



No. 90

VOTES and PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN

FIRST SESSION – TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

Wednesday, May 17, 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: Vermette, Steinley, Chartier, Belanger, Forbes, Beck, Sarauer, Sproule, and McCall.

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 exempt all licensed, non-profit childcare centres from property tax.
(Addendum to sessional paper no. 234)

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

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

To pass legislation for victims of domestic violence.
(Addendum to sessional paper no. 588)

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The order of the day being called for question nos. 412 to 422, and 434 to 435, they were answered. (see appendix)

The order of the day being called for question nos. 423 to 432, pursuant to rule 21(6), the questions were converted and orders for returns were issued. (see appendix)

The order of the day being called for question no. 433, the answer was tabled and, by reason of its length, converted by the Clerk to return no. 110 pursuant to rule 21(7).

(Sessional paper no. 422)

ROYAL ASSENT / SANCTION ROYALE

2:50 p.m.

His Honour the Administrator, having entered the chamber, took his seat upon the Throne.

Son Honneur l'administrateur fait son entrée dans la Chambre et prend place au Trône.

The Speaker addressed His Honour:

Le Président s'adresse à Son Honneur:

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOUR:

QU'IL PLAISE À VOTRE HONNEUR:

This Legislative Assembly at its present session has passed several bills which, in the name of the Assembly, I present to your Honour and to which bills I respectfully request your Honour's assent.

Cette Assemblée législative, au cours de la présente session, a adopté des projets de loi que je présente à votre Honneur, au nom de l'Assemblée, et que je demande respectueusement à votre Honneur de sanctionner.

The Clerk of the Assembly then read the titles of the bills that had been passed severally as follows:

Le Greffier de l'Assemblée a donné lecture des titres du projets de loi adoptés comme suit:

Bill No. 52 – The Meewasin Valley Authority Amendment Act, 2017

Bill No. 51 – The Saskatchewan Grain Car Corporation Repeal Act

Bill No. 53 – The Provincial Health Authority Act

Bill No. 54 – The Provincial Health Authority Consequential Amendment Act, 2017

Projet de loi no 54 – Loi de 2017 portant modifications corrélatives à la loi intitulée The Provincial Health Authority Act

Bill No. 63 – The Education Amendment Act, 2017

Projet de loi no 63 – Loi modificative de 2017 sur l'éducation

Bill No. 43 – The Pipelines Amendment Act, 2016

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

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

Bill No. 64 – The Miscellaneous Statutes (SaskPower and SaskEnergy) Amendment Act, 2017

Bill No. 50 – The Provincial Capital Commission Act

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

Bill No. 68 – The Fuel Tax Amendment Act, 2017

Bill No. 69 – The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2017

Bill No. 30 – The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Amendment Act, 2016

Bill No. 31 – The Local Authority Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Amendment Act, 2016

Bill No. 59 – The Summary Offences Procedure Amendment Act, 2017

Bill No. 60 – The Legal Profession Amendment Act, 2017

Bill No. 44 – The Water Security Agency Amendment Act, 2016

Bill No. 62 – The Labour-sponsored Venture Capital Corporations Amendment Act, 2017

Bill No. 61 – The Saskatchewan Commercial Innovation Incentive (Patent Box) Act

His Honour the Administrator then replied: “In Her Majesty's name, I assent to these bills.”

Son Honneur l'administrateur alors a répondu: “Au nom de Sa Majesté, je sanctionne ces projets de loi.”

The Speaker addressed His Honour:

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOUR:

This Legislative Assembly has voted the supplies required to enable the government to defray the expenses of the public service. In the name of the Assembly, I present to your Honour the following bill, to which bill I respectfully request your Honour's assent:

Bill No. 71 – The Appropriation Act, 2017 (No. 1)

His Honour the Administrator then replied: “In Her Majesty's name, I thank the Legislative Assembly, accept their benevolence, and assent to this bill.”

His Honour then retired from the Chamber.

2:54 p.m.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Merriman:

Ordered, That this Assembly do now adjourn.

The Assembly adjourned at 2:55 p.m. until Thursday at 10:00 a.m.

Hon. Corey Tochor
Speaker

RETURNS, REPORTS, AND PAPERS TABLED

The following papers were laid upon the Table:

By the Hon. Mr. Wyant:

Bylaws, rules, and regulations of the following professional associations and amendments thereto under provisions of the respective Acts:

Saskatchewan Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists

Saskatchewan Institute of Agrologists

The Saskatchewan Registered Nurses' Association

(Addendums to sessional paper no. 45)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

The following responses to written questions were tabled by the government:

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?

Answer:

- (1) No recent data was collected.
- (2) 2012-13 was the last time data that was collected.

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?

Answer:

No.

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?

Answer:

None.

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?

Answer:

No.

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?

Answer:

Ministry of Education made the decision to ensure that the level of funding aligns with what individual children require to meet their needs. It will also promote referring professionals, families, and childcare centres to collaboratively work together to respond to a child's unique needs.

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?

Answer:

No.

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?

Answer:

- (1) The decision was made to ensure that funding met individual child needs, provide equity among childcare centres in the allocation of funding, and heighten public accountability.
- (2) Inclusion funding will ensure that funding provided aligns with individual children's needs. Providing funding on an individual basis is the most transparent and accountable way of ensuring that a given child's needs are being supported.
- (3) N/A

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?

Answer:

- (1) The criteria used as the basis for inclusive funding are addressing individual child needs, equity among childcare centres in allocation of funds, and public accountability.
- (2) Centres were not consulted in this decision given that only 3% of childcare centres or 10 centres were receiving funding through the centre inclusion block funding. If those centres that previously received centre inclusion block funding still have children with additional needs, they can make application for funding for eligible children.

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?

Answer:

SaskBuilds has no contracts 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?

Answer:

In accordance with Saskatchewan highways and transportation construction manual section CM 202-04, borrow pits will be protected as per the requirements described therein. The following main provisions include:

- locating deep type borrow pits to the minimum setback distance of 55m from the highway;
- centerline and other provisions related to locating pits near curves or "T" type intersections;
- sloping pits no steeper than 3H:1V;
- fencing borrow pits upon completion with 4-strand type barbed wire fencing complete with one gate.

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.)?

Answer:

- (1) Current open education resources initiatives underway at the University of Saskatchewan, University of Regina, and Saskatchewan Polytechnic have the potential to save students nearly \$700,000 annually.
- (2) Since inception, a total of \$250K in grants has been provided annually to the University of Regina, University of Saskatchewan, and Saskatchewan Polytechnic to encourage the development of open educational resources.
- (3) Subject to budget appropriation, additional grants will be provided in 2017-18 to support development of open education resources. The grants provided by government are the result of a 2014 memorandum of understanding (MOU) signed by Saskatchewan, Alberta, and British Columbia. The agreement is currently being evaluated to determine potential next steps. While the three-year MOU has expired, the collaboration between provinces continues, and BC is the lead on the evaluation.

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?

Answer:

- (1) The study name is “South Functional Plan.”
- (2) The route was finalized based on years of studies and consultation. The finalized route provides optimal traffic, safety, and economic benefits in relation to cost and was consequently endorsed by the City of Regina and White Butte region municipalities.

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?

Answer:

- (1) The request for qualifications was released May 13, 2014.
- (2) May 29, 2015 was the announcement of the successful proponent. An early works contract was executed and implemented with the successful proponent on June 8, 2015, which allowed for geotechnical investigations. Commercial close took place on July 29, 2015. The first earthwork operation started on September 29 2015.
- (3) The business case was released January 6, 2016.
- (4) The business case was finalized and provided to federal and provincial officials in September 2013.
- (5) Decisions of Cabinet are subject to confidences.

QUESTIONS ORDERED FOR RETURN

The following written questions were converted and order for returns were issued:

Return no. 100 (Mr. Meili):

To the Minister of Health: (1) The number of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) positive patients that were hospitalized in each health region each year from 2007-2016. (2) For each patient hospitalized, the admitting diagnoses.

Return no. 101 (Mr. Meili):

To the Minister of Health: (1) The number of HIV positive patients that died in each health region for each year from 2007-2016. (2) For each patient death, the causes of death.

Return no. 102 (Mr. Meili):

To the Minister of Health: The HIV incidence for each health region for each year between 2007-2016.

Return no. 103 (Mr. Meili):

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

Return no. 104 (Mr. Meili):

To the Minister of Health: (1) If there has been any analysis of the economic cost of HIV in Saskatchewan. (2) If so, the estimated yearly costs since 2007. (3) The estimated cost per case of HIV in Saskatchewan.

Return no. 105 (Mr. Meili):

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

Return no. 106 (Mr. Meili):

To the Minister of Health: The total value of direct HIV spending per year from 2007-2016.

Return no. 107 (Mr. Meili):

To the Minister of Health: If the government has committed to reaching the UNAIDS 90-90-90 goal by 2020.

Return no. 108 (Mr. Meili):

To the Minister of Health: The number of current HIV positive patients in Saskatchewan that do not qualify for coverage of antiretroviral therapy.

Return no. 109 (Mr. Meili):

To the Minister of Health: (1) The estimated cost-to-cover antiretroviral coverage for HIV positive patients currently not covered. (2) How this compares to the cost of not providing treatment to HIV positive patients.