



No. 85

VOTES and PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN

FIRST SESSION – TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

Tuesday, May 9, 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: Lambert, Vermette, Chartier, 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 develop and implement Erin's Law.

(Addendum to sessional paper no. 220)

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 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)

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE ECONOMY

The following bill was reported with amendment and consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bills having been waived, by leave of the Assembly, it was read the third time and passed:

Bill No. 43 – The Pipelines Amendment Act, 2016

The following bills were reported without amendment and consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bills having been waived, by leave of the Assembly, they were read the third time and passed:

Bill No. 55 – The Miscellaneous Statutes (Economy – Audit Assessments) Amendment Act, 2017

Bill No. 56 – The Oil and Gas Conservation Amendment Act, 2017

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Merriman:

Ordered, That this Assembly do now adjourn.

The Assembly adjourned at 2:45 p.m. until Wednesday at 1:30 p.m.

Hon. Corey Tochor
Speaker

RETURNS, REPORTS, AND PAPERS TABLED

The following returns which were ordered by the Assembly on November 10, 2016, were laid upon the Table:

Return nos. 54 and 55 asked by Ms. Rancourt:

(Sessional paper no. 414-415)

NOTICE OF MOTION FOR A SEVENTY-FIVE MINUTE DEBATE

On Thursday:

Mr. Forbes to move the following motion:

That this Assembly calls upon the Sask. Party government to enact legislation that would ban political donations by registered lobbyists and corporations receiving government contracts.

NOTICE OF PRIORITY ITEMS

No. 1 (Government)

ADJOURNED DEBATES

On the proposed **Motion No. 3** moved by Ms. Carr:

That this Assembly commends the Government of Saskatchewan for having very attractive mining policies which has led Saskatchewan to be ranked the most attractive jurisdiction for mining investment in the world.

(Mr. Steele)

To be voted

No. 2 (Opposition)

ADJOURNED DEBATES

On the proposed motion of Mr. Wotherspoon:

That **Bill No. 602 – The Election (Fairness and Accountability) Amendment Act** be now read a second time.

(Mr. Forbes)

Adjourned twice

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?

The following questions were given notice on day no. 85 and are to be answered by day no. 90:

Question no. 412 (Ms. Beck):

To the Minister of Education: (1) What date/information was collected from centres who were receiving centre inclusion block funding before the decision to eliminate it? (2) If data/information was collected, how current was it?

Question no. 413 (Ms. Beck):

To the Minister of Education: Were any of the executive directors from childcare centres who were receiving the centre inclusion block funding consulted in the process that resulted in the cancellation of the centre inclusion block funding?

Question no. 414 (Ms. Beck):

To the Minister of Education: Which individuals, groups, or organizations were consulted in the process that resulted in the elimination of centre inclusion block funding?

Question no. 415 (Ms. Beck):

To the Minister of Education: Were any boards of directors from childcare centres who were receiving the centre inclusion block funding consulted in the process that resulted in the cancellation of the centre inclusion block funding?

Question no. 416 (Ms. Beck):

To the Minister of Education: Who or what government organization or what level of government was responsible for the final decision to eliminate centre inclusion block funding?

Question no. 417 (Ms. Beck):

To the Minister of Education: Were any parents of children from childcare centres who were receiving the centre inclusion block funding consulted in the process that resulted in the cancellation of the centre inclusion block funding?

Question no. 418 (Ms. Beck):

To the Minister of Education: (1) What evidence supported the decision to transition to enhanced accessibility grants and inclusion grants? (2) What evidence demonstrates this approach to be more beneficial for children than the centre inclusion block funding? (3) Can this information be provided?

Question no. 419 (Ms. Beck):

To the Minister of Education: (1) If data was not collected from centres who were receiving centre inclusion block funding what criteria was used to make the decision? (2) Why was input from centres not considered?

Question no. 420 (Mr. Meili):

To the Minister Responsible for SaskBuilds: For the Regina bypass project, what is the total value of contract(s) with Associated Engineering Group Limited?

Question no. 421 (Mr. Meili):

To the Minister Responsible for SaskBuilds: What roles and responsibilities does the Regina bypass group have in the remediation of the east borrow pit?

Question no. 422 (Mr. Meili):

To the Minister of Advanced Education: (1) What are the estimated savings to Saskatchewan students from the open textbook and open educational resource program? (2) Since its inception, what has been the annual cost of the open textbook and open educational resource program? (3) What is the current status of the open textbook and open educational resource program (projected renewal, wind-down, etc.)?

Question no. 423 (Mr. Meili):

To the Minister of Health: (1) How many **human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)** positive patients were hospitalized in each health region each year from 2007-2016? (2) For each patient hospitalized, what were the admitting diagnoses?

Question no. 424 (Mr. Meili):

To the Minister of Health: (1) How many HIV positive patients died in each health region for each year from 2007-2016? (2) For each patient death, what causes?

Question no. 425 (Mr. Meili):

To the Minister of Health: What is the HIV incidence for each health region for each year between 2007-2016?

Question no. 426 (Mr. Meili):

To the Minister of Health: (1) What is the current total number of cases of diagnosed HIV in Saskatchewan? (2) Hepatitis C in Saskatchewan?

Question no. 427 (Mr. Meili):

To the Minister of Health: (1) Has there been any analysis of the economic cost of HIV in Saskatchewan? (2) If so, what are the estimated yearly costs since 2007? (3) What is the estimated cost per case of HIV in Saskatchewan?

Question no. 428 (Mr. Meili):

To the Minister of Health: (1) For each year from 2007-2016, what is the value of the direct investment made in HIV testing? (2) Prevention measures? (3) Treatment?

Question no. 429 (Mr. Meili):

To the Minister of Health: What is the total value of direct HIV spending per year from 2007-2016?

Question no. 430 (Mr. Meili):

To the Minister of Health: Has the government committed to reaching the UNAIDS 90-90-90 goal by 2020?

Question no. 431 (Mr. Meili):

To the Minister of Health: How many current HIV positive patients in Saskatchewan do not qualify for coverage of antiretroviral therapy?

Question no. 432 (Mr. Meili):

To the Minister of Health: (1) What is the estimated cost-to-cover antiretroviral coverage for HIV positive patients currently not covered? (2) How does this compare to the cost of not providing treatment to HIV positive patients?

Question no. 433 (Mr. Meili):

To the Minister of Highways and Infrastructure: (1) What are the traffic projections for the east bypass? (2) South bypass? (3) West bypass?

Question no. 434 (Mr. Meili):

To the Minister of Highways and Infrastructure: (1) What is the name of the study or report that informed the decision to move the route of the south bypass further south? (2) What were the indicated benefits of moving the south bypass route further south?

Question no. 435 (Mr. Meili):

To the Minister of Highways and Infrastructure: (1) On what day was the decision to build the Regina bypass project announced? (2) On what day did construction begin on the Regina bypass project? (3) On what day was the business case released? (4) On what day was the business case finalized and provided to officials? (5) On what day was the business case provided to Cabinet?