manufacturers in the opioid world, one of the purveyors of really irresponsible, I think, promotion of these opioids in the US. We saw them declare bankruptcy in the fall of last year.

So this is an issue that doesn't again just touch one neighbourhood, doesn't just touch one province. It's widespread right across North America and is something that we definitely need to address. So asking those drug manufacturers to bear some responsibility here, financial responsibility, I think is absolutely something that makes sense.

But I think that it is also incumbent upon us to have some of the responsibility rest with the provincial government and mostly incumbent upon us to in very short order start to deal with not only the impacts of the opioid crisis and detox and treatment, but start to address some of those root causes that we know really do fuel addictions.

You know, there are people, as many of my colleagues speaking to different bills today have talked about the pain that people are in, and there are different kinds of pain that fuel addiction. Certainly physical pain we see with opioids. Often the first way that people enter into problems with addictions are with an injury of some sort, and if they don't have good pain management, they

might be susceptible to misuse of these substances. But also that's not the only kind of pain that makes people susceptible to addictions, as many would know. And I don't pretend to be an expert in the area of addictions, but I do know that there's a very strong correlation between trauma and unresolved trauma and addictions.

And that's something that I'm afraid we're not only addressing, we're actually losing capacity — that compassion for our community members; that investing in things like safe housing, counselling; just being good community members and looking out for each other. I'm afraid that we see too often a retreat from those kind of values that we look out for each other. And you see people who are lonely and are in pain and dealing with unresolved trauma in communities all over this province, and that's something that we all bear responsibility for. So not only those drug manufacturers, Mr. Speaker, I think we all bear some responsibility there.

And certainly people are in financial pain, as we've heard unfortunately statistic after statistic in the province. That uncertainty is there and it not only fuels, you know, numbing the pain with the opioids. I think, you know, I'll go down a little tangent and talk about how that also is fuelling crystal meth because those who are addicted to higher priced drugs might find an off-ramp to something cheaper like — and arguably in different ways more dangerous — crystal meth.

And that's certainly something we've seen right across this province. And it hasn't been without warning signals. We've seen this coming for a long time in this province. I know that there are a lot of people out there who are doing their best, but we're just putting . . . You know, we're triaging the problem. We need to start addressing the root causes here.

There are so many signals that this is an issue. In fact in 2019 the Provincial Auditor, as various of my colleagues have mentioned, put out a report. In volume 1 the Provincial Auditor examines the opioid prescribing and dispensing practices in Saskatchewan. The auditor pointed out some very important places that we might start to address some of the failings, systemic failings with regard to how we prescribe opioids and track opioids in the province.

So one of those measures the auditor mentioned, another one of those statistics unfortunately that we stand on the wrong side of in this province:

For the six most prescribed opioids, Saskatchewan's prescribing stands well above national averages. [And I'm quoting here from that report, from the news release.] Physicians prescribe 95% of prescribed opioids with dentists and nurse practitioners prescribing . . . the remaining 5%. Opioid poisonings resulted in an average of 16 hospitalizations daily in Canada . . . [between] 2016-17.

And unfortunately we seem to have more than our share here in the province, number one being Regina being well above the national average at 28.3 per 100,000 people; and in a close second, Saskatoon at number two with 26.1 per 100,000 people, higher than Vancouver. We often hear of Vancouver as being the epicentre of the opioid crisis. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, Regina and Saskatoon have taken over, with Vancouver's rate

being very high but lower than Regina and Saskatoon — 2.5 per 100,000 people.

[15:15]

And some things that are directly related to those statistics, Mr. Speaker, in 2018 there were 119 deaths due to opioid drug toxicity in Saskatchewan. There were 441,000 prescriptions filled in this province. That is a staggering number. And there were almost 360,000 opioid prescriptions dispensed to treat addictions, so the methadone program. That is concerning. It's staggering. I think it's not a far step to link some of this use and misuse to the fact that we've seen a spike in Saskatchewan in terms of violent crime, gun-related crime. In Regina last year we saw a 200 per cent increase in gun-related crime.

Speaking from personal experience and very recent experience, my husband was in a facility — not a facility; I'm struggling for the word here, Mr. Speaker — was in Saskatoon last night and someone shot a rifle off inside the restaurant that he was at. These are issues that I think sometimes we like to think happen to other people and are far away. These are issues that are ravaging families right across this province. I know there's very few communities, if any, that aren't touched by this. And going after the drug manufacturers is a good start. That's important for responsibility and them paying monetarily for their responsibility.

But again I don't think we can shirk our responsibility here as a province. The government and the Ministry of Health, the supporting agencies, can't shirk their responsibility in coming to some sort of resolution of this crisis because it really is a crisis. And, you know, wishing it would go away, suing the drug manufacturers, that is not going to be a full measure. And we really do need all hands on deck here to address this issue, something that we have seen spread like wildfire throughout our province.

I do hope that the government, the minister, the various ministers who have some responsibility here, will work together with those on the front line in our communities and start to address some of the root causes of this crisis, but also start to ensure that there is treatment available to those who are looking for that treatment.

It's one thing to not know better, but I think when we know that something is going on it's incumbent upon us to do better. And this is certainly a case where we know we have issues. We know we are over prescribing opioids. We know that we are underdelivering on drug treatment facilities. And we know that our communities are hurting. I think that is the, you know, the very essence of what we're called to do here, and that is to address quality of life in our communities. And there is certainly a very real and pressing opportunity to do that here with the opioid crisis.

So I would like to be on the record as saying, you know, this on the surface seems like a good first step, but it is very much a first step and does not preclude the government or does not let the government off from their own responsibility to addressing this crisis in our communities. And I hope that they get to that very, very, very quickly.

With that I am prepared to wrap up my comments and adjourn

debate on Bill No. 199.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

### Bill No. 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 Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Nutana.

**Ms. Sproule:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And again it's a real honour to be able to rise in the Assembly and speak to the bills that are before us here. This will be my third last bill of my career, so I want to get some remarks on the record, and in particular as this relates to the Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority and the importance of that Crown for our economy first and foremost. Definitely the revenues that we derive from that helps us with the extraordinary costs of alcohol misuse in the province.

And when you think about car accidents and SGI [Saskatchewan Government Insurance] and when you think about the illness of alcoholism and alcohol-related crimes in many affected communities, certainly our ability to help those communities and those individuals move forward with their lives and deal with that terrible, terrible disease and the ravages of alcoholism, we need those revenues, Mr. Speaker. And they've served us very well in the past and continue to do so unfortunately in more of a limited capacity because of the penchant for privatizing those stores rather than modernizing. This government is simply just privatize.

And one of the fallouts of this privatization, Mr. Speaker, is the loss of good-paying, mortgage-paying jobs for people with the proper benefits and the benefits of collective bargaining, Mr. Speaker. And we know the importance of collective bargaining, and I'm glad to see our folks are hanging in here, Mr. Speaker, in the gallery because they come from that kind of grouping of people that allows them to give them the power to collectively bargain. And that is such an important value in our society.

And when we start cutting those good-paying union jobs, we start cutting the fabric of the communities. And we've seen that in small towns that did not want to see the SLGA [Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority] store close because they knew that the benefits and the benefit of pensions, sick leave, good wages, and of course, collective bargaining which is how those benefits come together for the people working in those stores, is completely lost, Mr. Speaker.

And I know if you've ever walked into an after hours . . . we used to call it off-sale. I don't know if they still call it off-sale, but I'm not sure what kind of benefits those workers are able to acquire or have the rights to because they don't have the benefit of

collective bargaining to help them get together and work together as a group of people. And the rights that they have are very limited as a result of that, Mr. Speaker.

So the minister himself said on December 2nd, he said that what the changes in this bill will do is means warehouses . . . I'll quote here, "This change means warehouses distributing specialty wine, beer, and spirits can establish operations in Saskatchewan and in turn employ Saskatchewan people."

So, Mr. Speaker, he doesn't say anything about what kind of jobs those will be. Will they be minimum wage jobs with no benefits? Will they be jobs where they get paid the lowest minimum wage in Canada, Mr. Speaker? Rather than a job where they can work hard and know at the end of the day if they're injured or if they're sick, they will have coverage for those kinds of unfortunate events; if they are able to put some aside for a pension, Mr. Speaker, which you cannot do on minimum wage or a low wage, for sure — we know that anyone living anywhere under even \$18 an hour really has trouble and often struggles with making ends meet — and of course sick leave and long-term disability and all those things that are benefits that workers have fought really hard for.

And certainly the folks that represent the people that work at SLGA have worked really hard to ensure that those benefits are available to their workers. And when you take away the union, you take away the benefits basically, Mr. Speaker, and I see this is happening in our liquor distribution system. We've seen it happen in the retail outlets for liquor. And if all these jobs were somehow protected and still able to access collective bargaining, we would have a different story, Mr. Speaker.

Unfortunately it's low-wage earners that are taking the jobs simply because there are no better paying jobs available. So I think these kinds of changes in the distribution of liquor and alcohol in Saskatchewan is unfortunate, and I think it's discouraging to see the minister refer that some of this warehousing that the SLGA is not doing right now is happening out-of-province. So he's basically saying well, let's bring it in-province. Well, Mr. Speaker, I say let's bring it in-province, but let's bring it within the collective bargaining framework as well so that those workers get the benefit of the collective bargaining process.

The other thing I'm curious about, Mr. Speaker, is — as you know, one of the, if we can call it a success story — is the relocation of the SLGA warehouse to the GTH [Global Transportation Hub]. This was one tenant that the government was able to find. Of course it was themselves, but at least there is a warehouse out there and there are people working there that are able to be part of the collective bargaining. I believe it would be SGEU [Saskatchewan Government and General Employees' Union] in this case. I'm not absolutely sure about that. But at least that warehouse is there.

And I'm not sure if it's fully occupied and why we can't figure out how to warehouse these . . . what the wine and spirit specialty orders are that the minister refers to. Why can't they have them there? That just doesn't make any sense to me, Mr. Speaker.

Otherwise it's a clear attempt to privatize yet again part of our Crown. And I call it death by a thousand cuts, Mr. Speaker. We

know how important the Crowns are to the people of Saskatchewan. We know how important those jobs are to the people of Saskatchewan. And this is a government that continues death by a thousand cuts by privatizing out aspects of our liquor distribution system, our retail system, and I have an article that has about 15 pages of efforts by this government to cut away at our Crowns.

So lots of concerns with this bill, Mr. Speaker, and we will continue to fight for the workers in this context and in others, Mr. Speaker, and ensure that people have access to collective bargaining so that they can get decent wages. And we'll keep an eye on this government. As I said, that's our job as the opposition. Hopefully once the snap election comes along, people will snap to their senses and see that the NDP would actually care about the people of Saskatchewan and make sure that their rights are being looked after.

So on that note, Mr. Speaker, I can tell the government, we're watching you. And we are going to make sure that people are protected and people are put first. At this point I will move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 201, *The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Amendment Act, 2019*.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

**Mr. McCall:** — Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. Again good to take my place, join debate in this case on Bill No. 203, *The Financial Planners and Financial Advisors Act*. Again, Mr. Speaker, in terms of the legislative agenda of this government, you know, it's . . . The hits just keep coming in.

Now again, Mr. Speaker, it's not to be too snarky about the thing, and it's important to have proper regulation of the financial planning, financial advising industry, and proper credentialing of individuals performing those duties in our society and economy, Mr. Speaker, but again it's pretty stunning. I don't know if the cupboard is bare or they're saving it all up for the snap election, Mr. Speaker, you know. I don't know if the legislative agenda keepers, like the Groundhog Day, they saw their shadow and went back to bed until after the election. But you know, we'll see what's to come.

And again, Mr. Speaker, we've seen different sort of phases of this government's life where suddenly things get real quiet and it all gets kind of housekeeping in terms of the legislative agenda. And again this is a fine piece of legislation, but I don't know if they're saving up for that, you know, big post-election blowout

or how that goes, Mr. Speaker. But we'll see how it comes.

I've been around long enough to have seen the last election we had, where they made a necessity into a virtue and ran on, I think it was four things, five things, Mr. Speaker. And then the election come and it was the time for the transformational change agenda to get rolled out across the province. And then of course the year after that, after they'd gotten through holding their breath to find out what was going to happen with the economy, Mr. Speaker, then the real agenda came into plain sight and we had the budget of 2017.

[15:30]

And the repercussions of that particular budget still roll through our economy and our society, Mr. Speaker. And again I would submit that we've come up to another similar state of affairs in terms of where we're going to have placeholders like this put on the table, which again are fine measures in and of themselves.

But when it comes to the real agenda and the real plans of this government for the people of Saskatchewan, there'll be a song and dance come with the budget, Mr. Speaker, and there's going to be a loud fanfare about how it's balanced. But there won't be much to say in terms of the confidence that the people of Saskatchewan should really have in terms of the balance of that budget and whether or not it's built to last or if it's built to paper over the next number of months, Mr. Speaker, at which point the real state of affairs will become painfully evident.

So, Mr. Speaker, it's as ever great to take my place and join debate in this place. But in terms of what this particular piece of legislation says about the legislative agenda of this government, I'm not trying out my tinfoil hat here, Mr. Speaker. I'm just trying to report the lessons of history that one can learn if they pay attention. And I would submit that the next year is going to be a real interesting time in terms of what is proclaimed and what is the reality for the people of Saskatchewan and how this government tries to play a few different games with that.

So, Mr. Speaker, I know that other of my colleagues will have more to say on this particular piece of legislation, but with that I'd move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 203, *The Financial Planners and Financial Advisors 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. 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 Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

**Mr. Vermette:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, to join in on adjourned debates on Bill 204, *The Jury Amendment Act, 2019*. I

know my colleagues will have a chance and the critic will have a chance to talk to this bill, I guess, in quite detail and ask questions of the minister and officials in committee and get clarification. But I just want to go over a few of the points that I'm looking, you know, at and what to me has been proposed as changes. And in this bill it makes changes to the jury selection and summoning process that they use to do that.

But also in here it's interesting. And I know when we're doing amendments and changes especially to such legislation as this, and amendments and changes we're making, we have to make sure, Mr. Speaker, that we get it right. And government, you know, has to make sure they get it right. This is the laws I guess that, you know, people go before the court system. We want to make sure that those that are brought before our court system are treated the way they should be, that the laws are there to protect citizens of our province, that the laws are there to make sure everyone goes through that process.

But when you're doing selections of jury selection for certain trials, you're going to have where in this instance they're actually excluding. And right now one of the changes they're making, they're excluding chiefs and council members of Indian bands from serving as jurors. Now there might be a reason why that does — and maybe municipalities as well — as we go through. And I know my colleagues will have a chance to ask those questions and see why this has come forward. There must be a reason why. I'm hoping that they've consulted with individuals with the justice system to see why are . . .

The other thing I noticed in here is changes. What they are doing is now where they're taking away from chief and council to serve, they're now allowing, according to the changes amendment in the legislation, spouses of reeves, mayors, city councillors to serve as jurors. So spouses can serve as jurors. And that I didn't know wasn't allowed before, but I guess now they're going to allow it, is what it is. And that's where I said exactly, we've got to get it right and make sure my colleagues in committee, the critic for Justice, will ask those questions and go through that.

Mr. Speaker, it also includes a person who has been sentenced to two or more years that has not been pardoned may not serve as a juror as well, comments in here that it refers to. And I wasn't aware of that. So that's just another process.

But I know, as I said earlier, Mr. Speaker, my colleague the critic will have opportunity in committee to ask the minister, the officials clarification to make sure we're getting it right. Who did they consult with? Who's making these changes, recommendations, asked for these changes? Sometimes it's interesting when you go to committee and you have the chance with the minister and staff officials to get the information here. And who's brought it forward? Who pushed for this? And who's asked for the changes? Sometimes we know that these changes are what Saskatchewan people want or organizations that are impacted want, but sometimes it's not. And government has to make sure in this case. They have to make sure they get it right.

I'm not going to get more into detail. I know my colleague will get into it in committee. But at this point I'm prepared to adjourn on Bill 204, *The Jury Amendment Act, 2019*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

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

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried. This Assembly stands adjourned until tomorrow at 10 a.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 15:37.]

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