



No. 84

VOTES and PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN

FIRST SESSION – TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

Monday, May 8, 2017

1:30 p.m.

PRAYERS

PRESENTING PETITIONS

Petitions of citizens of the province of Saskatchewan were presented and laid upon the Table by the following members: Chartier, Boyd, Belanger, Forbes, Rancourt, Beck, Sarauer, and Meili.

READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

According to order and pursuant to rule 16(7), petitions from residents of the province of Saskatchewan, requesting the following action, were read and received:

To stop the federal government from imposing a carbon tax on the province.
(Addendum to sessional paper no. 225)

To construct a second bridge for Prince Albert.
(Addendum to sessional paper no. 226)

To increase funding to Prince Albert mobile crisis.
(Addendum to sessional paper no. 314)

To eliminate the wage gap between women and men.
(Addendum to sessional paper no. 315)

To ensure job security for victims of domestic violence.
(Addendum to sessional paper no. 320)

To stop the plan to sell off the Saskatchewan Transportation Company.
(Addendum to sessional paper no. 329)

To restore funding to post-secondary institutions.
(Addendum to sessional paper no. 335)

To stop the cuts to spiritual care programs in health region facilities.
(Addendum to sessional paper no. 340)

To repeal Bill No. 63 – The Education Amendment Act, 2017.
(Addendum to sessional paper no. 370)

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Mr. D'Autremont, Chair of the Standing Committee on Human Services, presented the committee's fourth report, which is as follows:

The committee considered the estimates for the following ministries and agencies and adopted the following resolutions:

2017-2018 Estimates

Resolved, that there be granted to Her Majesty for the twelve months ending March 31, 2018, the following sums:

Ministries and Agencies

For Advanced Education.....	\$716,187,000
For Education.....	\$1,637,128,000
For Health	\$5,205,289,000
For Labour Relations and Workplace Safety	\$19,644,000
For Social Services	\$1,121,130,000

Lending and Investing Activities

For Advanced Education.....	\$70,000,000
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2016-2017 March Supplementary Estimates

Resolved, that there be granted to Her Majesty for the twelve months ending March 31, 2017, the following sums:

Ministries and Agencies

For Advanced Education.....	\$4,468,000
For Health	\$16,000,000

The committee recommends that upon concurrence of its report by the Assembly, the sums as reported and approved shall be included in the appropriation bill for consideration by the Legislative Assembly.
(Sessional paper no. 413)

On motion of Mr. D'Autremont:

Ordered, That the Fourth Report of the Standing Committee on Human Services be now concurred in.

**STATEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
(Early release of draft amendments of a bill)**

On Thursday, May 4, 2017, I deferred making a decision on whether a *prima facie* case had been established in the privilege case raised by the Government House Leader (Hon. Mr. Merriman) earlier that day. I wish to advise the Assembly that earlier today I received a written request from the Government House Leader to withdraw the case. The letter indicates that both House Leaders have come to a mutual understanding concerning the subject matter of the case.

I wish to thank the House Leaders for their cooperation in resolving this issue. Given the request to withdraw the letter and an agreed upon resolution by both House Leaders, I find that this matter is now closed.

ADJOURNED DEBATES

Bill No. 70 – The Provincial Sales Tax Amendment Act, 2017

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion of the Hon. Mr. Doherty: That Bill No. 70 – The Provincial Sales Tax Amendment Act, 2017 be now read a second time.

The debate continuing and the question being put, it was agreed to and the said bill was, accordingly, read a second time.

By designation of the Hon. Mr. Merriman, in accordance with rule 85, Bill No. 70 – The Provincial Sales Tax Amendment Act, 2017 was committed to the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Merriman:

Ordered, That this Assembly do now adjourn.

The Assembly adjourned at 2:43 p.m. until Tuesday at 1:30 p.m.

***Hon. Corey Tochor
Speaker***

RETURNS, REPORTS, AND PAPERS TABLED

The following return which was ordered by the Assembly on April 4, 2017, was laid upon the Table:

Return no. 83 asked by Mr. Vermette:

(Sessional paper no. 412)

NOTICE OF WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The following questions were given notice on day no. 83 and are to be answered by day no. 88:

Question no. 371 (Mr. Meili):

To the Minister of Health: What is the number of suicides per year in Saskatchewan from 2005 to 2015?

Question no. 372 (Mr. Meili):

To the Minister of Health: (1) What percentage of suicides in each year from 2005 to 2015 were First Nations individuals? (2) Non-First Nations individuals?

Question no. 373 (Mr. Meili):

To the Minister of Health: (1) What percentage of suicides in each year from 2005 to 2015 were women? (2) Men?

Question no. 374 (Mr. Meili):

To the Minister of Health: What percentage of suicides in each year were individuals in the following categories: (1) Under 10 years old? (2) 10-15 years old? (3) 15-20 years old? (4) 20-25 years old? (5) 25-30 years old? (6) 30-35 years old? (7) 35-40 years old? (8) 40-45 years old? (9) 45-50 years old? (10) 50-55 years old? (11) 55-60 years old? (12) 60-65 years old? (13) 65-70 years old? (14) 70-75 years old? (15) 75-80 years old? (16) 80-85 years old? (17) 85-90 years old? (18) 90-95 years old? (19) 95-100 years old?

Question no. 375 (Mr. Meili):

To the Minister of Health: For the years 2005 to 2015, how many suicides were in each health region?

Question no. 376 (Mr. Meili):

To the Minister of Finance: (1) How many students claimed the provincial tuition tax credit in 2007? (2) 2008? (3) 2009? (4) 2010? (5) 2011? (6) 2012? (7) 2013? (8) 2014? (9) 2015?

Question no. 377 (Mr. Meili):

To the Minister of Finance: (1) How many parents of students claimed the provincial tuition tax credit through transfer in 2007? (2) 2008? (3) 2009? (4) 2010? (5) 2011? (6) 2012? (7) 2013? (8) 2014? (9) 2015?

Question no. 378 (Mr. Meili):

To the Minister of Finance: How many individuals who claimed the provincial tuition tax credit are expected to now apply for student loans to offset the loss of tax credit support?

Question no. 379 (Mr. Meili):

To the Minister of Advanced Education: How many individuals received the Saskatchewan Advantage Grant for Education Savings (SAGES) benefit in each year from 2007 to 2016?

Question no. 380 (Mr. Meili):

To the Minister of Advanced Education: How many Saskatchewan residents received a student loan in each year from 2007 to 2016?

Question no. 381 (Mr. Meili):

To the Minister of Advanced Education: (1) How many Saskatchewan residents are anticipated to apply for a student loan in 2017? (2) 2018?

Question no. 382 (Ms. Sproule):

To the Government: On what exact date did the Global Transportation Hub (GTH) acquire the following land from the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure: (1) NW 24-17-21-W2, parcel #202800631? (2) NE 24-17-21-W2, parcel #166081383? (3) SE 24-17-21-W2, parcel #166081383? (4) SW 24-17-21-W2, parcel #110621067?

Question no. 383 (Ms. Sproule):

To the Government: On what day was the payment made for the GTH acquisition of the following land from the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure: (1) NW 24-17-21-W2, parcel #202800631? (2) NE 24-17-21-W2, parcel #166081383? (3) SE 24-17-21-W2, parcel #166081383? (4) SW 24-17-21-W2, parcel #110621067?

Question no. 384 (Ms. Sproule):

To the Government: For the following land the GTH acquired from the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure, where is the payment reflected in *Public Accounts*: (1) NW 24-17-21-W2, parcel #202800631? (2) NE 24-17-21-W2, parcel #166081383? (3) SE 24-17-21-W2, parcel #166081383? (4) SW 24-17-21-W2, parcel #110621067?

The following questions were given notice on day no. 84 and are to be answered by day no. 89:

Question no. 385 (Ms. Sproule):

To the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Power Corporation: On what day was the decision made by SaskPower officials to pursue the logistics warehouse complex at the Global Transportation Hub?

Question no. 386 (Ms. Chartier):

To the Minister of Health: What are the protocols around hearing tests for babies by health region public health nurses at immunization appointments?

Question no. 387 (Ms. Chartier):

To the Minister of Health: What types of hearing tests are performed on babies by health region public health nurses at immunization appointments?

Question no. 388 (Ms. Chartier):

To the Minister of Health: How many private audiologists are currently equipped to provide the full range of audiological services for children?

Question no. 389 (Ms. Chartier):

To the Minister of Health: (1) How many children were fitted with hearing aids through the hearing aid plan in 2006? (2) 2007? (3) 2008? (4) 2009? (5) 2010? (6) 2011? (7) 2012? (8) 2013? (9) 2014? (10) 2015? (11) 2016? (12) 2017 (to date)?

Question no. 390 (Mr. Meili):

To the Government: What was the total cost of out-of-province travel on behalf of the government for each elected member for every year since 2007-08?

Question no. 391 (Mr. Meili):

To the Government: What was the total cost of in-province travel on behalf of the government for each elected member for every year since 2007-08?

Question no. 392 (Mr. Meili):

To the Government: What are the total in-province ministerial travel costs for each year since 2007-08?

Question no. 393 (Mr. Meili):

To the Government: What are the total out-of-province ministerial travel costs for each year since 2007-08?

Question no. 394 (Mr. Meili):

To the Minister of Central Services: What anti-spam software was purchased by the ministry in 2008-09?

Question no. 395 (Mr. Meili):

To the Minister of Central Services: (1) For any anti-spam software purchased by the ministry in 2008-09, what was the tendering process? (2) Was the product tested through open source plagiarism software? (3) Is the tender publicly available?

Question no. 396 (Mr. Meili):

To the Minister of Central Services: For each fiscal year from 2007-2008 to 2016-2017, which companies (including location) were Central Vehicle Agency (CVA) vehicles procured from?

Question no. 397 (Mr. Forbes):

To the Government: What is the response and actions to date to the first recommendation “Culture and Customer Service focuses on corporate culture and develops a customer-centric service delivery model” as made by the Committee of Review as released in November 2016?

Question no. 398 (Mr. Forbes):

To the Government: What is the response and actions to date to the first recommendation “Culture and Customer Service” specific subsections as listed below as made by the Committee of Review released in November 2016?

1. Investing in time and training to meet customer service survey targets.
2. Developing service quality standards and ensure they are met.
3. Increasing WCB Claim Entitlement Services Unit hours beyond conventional business hours, including noon.
4. Improving operational decision-making in the claims adjudication process so as to reduce the number of appeals at the tribunal level.
5. Developing open and clearly written communication to provide to injured workers.
6. Minimizing the number of caseworkers per claim.
7. Shortening length of time from date of injury to initial payment by half.

Question no. 399 (Mr. Forbes):

To the Government: What is the response and actions to date to the second recommendation “Board Structure and Governance – Modernize Board structure to reflect the diversity of skill sets required to guide the work of the WCB” as made by the Committee of Review as released in November 2016?

Question no. 400 (Mr. Forbes):

To the Government: What is the response and actions to date to the second recommendation “Board Structure and Governance” specific subsections listed below as made by the Committee of Review as released in November 2016?

1. Investing time in improving performance by gauging the effectiveness of WCB against its performance metrics.
2. Developing a formal skill set matrix and recruitment process for choosing board members.
3. Expanding the board structure to include seven members – three full-time members and four part-time members with equal representation from both employer and employee groups.

Question no. 401 (Mr. Forbes):

To the Government: What is the response and actions to date to the third recommendation “Appeals – Significantly reduce the average number of days to a decision and communicate clearly with appellants throughout the process” as made by the Committee of Review as released in November 2016?

Question no. 402 (Mr. Forbes):

To the Government: What is the response and actions to date to the third recommendation “Appeals” specific subsections listed below as made by the Committee of Review as released in November 2016?

1. Providing clear communication and explanation of appeal decisions including the explanation of medical information.
2. Ensuring board level appeals are to be decided within 30 days of the hearing.
3. Providing training for front line staff to alleviate the number of appeals at all levels of appeal.

Question no. 403 (Mr. Forbes):

To the Government: What is the response and actions to date to the fourth recommendation “Psychological Injury - Strengthen the Psychological Injury Policy (POL 01/2009) regarding Post Trauma Stress Disorder (PTSD) and mental health coverage for Saskatchewan workers” as made by the Committee of Review as released in November 2016?

Question no. 404 (Mr. Forbes):

To the Government: What is the response and actions to date to the fourth recommendation “Psychological Injury” specific subsections listed below as made by the Committee of Review as released in November 2016?

1. Updating the policy to define coverage for PTSD and mental health.
2. Employing caseworkers dedicated specifically to psychological injury claims.

Question no. 405 (Mr. Forbes):

To the Government: What is the response and actions to date to the fifth recommendation “Fatality Service Specialists – assign fatality service specialists to assist individuals and families affected by workplace fatalities and minimize the number of caseworkers per claim” as made by the Committee of Review as released in November 2016?

Question no. 406 (Mr. Forbes):

To the Government: What is the response and actions to date to the sixth recommendation “Coordination of Benefits – coordinate benefits between the WCB and SGI to ensure that no worker is disadvantaged in the event of a work-related motor vehicle accident” as made by the Committee of Review as released in November 2016?

Question no. 407 (Mr. Forbes):

To the Government: What is the response and actions to date to the seventh recommendation “Privacy Policy – Repeal sections 173 and 174 of *The Workers’ Compensation Act, 2013* to comply with the provisions of *The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and update the WCB’s privacy policy to align with the changes” as made by the Committee of Review as released in November 2016?

Question no. 408 (Mr. Forbes):

To the Government: What is the response and actions to date to the eighth recommendation “Employer Resource Centre – establish an Employer Resource Centre, coordinated through the Office of the Workers’ Advocate, dedicated to helping employers navigate the workers’ compensation system” as made by the Committee of Review as released in November 2016?

Question no. 409 (Mr. Forbes):

To the Government: What is the response and actions to date to the ninth recommendation “Communication and Surplus – increase transparency and awareness so that the public understands the application of the surplus in the Funding Policy (POL 01/2014) through Consulting with stakeholders at the Annual General Meeting and consulting with stakeholders, specifically employers respecting the Funding Policy (POL 01/2014)” as made by the Committee of Review as released in November 2016?

Question no. 410 (Mr. Forbes):

To the Government: What is the response and actions to date to the tenth recommendation “Rate Review and Standard Discount – ensure best practices are fair and equitable for all employers and not excessively punitive for small employers. This can be achieved through educating and ensuring the Rate Review Committee has the skill sets necessary to conduct their review and analyzing changes to the standard discount to alleviate the potential for unintended consequences prior to implementation” as made by the Committee of Review as released in November 2016?

Question no. 411 (Mr. Forbes):

To the Government: What is the response and actions to date to the eleventh recommendation “Review Implementation and Oversight – strengthen ongoing communication with stakeholders regarding Committee of Review recommendations and implementation by making the Committee of Review Report a more prominent agenda item at the Annual General Meeting and providing stakeholders with a rationale for Committee of Review recommendation decisions made by the WCB” as made by the Committee of Review as released in November 2016?