



SECOND SESSION — TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

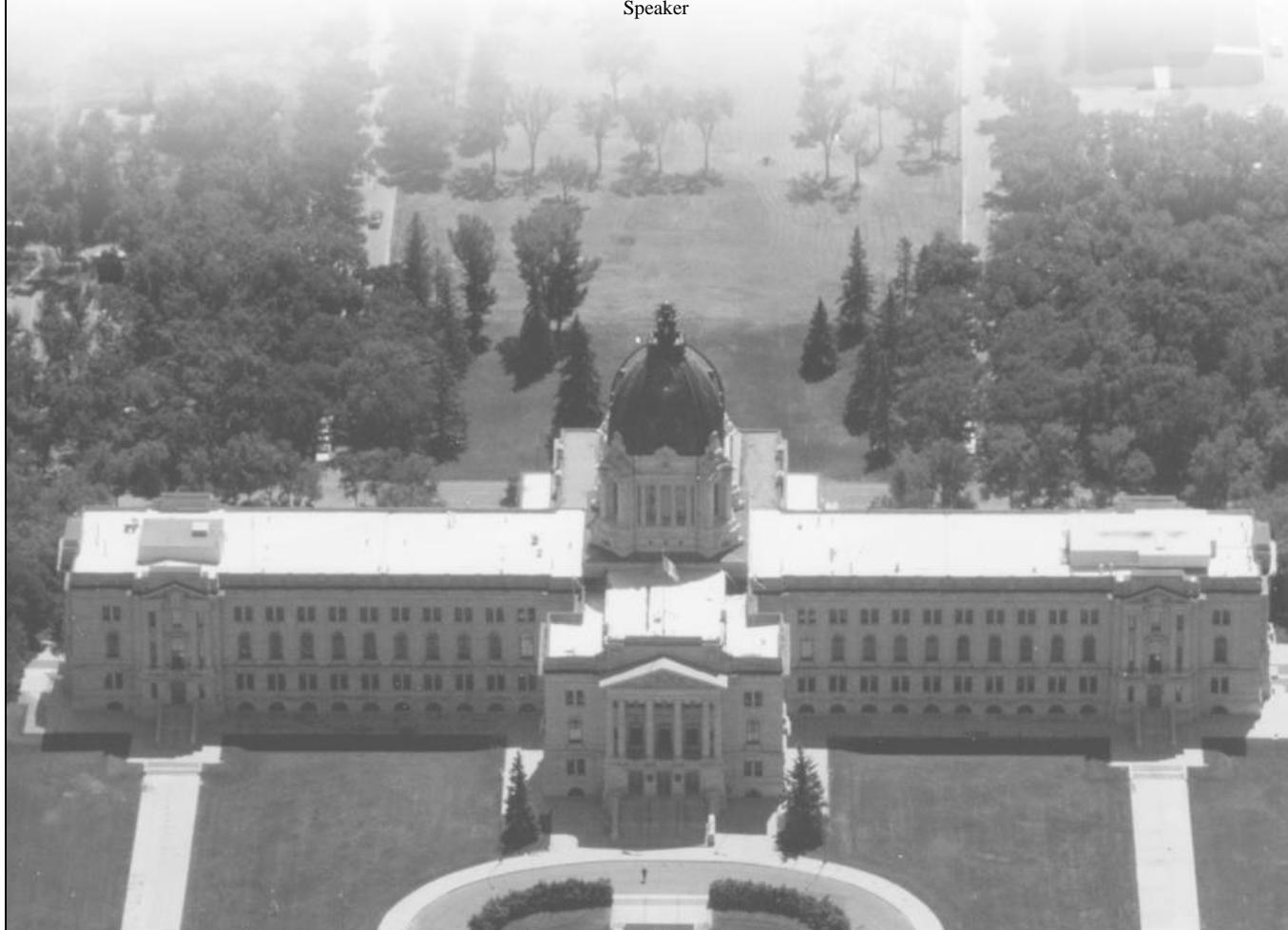
of the

## **Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

# **DEBATES AND PROCEEDINGS**

(HANSARD)

Published under the  
authority of  
The Hon. Randy Weekes  
Speaker



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN**  
**2nd Session — 29th Legislature**

**Lieutenant Governor** — His Honour the Honourable Russ Mirasty, S.O.M., M.S.M.

**Speaker** — Hon. Randy Weekes  
**Premier** — Hon. Scott Moe  
**Leader of the Opposition** — Ryan Meili

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**Bonk**, Steven — Moosomin (SP)

**Bowes**, Jennifer — Saskatoon University (NDP)

**Bradshaw**, Hon. Fred — Carrot River Valley (SP)

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**Harrison**, Daryl — Cannington (SP)

**Harrison**, Hon. Jeremy — Meadow Lake (SP)

**Hindley**, Hon. Everett — Swift Current (SP)

**Jenson**, Terry — Martensville-Warman (SP)

**Kaeding**, Hon. Warren — Melville-Saltcoats (SP)

**Keisig**, Travis — Last Mountain-Touchwood (SP)

**Kirsch**, Delbert — Batoche (SP)

**Lambert**, Lisa — Saskatoon Churchill-Wildwood (SP)

**Lawrence**, Greg — Moose Jaw Wakamow (SP)

**Love**, Matt — Saskatoon Eastview (NDP)

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**Marit**, Hon. David — Wood River (SP)

**McLeod**, Tim — Moose Jaw North (SP)

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**Meili**, Ryan — Saskatoon Meewasin (NDP)

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**Meyers**, Derek — Regina Walsh Acres (SP)

**Moe**, Hon. Scott — Rosthern-Shellbrook (SP)

**Morgan**, Hon. Don — Saskatoon Southeast (SP)

**Mowat**, Vicki — Saskatoon Fairview (NDP)

**Nerlien**, Hugh — Kelvington-Wadena (SP)

**Nippi-Albright**, Betty — Saskatoon Centre (NDP)

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**Reiter**, Hon. Jim — Rosetown-Elrose (SP)

**Ritchie**, Erika — Saskatoon Nutana (NDP)

**Ross**, Alana — Prince Albert Northcote (SP)

**Ross**, Hon. Laura — Regina Rochdale (SP)

**Sarauer**, Nicole — Regina Douglas Park (NDP)

**Skoropad**, Dana — Arm River (SP)

**Steele**, Doug — Cypress Hills (SP)

**Stewart**, Hon. Lyle — Lumsden-Morse (SP)

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**Vermette**, Doyle — Cumberland (NDP)

**Weekes**, Hon. Randy — Biggar-Sask Valley (SP)

**Wilson**, Nadine — Saskatchewan Rivers (Ind.)

**Wotherspoon**, Trent — Regina Rosemont (NDP)

**Wyant**, Hon. Gordon — Saskatoon Northwest (SP)

**Young**, Aleana — Regina University (NDP)

**Young**, Colleen — Lloydminster (SP)

**Vacant** — Athabasca

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**Party Standings:** Saskatchewan Party (SP) — 47; New Democratic Party (NDP) — 12; Independent (Ind.) — 1; Vacant — 1

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**Clerk** — Gregory A. Putz

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**Deputy Clerk** — Iris Lang

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[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

## STATEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

### Ruling on a Point of Order

**The Speaker:** — Yesterday November 29th, 2021, the Government House Leader rose on a point of order. He said that during question period, the Opposition House Leader insinuated that the Minister of Corrections, Policing and Public Safety was untruthful. I have reviewed the *Hansard* and am prepared to make my ruling.

The Opposition House Leader's statement can be found on page 1382 of *Hansard*. In responding to an answer by the Minister of Corrections, Policing and Public Safety, the Opposition House Leader stated, "The minister needs a new binder. That's completely untrue, Mr. Speaker."

The words in question, when read in context, refer to information contained in the minister's binder and do not accuse the minister of being intentionally untruthful to this Assembly. In fact, during question period the Government House Leader himself made comments in exactly the same vein as the ones he objected to. On page 1381 of *Hansard*, the Government House Leader referred to comments made by the member for Regina Rosemont as "misinformation," and he said they were "Once again . . . completely wrong."

While it is never in order to accuse other members of deliberately misleading the Assembly, disputes over facts are to be expected and are allowable in the course of debate. I therefore find the point of order not well taken. However I'd like all members to be mindful of the language they use as it has contributed to the deterioration of decorum in this Assembly.

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Trade and Export Development.

**Hon. Mr. J. Harrison:** — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, I would like to introduce seven guests seated in your gallery. With us today are representatives from the Women Entrepreneurs Saskatchewan, or WESK: Prabha Mitchell, chief executive officer, welcome; Heather Blouin, regional manager, south region; Allie Ramsay, executive assistant and communications coordinator; Josie Fries, marketing advisor; Amanda Parkinson, business advisor; and Leigh Kaufmann, board member.

WESK represents over 1,200 members, and they are strong advocates for growing female entrepreneurship in our province, a goal which our government strongly supports. That's why earlier today we announced two new programs to support female entrepreneurs as well as the release of a report, *Women Entrepreneurs in Saskatchewan*, on the state of female entrepreneurship in the province. I know there will be more on

the report and those two programs in a member's statement a little later on.

With that, I would invite all members to join me in welcoming these esteemed guests to their Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Regina University.

**Ms. A. Young:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you and to all members, I'd like to join with the minister in welcoming Prabha, Heather, Allie, Josie, Amanda, and Leigh to this, their legislature. The work that you do with women entrepreneurs is so vital, not just to women entrepreneurs but to the entire economy here in Saskatchewan.

I know I don't have to tell you, but women entrepreneurs in Saskatchewan contribute over \$23 billion to this economy and are responsible for creating over 192,000 jobs. The work that you do in advocacy and member services, and in championing equality and access to greater entrepreneurial success for women in this province does not go unnoticed. And I'm proud to join with the minister in asking all members to welcome you all to this, your legislature.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Regina Coronation Park.

**Mr. Docherty:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request leave for an extended introduction.

**The Speaker:** — Leave has been requested for extended introduction. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried. The member from Regina Coronation Park.

**Mr. Docherty:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Joining us in your gallery are nine members of the Albanian-Kosovo community, all from Regina, and I want to make sure . . . This is their first time in the Assembly. The member from Melfort and I had an opportunity Sunday to raise the independence flag for Albania for the first time, and it was indeed a great, great honour. And I know full well that we look forward to the continuing friendships that we've certainly forged and benefited from, and knowing full well that this group and the rest of the community is emblematic of our provincial motto, "from many peoples, strength."

The diversity that you've brought to this province is unparalleled. I thank you, number one, for your friendship, but also everything you've done for this community and further going to do for this community. And again, thanks for choosing Saskatchewan. And for all that, I would ask all the members of the Assembly to join me in welcoming this group of Albanians and Kosovars to their Assembly for the first time.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Regina University.

**Ms. A. Young:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On my feet again, it's my pleasure to rise as Immigration critic in this House and join with the member opposite in welcoming such a wonderful group of Albanian and Kosovo representatives to this, your legislature.

As the member opposite said, thank you so much for choosing Regina as your home and for choosing to make Saskatchewan better through your hard work, through your choice to raise your families here, and through everything that you do to give back to your communities. We really appreciate you being here today, and I'm pleased as punch to be able to join with the member in welcoming you to this, your legislature.

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

**Mr. Goudy:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to say something too about our Albanian friends here today. When I was a 21-year-old young man, I thought I was going to go to Albania and help them recover from communism and get their feet on the ground, teach them some things they didn't know. And when I got there, I realized that I was a 21-year-old young man who needed to learn a lot of things.

And I am so thankful that I get to be a part of this today. The member from Regina Coronation Park, he's the kind of guy I'd want representing this province to show love to people that came from another country . . . [inaudible] . . . All of them but one are now Canadian citizens.

But, Mr. Speaker, when I was out in some of those villages, thinking that I was there to serve them, it was the most humbling thing ever to sit at a table and know that they had nothing for themselves but they would put a nice meal and some stuff out for you. And I just want to welcome my friends and welcome you to Canada and just say, thank you for all you've done for us. And I pray that the same things that Albania did for me, Canada will be for you.

[The hon. member spoke for a time in Albanian.]

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

**Mr. Meili:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise today and welcome a family here from Prince Albert. Carolyn Brost Strom is a registered nurse working in public health. She's been working in testing and tracing and delivering vaccines, and she's been a key part of the fight against COVID-19 and a vocal advocate for smart public health action throughout this pandemic. So we're very grateful to the work that she, the hundreds working in public health, and thousands working in health care have done during this challenging and difficult time.

She is joined today by Tim Strom, who is her husband, a teacher in Arthur Pechey school in Prince Albert. And he teaches physical education. He was commenting on the fact that he couldn't wear his shorts to work today, had to dress up a little differently than he does for PE [physical education].

And they are joined by Annika, who is in grade 8. She's 13 years old and she's very interested in interior design, has a very sharp eye for the way things ought to look, is probably looking around this place thinking we could spruce it up a little bit. And last but

not least is Linnea. Linnea is seven. She is in grade 2, and she is a gymnastics and basketball star, part of the Jr. NBA program that Tim runs in Prince Albert. So please, all members, join me in welcoming these community members, people here with us from Prince Albert, and in particular Carolyn. I recognize her incredible work in public health.

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

**Ms. A. Ross:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too would like to join the member opposite in welcoming Ms. Carolyn Brost Strom and her family to this gallery today. As a registered nurse who's worked a number of years in Prince Albert and area, it's such a pleasure to see a hard-working colleague here in this Assembly today. I would like to ask all members to please join me in welcoming Ms. Carolyn Brost Strom and her family to this Legislative Assembly today.

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

**Ms. Nippi-Albright:** — miigwech, Mr. Speaker. It is a pleasure to rise today to welcome my guest. To you and through you and all members, I would like to introduce my CA [constituency assistant], Shane Partridge. I'm asking all members to welcome Shane Partridge to his legislature.

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

**Mr. Keisig:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Seventh time is the charm. To you and through you, I would like to welcome my constituency assistant, Tina Knowles. She's very well educated, Mr. Speaker. She has a degree in political science and international studies, and a certificate in local governance as well. She's been integral in all the work that . . . I know the member opposite, I know her constituency assistant is very busy, as is all of ours. It's very interesting, Mr. Speaker. The member from Arm River threw the gauntlet down about who had the best constituency assistant. And I, till this day, still believe that I do.

It's very important, Mr. Speaker, also to note that all of us new members on this side had a lot of mentorship from our colleagues. And I truly appreciate that, for it makes us better servants of Saskatchewan. And I want to recognize Nicole McCullough for mentoring my constituency assistant. So please join me in welcoming Tina Knowles to her Legislative Assembly.

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

**Mr. Jenson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you this afternoon, it's my pleasure to introduce Jamie Martens. Jamie, this is her first time in her legislature today. And she's a city councillor for the city of Martensville, first elected in 2012. Unique little story, quickly: Jamie's grandfather donated the land to build a school in Martensville where city hall now stands; therefore the city is named after her family.

Jamie has spent the past two years on the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and is currently the Vice-Chair of the rural caucus.

She's also on different committees, including public safety and policing, international affairs, environmental sustainability, and the governance representative for the Canadian Women in Local Leadership.

She spent the morning touring the legislature with me, meeting some of my colleagues, having a couple of meetings with ministers. We look forward to doing some more of that this afternoon. And I would like all my colleagues to welcome Jamie to her Saskatchewan legislature.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Eastview.

**Mr. Love:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, I'd like to join with the member opposite in welcoming Jamie to her legislature. As critic for municipal affairs, I value the work that you do in Martensville and for your participation in the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. Thank you for your service to Martensville and to our province. Thank you for joining us here today in your legislature.

#### PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

**Ms. Mowat:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise again today to present a petition to the Government of Saskatchewan to stop the closures at Wilkie and District Health Centre. These citizens wish to bring to our attention that the Saskatchewan Health Authority is unable to provide reliable and consistent health services in Wilkie.

[13:45]

The health centre emergency department has been regularly closed for years. Several rural communities rely on Wilkie and District Health Centre for health services and the hospital is a key component to the economic vitality of the region. The Leader of the Opposition and I met with health care workers in Wilkie last week and heard concerns about this government's lack of a strategy to recruit and retain health care workers in rural Saskatchewan. Without these people, services close, quality of care suffers, and families are left paying large ambulance bills to get the emergency care that they need. We know this is happening across rural Saskatchewan and it needs to stop, Mr. Speaker.

I'll read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Government of Saskatchewan to stop closing emergency department and out-patient services at Wilkie and District Health Centre.

This is signed by individuals from Biggar and Wilkie, Mr. Speaker. I do so present.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Regina University.

**Ms. A. Young:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise here today and present a petition to the Legislative Assembly calling for the funding of in vitro fertilization treatments here in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, the signatories of this petition wish to bring the following to our attention: that one in six couples experience infertility, and that Saskatchewan people's ability to conceive should not depend on their socio-economic status.

And, Mr. Speaker, this impacts all people, people like Doug, a friend of mine, a rural minister who I first met over a debate around abortion rights. And what we could agree on, Mr. Speaker, was that everybody wanting to grow their family should be empowered to do so.

Mr. Speaker, the signatories and people like Doug wish to bring to our attention that a family should not have to take out substantial loans and set aside retirement savings to pay for IVF [in vitro fertilization] after 13 years of continual heartbreak and infertility, so families like Doug's can grow. He'd note for us, Mr. Speaker, that it's hard to put his experience into words that will have an impact on unbelievers.

I'll read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Government of Saskatchewan immediately move to cover the financial burden of two rounds of IVF treatments for Saskatchewan people experiencing infertility.

Mr. Speaker, the signatories of this petition live in Regina. I do so present.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon University.

**Ms. Bowes:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to once again stand to present our petition calling for pay equity legislation. Those who have signed the petition wish to bring to our attention the following points: Saskatchewan is one of only four provinces that does not have pay equity legislation; Saskatchewan has one of the highest gender-wage gaps in Canada and, Mr. Speaker, a lack of pay equity legislation greatly contributes to this gap.

The Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission has recommended proactive and comprehensive pay equity legislation, which has not been pursued by the Government of Saskatchewan. While *The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code* prohibits gender-based compensation discrimination, the complaint-driven process puts no positive obligation on employers which, as I've noted before, is a serious barrier to women making these challenges.

The final point is that while pay equity advocacy primarily seeks to address gender-based wage discrimination, it must also be mindful of ability-, age-, identity-, and race-based wage discrimination.

I'll now read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request

that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Government of Saskatchewan to introduce pay equity legislation.

The petition today, Mr. Speaker, has been signed by residents of Regina and Saskatoon. I do so present.

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

**Ms. Conway:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to be on my feet to again present a petition on the Saskatchewan income support program, or SIS. The signatories of this petition wish to bring to this government's attention that SIS represents further cuts to a social assistance system that was already inadequate to begin with. It no longer guarantees coverage of utilities. It's cancelled the option of direct payment to landlords. Cuts to school supplies, a disability benefit, furniture and clothing grants, really significant cuts at a time when people are still recovering from the economic impacts of a pandemic.

The signatories of the petition wish to bring to the government's attention that these cuts have increased rental arrears, evictions, and further aggravated homelessness across our great province.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I will read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Government of Saskatchewan to restore direct payment of rent and utilities for income support clients.

The signatories of this petition reside in Regina. I do so present.

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

**Ms. Ritchie:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition to the Legislative Assembly calling for the government to reject the proposed Lambert Peat Moss development. Many local residents, hunters, trappers, and traditional land users are opposed to the proposed peat moss mine out of their concern for the cumulative effects and potential for significant damage to critical habitat for species at risk, including woodland caribou.

They are concerned about how it will affect their traditional rights to hunt, trap, and fish; impacts on drinking water sources; and the knock-on effects of a change in climate, including peat's properties as a natural carbon sink and the increased risk of forest fires in the North. They are disappointed with the lack of public engagement and consultation with rights bearers by the proponent and the Crown.

For all these reasons, more than 20,000 people have signed an online petition calling for the proposed peat moss mine to be stopped because they understand that good land management requires perspectives of decades or centuries.

I will read the prayer as follows:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the provincial government to protect the boreal forest and reject the proposed Lambert Peat Moss development.

This petition is signed by the residents of Air Ronge and La Ronge, Saskatchewan. I do so present.

## STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Arm River.

### Sod-Turning for Multiplex

**Mr. Skoropad:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Recently I had the good fortune to attend the official sod-turning ceremony for the Line 19 Multiplex project in the village of Elbow. Where now sits grass and gopher holes will soon be home to a beautiful facility in this growing community on the shores of Lake Diefenbaker. Once completed, the \$6.5 million project will feature a gymnasium that will double as a hall, a library, fitness centre, meeting rooms, and a commercial kitchen.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to Elbow, other communities along Highway 19 such as the villages of Hawarden, Loreburn, Strongfield, and the resort village of Mistusinne will benefit from this legacy project. I would point out, Mr. Speaker, that the Line 19 Multiplex is one of 180 projects amounting to over \$202 million in provincial funding that our government has announced in 2021 under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program.

The Line 19 Multiplex will see up to 2.1 million in provincial funding as a part of ICIP [Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program]. That is 2.1 million reasons, Mr. Speaker, why we believe in Elbow and support the community's drive to improve the quality of life for all who visit and call this part of the province home.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask all members to help me in congratulating the village of Elbow and surrounding communities for breaking ground on this exciting and visionary project. Thank you.

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

### The Book Project Helps Inmates

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chief Justice Robert Richards for his work on The Book Project. Over the last 12 years, the Chief Justice has helped inmates across Saskatchewan improve their literacy skills and stay productive while incarcerated.

Mr. Speaker, it goes without saying that the Chief Justice's leadership on this matter is extraordinary. Through his own observations 12 years ago, he understood that there was a gap in access to programming and took it upon himself to fill it. Says Richards:

Days are long in those facilities and, as you can imagine, something that we can do to make time pass a little more quickly and a little more productively is obviously helpful. If there is something we can do to help inmates increase literacy levels, that is obviously helpful.

The project has grown, receiving donations from several

community organizations throughout the years. The University of Regina, for example, recently donated 400 books for those incarcerated. The Chief Justice estimates that roughly 40,000 books in various genres have now been donated.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members join me in thanking Chief Justice Robert Richards for his leadership and for making such a big impact on so many people through The Book Project.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Canora-Pelly.

#### Doctor Receives Saskatchewan Order of Merit

**Mr. Dennis:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Saskatchewan Order of Merit is awarded to outstanding citizens. I rise today to highlight one of this year's recipients, Dr. Michael Bishop of Kamsack. Since immigrating from England in the '60s, Dr. Bishop has not only cared for and supported the people of Kamsack, but he's also delivered many of its residents.

He cares deeply for his patients and he shows genuine interest in their lives, so much that he's described as a pillar of the community. This is a title that he earned for his continuous efforts in supporting the local health foundation and welcoming newcomers to the medical community.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Bishop was a clinical associate professor at the U of S [University of Saskatchewan] College of Medicine and is a former senior medical officer for the Sunrise Health Authority. Dr. Bishop has also been awarded the Saskatchewan Centennial Medal and a lifetime membership with the Canadian Medical Association, as well as the Saskatchewan College of Physicians and Surgeons. Mr. Speaker, I now ask all members of this Assembly to join me in congratulating Dr. Michael Bishop on his dedicated service to Saskatchewan. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Eastview.

#### Saskatoon Man Pursues Reconciliation Through Action

**Mr. Love:** — Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize an inspirational young man from my constituency, 20-year-old B'yauling Toni. He was a student at Aden Bowman Collegiate where I taught, and even back then I knew that he was someone to watch. He is socially engaged, he's compassionate, and he's committed to his principles.

In 2019 he became the youngest person ever to circumnavigate the entire world by bicycle. His journey took him 205 days and over 30 000 kilometres. This past summer, B'yauling made a personal commitment as a non-Indigenous person to pursue reconciliation through action by cycling the 20 former sites of Indian residential school locations in our province. Mr. Speaker, this young man again travelled solo and unsupported, and along the way he delivered handmade moccasins made by local Indigenous youth from Saskatoon at Chokecherry Studios. This trip was how he chose to pay homage to the children who lived and died in residential schools in Saskatchewan.

This inspiring young man showed us an example of reconciliation, one that takes sacrifice and action, and one that was rooted in education and building relationships. Today I ask

my colleagues to join me in recognizing B'yauling Toni as someone to learn from and imitate in our own walks towards reconciliation. Thank you.

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

#### Unity Business Celebrates Golden Anniversary

**Mr. Domotor:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to recognize and congratulate Pat and Melissa Sperle, second-generation family owners, on celebrating a golden anniversary of 50 years in business.

Mr. Speaker, in 1971 bothers Fred and Pete Sperle invested in a downtown Unity business. Sperle's Tire began with one employee. Pat and Melissa Sperle took over the business in 2001 when his parents Fred and Elaine Sperle retired after buying Pete's share of the business in 1995. In 1999, the shop expanded an extra bay, added a second service truck, and added more staff and training to keep up with the new technology. Today they have six employees.

As a small business, they have felt the booms and slowdowns of the oil field and agriculture sectors over the years. The Sperles do their best to stock a wide range of tire sizes and products, and with today's technological world, most inventory arrives overnight.

Serving the local and surrounding communities is something that the owners take pride in. Customer service is valued and is Pat and Melissa's main focus. To celebrate they are offering 50 days of giveaways as a gesture of thanks to their customers. In addition, three sets of tires will be given away this year.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask that all members of this Assembly join me in congratulating Pat and Melissa Sperle on 50 years of service to Unity and surrounding communities. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Moose Jaw Wakamow.

#### Drug-Checking Test Strips Now Available for Home Use

**Mr. Lawrence:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today our government is expanding the availability of a new harm reduction tool for people who use drugs, to help prevent accidental overdoses in our province. As part of our \$2.6 million investment in harm reduction in this year's budget, I am pleased to report that drug-checking test strips are now available to the general public for take-home use. Mr. Speaker, these can detect the presence of fentanyl and benzodiazepines.

[14:00]

These test strips can be picked up at no cost from 30 harm reduction sites located in communities across the province. This is an expansion of the initiative which began in August when drug-checking test strips were first provided to Prairie Harm Reduction and the Nēwo-Yōtina Friendship Centre for on-site use. While a negative result from these test strips does not guarantee that the tested product is free of harmful substances, a positive test can help prevent overdoses by alerting the person

performing the test to the presence of the substance of fentanyl or benzos, which carry a high risk of overdose.

Mr. Speaker, behind every overdose death, there was a life. By preventing overdoses and other harms to related drug use, our government and our CBO [community-based organization] partners are helping to save lives. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### New Programs Support Women Entrepreneurs

**Ms. C. Young:** — Mr. Speaker, according to the 2020 report *Enabling Scale in Saskatchewan*, businesses owned by women are significant employers and have the potential for further growth. Today we announce two new programs that have helped address recommendations in this report and support women entrepreneurs.

The scale up for entrepreneurs initiative will assist eligible entrepreneurs with relevant training to acquire the skills and knowledge needed to help grow their businesses. The program will include training to support skills development in areas such as leadership and management, business strategy, marketing and sales, financial management, and human resource strategies. Those eligible will also have access to coaching and mentorship following the training.

We also announced the digital literacy for entrepreneurs program, which will focus on addressing digital literacy needs. This will enable the integration of digital technologies while mitigating future risks associated with the application of technology.

This morning we also published the *Women Entrepreneurs in Saskatchewan* report, which provides detailed data about women-owned businesses in Saskatchewan and female self-employment by sector between 2007 and 2020.

The new programs and the report will help address the recommendations of the women entrepreneurs of Saskatchewan's advisory committee on the gender entrepreneurship gap. With that, I would ask all members to join me in celebrating women entrepreneurs in our great province. Thank you.

### QUESTION PERIOD

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

### Provision of Security at Legislative Building

**Mr. Meili:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We know it's the House Leader who calls the shots over there, but eventually his hare-brained schemes wind up on the Premier's desk. We've yet to hear a word from this Premier yet on this ridiculous notion of a partisan security force here in this building.

Mr. Speaker, to the Premier: does he respect the role of the Sergeant-at-Arms? Does he respect the independence of the Legislative Building? Or is he going to double down on his House Leader's latest burst of arrogant overreach?

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

**Hon. Mr. Moe:** — Of course, of course, Mr. Speaker, we respect the role of the Sergeant-at-Arms, Mr. Speaker. And I take great issue, Mr. Speaker, with the Leader of the Opposition getting up and reading his notes which at this point in time seem to be quite untruthful, Mr. Speaker.

The fact of the matter is, is that we have, we have public servants working across this province that are reporting directly to the Minister of Corrections, the Minister of Policing, Mr. Speaker. Our correctional guards, we have every police officer in this province directly or indirectly reports to the Minister of Policing, Mr. Speaker, and they most certainly, most certainly are not considered partisan employees in the province of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, I take great issue with the line of questioning that the Leader of the Opposition is putting forward. The fact, the fact of the matter is, is that we are living today in a changing world, Mr. Speaker, and we, in this Assembly and across the province, and you can . . .

If the Deputy Leader would like to listen, Mr. Speaker, she would notice in the Speech from the Throne with respect to the number of RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police] officers that we have offered across the province, over 70, Mr. Speaker, over 70 full-time equivalents that will be placed strategically across this province to keep the people of Saskatchewan safe. And likewise, Mr. Speaker, we are going to ensure that the staff and the visitors and all that use this building, Mr. Speaker, the people's Legislative Assembly, safe as well.

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

**Mr. Meili:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well it's very cute for the Premier to get all knotted up over respect for the police, but this is the Premier who tried to order the RPS [Regina Police Service] to kick protesters out of the park, young people out of the park. This is the Premier who's talking about getting rid of the RCMP — here in Regina, the home of the RCMP, and he wants them gone.

This is the Premier who is completely disrespecting the office of the Sergeant-at-Arms and every tradition within this building. So to this Premier: does he truly think that it's wise to listen to the House Leader's machinations, his crazy ideas, and go forward with something that will completely fly in the face of the traditions of this House and eliminate the independence of the security that protects us, the media, the visitors, and everyone that uses the people's House?

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

**Hon. Mr. Moe:** — Mr. Speaker, once again I would remind now the Leader of the Opposition to go back and read the Speech from the Throne that was delivered on the very first day of this Assembly. Mr. Speaker, in that Speech from the Throne, it was indicated that we were adding 70 positions across this province, Mr. Speaker, 70 positions to augment and support the work of not only our RCMP but our municipal police forces here in the province of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, we are being proactive when it comes to law

enforcement. We are providing . . . We understand, Mr. Speaker . . .

[Interjections]

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

**Hon. Mr. Moe:** — Mr. Speaker, we are being proactive when it comes to law enforcement in this province, Mr. Speaker, to keep members of communities across Saskatchewan safe, and we're going to do the same for the people that choose to visit or work in this Assembly.

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

### Government Response to COVID-19 Pandemic

**Mr. Meili:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Embarrassing, embarrassing disrespect.

On July 7th this Premier said, and I quote, “After 485 days of the government telling you how to live your life, all those restrictions are coming to an end.” He said this despite having modelling at hand that showed that we were heading towards a dangerous fall.

His premature declaration of the end of the pandemic led to a sudden drop in vaccination rates, led to a province completely unprepared for what became the worst fourth wave in the entire country. Does the Premier regret sending that crystal-clear signal to the public that the pandemic was over? Does he regret putting his summer plans ahead of people's lives?

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

**Hon. Mr. Moe:** — Yet again the Leader of the Opposition seems to be reading his notes, which I would put forward seem to be untruthful, Mr. Speaker. I never said anything of the sort. Not once did I say that this pandemic was over. In fact I specifically said that it was not over and that we are going to have to continue to do what we can to control the spread of COVID in our communities, Mr. Speaker.

And thank you to Saskatchewan people, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the fourth wave hit our province in particularly hard, but thanks to the effort of Saskatchewan people we have 42 cases here today. That brings our 7-day average down to 73. That's the lowest level that it has been at since August the 9th, Mr. Speaker, lowest level. We're down some 85 per cent from our peak. Our active cases are down to 715, the lowest level since August the 12th, again down 85 per cent from our peak, Mr. Speaker.

Over 230,000 folks in Saskatchewan have went out and gotten vaccinated since we put in place the public health restrictions and the proof-of-vaccination, and yes, proof-of-negative-test policy in this province, Mr. Speaker. Nineteen thousand of those are in the 5 to 11 age category, Mr. Speaker. And I want to thank each and every one of those parents across the province that are making the decision to get their young one vaccinated, Mr. Speaker, and helping out in the greater and the broader challenge, and addressing the challenge that we have in ensuring that we can find our way through the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

**Mr. Meili:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Premier can read page after page of falsehoods if he so decides. But the truth is that hundreds of people have lost their lives because of his choices.

Thousands have been put in terrible situations, including terrible work situations, Mr. Speaker. Carolyn Brost Strom is here with us today. Carolyn is a public health nurse from Prince Albert. Carolyn, like so many others, has been putting her life on the line to save others. She shared what it was like for health care workers to try to contact-trace after restrictions were lifted. In a word, in her words, “impossible.”

So to the Premier: he knows that this was made worse by his choice to no longer require close contacts to isolate. Does he regret eliminating isolation, eliminating all public health restrictions, allowing the virus to spread widely, and overwhelming Public Health's ability to keep us safe?

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

**Hon. Mr. Merriman:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I'd like to thank Ms. Strom Brost for coming today. I very much appreciate you coming down, and thank you for the hard work that you have done. You and your colleagues across the front line have done an amazing job in helping out the people of Saskatchewan from March of 2020 until today and further on. So thank you for that.

Mr. Speaker, but that's not the only people that have been out that I have to thank, Mr. Speaker. I have to thank the people that went out and got 230,000 shots since we implemented our restrictions on September 15th, Mr. Speaker. Those people are the reason that our health care system is in a better position than it was back then, Mr. Speaker. We were able to be able to get those shots into arms which lowered our numbers, Mr. Speaker. As the Premier indicated, Mr. Speaker, we're down almost 80 per cent in our numbers. Our seven-day average is down around 77, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, this is very hard work that the front-line health care workers have done, but also the people of Saskatchewan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Meili:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Carolyn is one of many health care workers who are fed up, frustrated, exhausted. They're frustrated because this Premier decided to take the summer off. One of the many health care workers who can't take time off, who hasn't taken time off because they've been stuck cleaning up the mess left by this Premier. What does the Premier have to say to them about why he decided to give up on the fight against COVID-19?

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

**Hon. Mr. Merriman:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And I can say that this Premier and this government has never backed down from COVID-19, Mr. Speaker. We have faced it head-on right from the beginning as the previous minister of Health, the previous minister of Rural and Remote Health, the

health care workers, Mr. Speaker, that are represented in this gallery, in your gallery, Mr. Speaker, faced this head-on from day one.

Mr. Speaker, we did, under the recommendation of Dr. Shahab, implement our negative vaccine verification, Mr. Speaker, also our QR [quick response] code which directly had an impact on our vaccination numbers, Mr. Speaker. And as the Premier has outlined, Mr. Speaker, we're keeping that in place until January.

We've seen that our childhood vaccination was up. There was 15 per cent, almost, of kids who went through in the first week, Mr. Speaker. This is very encouraging. We are still getting those vaccination numbers, Mr. Speaker. And I encourage everybody, every family out there to have that discussion and how important it is, from the grandparents down to the five-year-olds, to be able to get that vaccination. Have those important discussions around the kitchen table. And everybody should go out and get their shot. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Meili:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Not only did the . . .

[Interjections]

**The Speaker:** — Order, order, order. Order.

**Mr. Meili:** — Not only did the Minister of Health and the Premier take the summer off, not only did they not bring in the measures to protect the public. They step in when others try to protect the public. Carolyn and her colleagues are rightly furious because this government has repeatedly stepped in to step on local public health decisions.

And we learned of another one this week. This government did a one-eighty. The minister decided that the place to announce policy was on a radio program instead of talking to the front-line workers. Mr. Speaker, he decided that this government was no longer going to allow what has been decades of public health practice, allow kids who bring in informed consent from their parents to get their shots at schools, Mr. Speaker. They pulled out the rug from divisions and schools hours before this was ready to take place.

Why is this Health minister, why is this Premier choosing to put an additional barrier in front of kids getting their vaccinations?

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

**Hon. Mr. Merriman:** — Mr. Speaker, I reject the premise of the question. We have 221 vaccination clinics through the SHA [Saskatchewan Health Authority], Mr. Speaker; 100 schools are participating in that. 236 pharmacies across our province, Mr. Speaker. These are the access points for everybody from 5 to 11. We have specific vaccination clinics in and around schools, Mr. Speaker, so the parents can be there to be able to participate in this with their family.

We've made it the most inviting we possibly can, Mr. Speaker. There are movies there. There's a very, very stable environment so kids can go and get vaccinated. I've been hearing lots of

feedback from that, not just directly to myself but the members around here but also through social media, that this is a very positive experience.

Mr. Speaker, we want parents to be able to make those choices with their children, unlike the members opposite who wanted to force this down on kids from 5 to 11, Mr. Speaker, to force them to be able to get their vaccination or they couldn't participate in school, in any type of school, Mr. Speaker. This government stands with the family values and parents making that decision, not the members opposite. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[14:15]

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

### Vaccine Requirement for Students

**Ms. Beck:** — This morning on CBC [Canadian Broadcasting Corporation] radio, the Education minister advised local school boards to ignore their local medical health officers' recommendations until they become public health orders. Does the Premier think that it's appropriate for a minister to recommend on public radio that local leaders ignore recommendations from local public health officers?

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

**Hon. Mr. Duncan:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, obviously if a public health order is issued by a local medical health officer or the chief medical health officer of Saskatchewan, I would expect that all school divisions would abide by that public health order, Mr. Speaker.

But what I'm also saying to school divisions is that every effort needs to be taken to keep kids in school regardless of their vaccination status, whether that be in-class learning or extracurricular activities that are provided in the school by the school, Mr. Speaker.

That's the position of this side of the House, Mr. Speaker, unlike the members opposite, who tried to introduce a motion in this House on the very first opportunity that would mandate vaccinations for all students to attend school. We don't agree with that.

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

**Ms. Beck:** — Mr. Speaker, his words, not mine:

Local medical health officers can issue an order that are along these lines, but certainly my view is that it's a recommendation and that the school divisions should look to not accept that recommendation.

The Minister of Education is saying, don't listen to the experts.

But that's not the only way that they're hurting the vaccine rollout. The government also blocked parental consent forms for child vaccinations in schools, something that has been used to increase accessibility. Why did the minister rule out parental

consent options for getting children vaccinated just days before those vaccines were cleared for pediatric doses?

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

**Hon. Mr. Duncan:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have had 19,000 first doses that have been delivered to children between the ages of 5 and 11 in the very first days of this vaccine rollout for this age group, which I believe was the first arms in Canada to receive a vaccine for children between the ages of 5 and 11. That's 17 per cent of that age demographic. And I'm told that there are an additional 5,000 bookings that have already been made, Mr. Speaker.

Obviously if a public health order is issued by a local medical health officer, I would expect that the school division would abide by it, Mr. Speaker. But short of that, Mr. Speaker, school divisions need to make every effort to keep students in school, whether that be in-class learning or extracurricular activity, Mr. Speaker, unlike the members opposite, who would require a vaccination to participate in school. Mr. Speaker, that is not our position.

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

**Ms. Beck:** — Mr. Speaker, more deflection of responsibility and irresponsible rhetoric from that minister.

Consent forms have been the norm for school-age vaccination for decades, despite the minister's claims in committee last night. Why should protection from COVID be any different? Without these, parents are forced to face extra barriers to be present for their children's vaccination.

Last Friday we called on the government to provide paid leave for parents who are being forced to attend vaccination appointments with their kids. Will this government at least extend paid vaccination leave to parents?

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

**Hon. Mr. Merriman:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this government was the first one in Canada to introduce paid leave to be able to make sure that everybody got their first shot. We were the first ones to be able to do that because we knew how critical it was, on a very limited vaccine supply when times were very tight, Mr. Speaker, enable to get out and get that shot. Because we had a limited supply of vaccines on hand, we had a limited amount of time, Mr. Speaker. We were the first ones to be able to do this, Mr. Speaker.

I know the opposition, there's lots of opposition members' job over there . . . Their only job is to heckle, Mr. Speaker, because they have no other responsibilities. But we were the first ones to do this in Canada, Mr. Speaker.

We've always made sure . . . That's why I just went through the list. We have 221 locations, Mr. Speaker. We have hours that are open, non-traditional, from 8 o'clock in the morning till 10 o'clock at night. There are lots of opportunities for people to go out and get their selves vaccinated, get their children vaccinated. We encourage them to do that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Beck:** — Mr. Speaker, we have the lowest vaccination rates in the country. And with answers like that, it's no wonder.

We need to be doing everything that we can to get as many kids vaccinated and to keep our kids safely in schools. If the Sask Party insists on putting up roadblocks and making vaccinations in school harder, the very least that they could do, Mr. Speaker, is make it easier for parents to get time off and get their kids vaccinated. Why won't the Sask Party commit to that today?

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

**Hon. Mr. Merriman:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I'll tell you what the big . . . They talk about roadblocks over there. The biggest roadblock to anything right now is forcing families to get vaccinated, Mr. Speaker. To not allow children to go to school, that is the ultimate roadblock that we're facing in our society, and it's the ones that they proposed, the motion that they brought forward that the Leader of the Opposition supported, Mr. Speaker, that letter from the chief medical health officers to force kids to get vaccinated.

Mr. Speaker, we've gone through this several times. If mom and dad both work, Mr. Speaker, and that kid is not vaccinated, where are they going to go to learn, Mr. Speaker? They can't go home because both their parents are working, so they're forcing them to get vaccinated, Mr. Speaker. That's something that we will never support on this side of the House, but it's certainly something that the members opposite are very proud of. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### Provision of Security at Legislative Building

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Mr. Speaker, the Premier seems to have finally gotten on his feet and indicated that he claims to support the work of the Sergeant-at-Arms. Can the minister for Corrections and Public Safety explain then why this government, through Bill 70, is reducing the role of the Sergeant-at-Arms to just a ceremonial one? Why won't they show their support for the work of the Sergeant-at-Arms and scrap Bill 70?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Corrections, Policing and Public Safety.

**Hon. Ms. Tell:** — Mr. Speaker, this is why. The security challenges outside our building, throughout our communities, doesn't exclude this building and the grounds. That is why we've begun the process of looking at ways to enhance — please, I'm emphasizing that word — the overall security of the Legislative Building and improving services.

This is the first step, Mr. Speaker, that we've taken to amend legislation to separate out the parliamentary role and the security roles of the current position, Mr. Speaker. Separating these roles out allows the position to access a broad policing network available through the ministry.

For instance, Mr. Speaker, security in today's world has a significant intelligence component. In order to be proactive rather than reactive to incidents and events, Mr. Speaker, what we're doing, the way it's been structured is because there's needs on both sides of the coin. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatchewan Rivers.

### Vaccine Requirements and Public Health Order Enforcement

**Ms. Wilson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The citizens of Saskatchewan are protected under the medical and legal ethics of expressed, informed consent and are entitled to the full protection guaranteed under Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights, the Nuremberg Code, to name a few.

On what basis is this legislation that allows an employer to terminate an employee for not getting a COVID-19 shot? If an employer does so, they are inviting a wrongful dismissal claim as well as a claim for a human rights code violation.

Does the Minister of Justice protect the rights of all individuals in Saskatchewan? Does he want the province unified again? Will he stand and fight for this province's freedom, strong and free? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — Mr. Speaker, I find it intriguing that the member opposite, who has been totally opposed and said it's a personal health record to show your vaccination status, and that very same member, I believe on a taxpayer-paid trip, went to countries where you have to show proof of vaccination. I believe she may have had even more than one trip. And so at that time, she was not opposed to showing her vaccination record.

And yet she's standing on the Constitution to say that it's unconstitutional. So it seems like she has two separate opinions on that particular thing, Mr. Speaker, that I would love to hear her explanation for.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatchewan Rivers.

**Ms. Wilson:** — Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The public are asking these questions for employees who are influenced, pressed, or coerced by their employer to have the COVID-19 shot. And those in positions carrying out these measures on behalf of the employer will be opening themselves up to personal civil liability and potential personal criminal liability under crimes against humanity.

To the Minister of Justice: do you promote a safer, stronger Saskatchewan? Do you promote a unified Saskatchewan? Is he willing to fight for the freedoms of this province, strong and free? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And it's

interesting to hear the member opposite's interest in the Constitution. Yesterday there was a very, very significant vote, one that requested a change in the Constitution. It was unprecedented, one that shows support for what is fair to all the citizens of the province and, for that reason, it was unanimously supported by every member that was in this Assembly.

And it was a recorded vote. The member opposite was here yesterday to hear the remarks made by both the government member and the opposition member. She also continues to repeat how she's here by the people and for the people. The vote was important to the people of Saskatchewan Rivers, Mr. Speaker, so I suggest to those great constituents that they check the record and they see that recorded vote to ensure that their voice was recorded in this Assembly on a change to the Constitution.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatchewan Rivers.

**Ms. Wilson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Minister of Corrections, Policing and Public Safety: what is the monthly cost of the hiring and recruitment of the former police officers that help enforce the COVID-19 public health rules for the secure isolation sites that are no longer operational? And where were those sites? The public is asking these questions. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — Mr. Speaker, the member opposite has been here for a number of years, so she would understand that those type of expenses would be discussed in budget deliberation. We have already started those deliberations for the March budget that will be introduced then.

### PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Chair of the Standing Committee on Human Services.

#### Standing Committee on Human Services

**Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Human Services to report Bill No. 66, *The Education (Safe Access to Schools) Amendment Act, 2021*, a bilingual bill, without amendment.

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

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

**The Speaker:** — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 66 and that the bill be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

### THIRD READINGS

**Bill No. 66 — *The Education (Safe Access to Schools) Amendment Act, 2021/Loi modificative de 2021 sur l'éducation (accès sûr aux écoles)***

**Hon. Mr. Duncan:** — Mr. Speaker, 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. 66 be now read the third time and passed under its title. Order. 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.

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

[14:30]

**PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Chair of the Standing Committee on Human Services.

**Standing Committee on Human Services**

**Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Human Services to report Bill No. 60, *The Saskatchewan Employment Amendment Act, 2021* without amendment.

**The Speaker:** — When shall this bill be considered in Committee of the Whole on Bills? I recognize the Minister of CIC [Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan].

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this bill and this 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. 60 and that the bill be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

### THIRD READINGS

**Bill No. 60 — *The Saskatchewan Employment Amendment Act, 2021***

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, 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. 60 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.

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

**The Speaker:** — I am advised that His Honour the Lieutenant Governor is here for Royal Assent. All please rise.

[At 14:32 His Honour the Lieutenant Governor entered the Chamber and took his seat upon the Throne. His Honour then gave Royal Assent to the following bills.]

**ROYAL ASSENT**

**His Honour:** — Pray be seated.

**The Speaker:** — May it please Your Honour, this Legislative Assembly in its present session has passed bills which, in the name of the Assembly, I present to Your Honour and to which bills I respectfully request Your Honour's assent.

**Clerk:** — Your Honour, the bills are as follows:

Bill No. 66 - *The Education (Safe Access to Schools) Amendment Act, 2021/Loi modificative de 2021 sur l'éducation (accès sûr aux écoles)*  
 Bill No. 60 - *The Saskatchewan Employment Amendment Act, 2021*

**His Honour:** — In Her Majesty's name, I assent to these bills.

[At 14:34 His Honour retired from the Chamber.]

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

**TABLING OF SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES**

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — Mr. Speaker, before orders of the day, it is my pleasure to submit the supplementary estimates accompanied by a message from His Honour the Lieutenant Governor.

**The Speaker:** — Would you please rise for the message from the Lieutenant Governor. The message is as follows:

The Lieutenant Governor transmits supplementary estimates no. 1 of certain sums required for the service of the province for the 12 months ending March 31st, 2022, and recommends the same to the Legislative Assembly.

Honourable Russ B. Mirasty, Lieutenant Governor, province of Saskatchewan.

Be seated, please.

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

### WRITTEN QUESTIONS

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Government Whip.

**Mr. Ottenbreit:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the answer to question 11.

**The Speaker:** — Question no. 11 is tabled.

### GOVERNMENT ORDERS

### ADJOURNED DEBATES

### SECOND READINGS

#### Bill No. 38

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 38 — The Seizure of Criminal Property Amendment Act, 2021** be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. Vermette:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To make some comments, some of the bills, many of us have already spoken to some of the amendments that are being made. On Bill No. 38, my colleagues on this side have asked them, for the record, have put in some, I guess, questions, concern, wondering about the legislation, amendments being made to this legislation. And you know, myself, I had an opportunity to, on the record, put some words on it, and I know that the critic will have a lot to say.

I know we're going to make sure we talk to residents to find out, is this the right amendments? We want to make sure the government got it right, gets it right. We want to make sure we consult and we tell people, residents, please reach out to the critic, reach out to government, Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition if you have concerns for the record. We can put those forward.

So at this point, Mr. Speaker, I don't have a lot more to say on this bill. And I know that on our side we're ready to have it go to committee, do the good work, ask questions in there. And they're prepared on Bill No. 38 . . . To committee. Yeah, to committee.

**The Speaker:** — The question before the Assembly is the motion by the member that Bill No. 38 be read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

**Deputy Clerk:** — Second reading of this bill.

**The Speaker:** — To which committee shall this bill be

committed? I recognize the Government House Leader.

**Hon. Mr. J. Harrison:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I designate that Bill No. 38, *The Seizure of Criminal Property Amendment Act, 2021* be referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

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

#### Bill No. 39

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 39 — The Queen's Printer's Amendment Act, 2021** be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. Vermette:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To join on Bill No. 39, *The Queen's Printer's Amendment Act*, I've on the record put a few of my comments I wanted to share, you know, and ask. And I know my colleagues have done as well, put in on the record some questions asking again, who has the government consulted with? Sometimes they're housekeeping; sometimes it's going to give opportunity as we move with technology. And I think the second reading speech that the minister referred to is going to give that . . . process happen.

Again we will consult with people. In committee we'll have an opportunity to ask questions and find out exactly, is this the right legislation going forward and will do what it needs to do? And we hope it does, and we'll have that opportunity. And we have no further questions on this side and are prepared to let it go to the next step and let the government do what it needs to do to bring this forward to committee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the member that Bill No. 39 be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

**Deputy Clerk:** — Second reading of this bill.

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

**Hon. Mr. J. Harrison:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I designate that Bill No. 39, *The Queen's Printer's Amendment Act, 2021* be referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

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

#### Bill No. 40

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 40 — The Trespass to Property Amendment Act, 2021** be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. Vermette:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, to join in on Bill No. 40, *The Trespass to Property Amendment Act, 2021*. From listening to comments made by the minister in his second reading speech . . . Also colleagues on this side have referred to some of the challenges and I guess the opportunities this is going to give somebody, a resident in our province. I guess they're changing, and let's hope this will get it right and does some changes that we have.

If somebody should break into your home, your property, my understanding is that you'll have the ability to move forward and get compensation for damages maybe done on your property. And I think that's kind of where this legislation has gone.

And I know we put quite a lot of questions and concerns on the record that we commented from our side, and actually at this point we don't have further comments on this bill until it gets into committee. And we'll allow government to do what it needs to do to get it to the committee, and we'll do the work that needs to be done there. And I wait for government to respond to it. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the member that Bill No. 40 be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

**Deputy Clerk:** — Second reading of this bill.

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

**Hon. Mr. J. Harrison:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I designate that Bill No. 40, *The Trespass to Property Amendment Act, 2021* be referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

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

#### Bill No. 41

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 41 — The Legislation Amendment Act, 2021/Loi modificative de 2021 sur la législation** be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. Vermette:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again Bill No. 41, *The Legislation Amendment Act, 2021*. Again I kind of talked to our critic and I know that, you know, many of us have had an opportunity to speak to this bill and bring information forward. We also again always reach out to people who are out there who want to raise concerns, so the government knows legislation that we do, amendments we're making, we want to make sure we get it right, the government gets it right.

And sometimes some of the bills, we work together in co-operation. Sometimes that doesn't always work so. But honestly sometimes it does. And that's the part of the process, trying to make sure legislation is done right. We consult. We talk with those that will be impacted — families, residents, business, whatever it is — and that's important to do.

And I think at this point, we don't have more that we want to put on the record at this point on this bill right now. And we're prepared to allow it to go to committee to do the good work that we need to do, and ask the questions in committee to make sure we get this right and the legislation is done right to meet the needs of those citizens that it's supposed to take care of.

So with that, I'm prepared to allow it to go to the next process, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the member that Bill No. 41 be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

**Deputy Clerk:** — Second reading of this bill.

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

**Hon. Mr. J. Harrison:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I designate that Bill No. 41, *The Legislation Amendment Act, 2021*, bilingual, be referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

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

[14:45]

#### Bill No. 42

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 42 — The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2021 (No. 2)** be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. Vermette:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, to join in on making some comments again for the record. We've had a discussion on our side. I know members opposite have had the opportunity to share their comments, reach out to people if they want to, to make sure, you know, is it getting it right? Is the change, the amendments being made to the legislation, is it what's needed? And if it's, you know, the good work that needs to be done to protect our citizens, we want to make sure that happens.

And I know from our side we've had an opportunity, some of us — not all — have had a chance. Those that wanted to put some comments on the record have had the opportunity on this bill to do that. And we're prepared to allow the critic to do the work that's vital, and the committee to do the work that needs to be done on behalf of the Saskatchewan people. And at this point we

have no further questions. We're ready to allow it to go to committee, to do the good work that needs to be done in there, and we're prepared to allow that to move forward.

**The Speaker:** — The question before the Assembly is the motion by the member that Bill No. 42 be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

**The Deputy Clerk:** — Second reading of this bill.

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

**Hon. Mr. J. Harrison:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

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

#### Bill No. 43

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. L. Ross that **Bill No. 43 — *The Royal Saskatchewan Museum Amendment Act, 2021*** be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. Vermette:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, to join in Bill No. 43, *The Royal Saskatchewan Museum Amendment Act*. I did make some comments earlier on this bill and I think it's important, the museum that we have. It's truly amazing to bring so many residents, visitors from other provinces, out of country come and they have an opportunity. They come to Regina and they visit the museum. And there's so many things.

And I think some very passionate comments have been made, where some family members have even had some of their loved ones have articles that are in the museum and have been there. And to hear how that's touched them and affect families, it's about culture; it's about the awareness of understanding and being respectful.

And I know with our Indigenous Saskatchewan residents, they're very proud. I'm actually a very proud Indigenous person, being a Métis. And you know, you want to make sure that we share our culture, we're respectful. You know, we have our days where, you know what? I think it's important to share that, and understanding. And sometimes there's hurts and sometimes we have to make sure people understand. But we're willing to work together, and we can take legislation that improves that for Saskatchewan people.

And a museum I think is almost like, it's almost like an opportunity for us to sometimes say, these are good things. Moving forward, we can work together. And it's good to see that we can share the culture, respect one another, because we come from many different strengths, our province. We know the people in our province. I've heard so many articulate that, and they mean

that sincere.

And you know, in this House I've had some of my neighbours. I call my neighbours the members opposite. Some of them are my neighbours, and I refer to them as my neighbours. And it teaches us there's certain ways that we can conduct. And sometimes legislation is important. We can work together on certain pieces, and we've shown that. We've done that. You know, yesterday was one of those. We've seen some changes that were made. And you know, it is. It's good to see that, you know, we're doing the work sometimes. That's important, on behalf of the people that we're supposed to represent when we come here. And it is an honour, and I take that very . . . And I'm honoured to serve, and I know members in this House are honoured to serve the people.

And I know sometimes legislation . . . government will come in with legislation that gets it right, and sometimes government doesn't. It's important to consult. And I say this when you're going to impact. And I think about the museum because our Indigenous population, it is so important that government consult and talk with Indigenous communities, those impacted when changes happen on legislation. And the government has the obligation to make sure First Nations, Métis, our citizens are consulted, that it is the right legislation, it does what it's supposed to do. It's supposed to protect all of us. And you know, it's interesting when you have certain pieces that come forward where you can use to share, to share how we can work together on legislation and make sure we get it right.

And the government has to be willing to take criticism too, as well. Sometimes the legislation isn't right, and there's people who are not happy. And those individual citizens should voice their concern to government, to make sure that we're getting it right. And it doesn't matter who's being impacted, they have a right to be heard and come here and share that with the opposition, with government. And I think many people in this province do that, and I thank those for coming forward and sharing their concerns when they see legislation coming forward. And sometimes it's adding to legislation that makes it better for Saskatchewan people, and that's important.

I don't have a lot more to say on this bill. As I said, many of my colleagues have made comments and were very important comments that they added to the record, and concerns that they have had and heard from citizens and they shared that. And again, I don't think we have a lot more that we want to share at this time, Mr. Speaker. And we're prepared to allow this go to the next step, to committee to do the good work that needs to be done, have our critic ask some questions of committee members. And we're prepared actually to allow it to go to the next step to do the good work that needs to be done, so let the government do what it needs to do to get it to committee. And at that time, you know, I have no further comments on this bill.

**The Speaker:** — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the member that Bill No. 43 be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

**The Deputy Clerk:** — Second reading of this bill.

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

**Hon. Mr. J. Harrison:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

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

#### Bill No. 44

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Harpauer that **Bill No. 44 — The Corporation Capital Tax Amendment Act, 2021** be now read a second time.]

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

**Ms. Mowat:** — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to enter into debate today on Bill No. 44, *The Corporation Capital Tax Amendment Act, 2021*. There are a number of changes that are being proposed here. As we know, these are amendments to the existing corporation capital tax Act. Some of these are housekeeping and some of them appear to have more substantive components.

Certainly some of the housekeeping amendments around updating names from "department" to "ministry," you know, we don't have that much to say about those components of it, except for it's good to clean house once in a while. We know that the definition of a resource corporation is being amended to include associated corporations and affiliated person, to include both as subject to the resource surcharge.

The minister in the second reading remarks said that the purpose of the legislation was to level the playing field and to protect the revenue base. So it's certainly going to be interesting to see what the implications are of these changes, Mr. Speaker, and to reach out to stakeholders to hear what impact this is going to have on their businesses. Certainly small business is the engine of Saskatchewan's economy. We have so many folks that are engaged in small businesses across this great province, and we would want to make sure that they are not going to undergo undue hardship as a result of these changes.

We know that we will have a lot of time to have these conversations over the next couple of months, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and that the critic will have quite a few questions for the minister as we make our way through this. But with that, I'm prepared to adjourn debate on Bill No. 44 for today.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

#### Bill No. 45

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Merriman that **Bill No. 45 — The Health**

**Shared Services Saskatchewan (3sHealth) Act** be now read a second time.]

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

**Ms. Ritchie:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise here today and speak on Bill No. 45, the Health Shared Services Saskatchewan Act, 2021. This particular bill is updating legislation on what's been commonly referred to as 3sHealth [Health Shared Services Saskatchewan]. This is an Act that authorizes the relationship between the Ministry of Health, the Saskatchewan Health Authority, or SHA, and 3sHealth.

It's my understanding that some of these amendments have come about because of some of the restructuring that has occurred within the health authorities, the amalgamation of the health authorities, and the need to now ensure that the reporting relationships and the structure allows for there to be the proper reporting lines between the Minister of Health in its role as a public agency now. So this will properly authorize that relationship.

And one interesting piece that I came to appreciate reading through the introduction of the bill, and I want to thank the minister for those introductory remarks. But I think also one important improvement that we'll see is that it will offer a greater scrutiny and accountability by the official opposition. It's my understanding that of course, as a Crown agency, that it will now report through the Crown and Central Agencies Committee. That is a committee that I serve on as Deputy Chair, so I will welcome that opportunity to ensure, that we can continue to ensure that, you know, the governance and the effectiveness and the efficiency of this agency is upheld through our role as official opposition and critic roles as well.

I guess one of the things that stood out for me in reviewing this bill is the role of the board and appointment of members to that board. Certainly it's always critically important that appointments to any Crown agency board or any government institution are built on impartiality and that there be a clearly identified set of credentials, experience, and credibility within the area to ensure that those that are in a governance role on a board are truly acting in the best interests of all Saskatchewan people. And it's certainly my hope and expectation that that will indeed be the case.

Of course I think that it's important that, you know, the kinds of services that 3sHealth has been mandated to provide need to occur, particularly during a health crisis and in an efficient manner, that there's clear lines of accountability, that the public purse is being protected, and that services are being offered in a timely fashion even in the case of a crisis, obviously, and urgently offered as well.

And as we continue to review this legislation, of course we will be looking to ensure that the amendments that have been proposed are indeed going to serve to achieve that objective, and also that the other purposes of the corporation, as have been itemized in section 2-4, are sufficient.

[15:00]

And I'll maybe just point out a few of them: "The purposes of the corporation are to offer and provide shared and other services to the health sector and other prescribed sectors" and "create enhanced value." So it seems to me that there is an effort here to improve the safety, the service quality, the cost effectiveness through the delivery of centralized, standardized services for things such as procurement and training. I understand that this agency also is responsible for "employee pension plans and related trusts; [for] financial, human resource, supply chain and workforce management systems and programs."

I do not have at my fingertips the number of Saskatchewan workers who are employed within the health sector and by the SHA, but of course I know that it is a not insubstantial amount. So this Act and agency certainly has the ability to have a significant impact on the lives of all those who are delivering health care services across the province.

And as we heard described earlier today, certainly health care workers have been working under extreme stress for over a year and a half now, unable to take leave. Work conditions have been extremely stressful, heavy workloads, difficult conditions. And it's certainly my hope that the 3sHealth services agency will be able to continue to do their work in providing these ancillary services, supporting services to our health care sector, because I don't think it has ever been more crucial that they receive that support.

Obviously health care workers have had to lean so heavily on their families, their friends, their broader support networks to ensure that they can stay healthy and undertake rejuvenation in order to show up for work every day giving quality health care services. And companion with that, obviously, is relying on their employer, the SHA, and the Health Shared Services agency and the services that they provide to ensure that they are receiving all the support that they need in order to do their job.

And I want to take this opportunity now to again thank all of our health care heroes for the outstanding work that they've been doing as we have been undergoing the worst COVID pandemic and case rates in Canada, the worst COVID death rate in the country. And I think it's just been incredible the way that they've been able to show up, and really pay tribute to all of their hard work, their excellent service.

So as I say, I think that this is a bill that is really of a housekeeping nature that will ensure that there is the appropriate oversight and accountability within the Ministry of Health, and that these amendments will be able to improve the services that support their work. And certainly as official opposition, we'll be keeping an eye on the implementation of this bill and the work of the agency to ensure both that there are no unintended consequences of these amendments and that they're not used as any sort of a shell game or means of working towards privatization.

I think certainly there will be a number of areas where third-party contracts are entered into, and that's often where we see some of that creep in terms of privatization. And of course we're always looking for value for money and where it makes sense for those services to be provided, but want to ensure that our health care system remains publicly funded, publicly delivered, in the best interests of all Saskatchewan people.

And with that I will conclude my remarks, and I'm sure that my colleagues will have more to say on this bill, and particularly our Health critic, the MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] for Saskatoon Fairview. So with that I will propose that we adjourn debate on Bill No. 45, the Health Shared Services Saskatchewan Act.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

#### Bill No. 46

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 46 — The Legal Aid Amendment Act, 2021** be now read a second time.]

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

**Ms. Conway:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's a pleasure to enter into debate on Bill No. 46, *The Legal Aid Amendment Act, 2021*. I will have some substantive comments to put on the record when it comes to the proposed changes in this bill, Mr. Deputy Speaker. This bill suggests some housekeeping changes, but there are some significant changes that come with some concerns on my end that I'd like to put on the record.

As the Minister of Justice indicated when the bill was introduced, some of the changes proposed in this legislation are in response to a decision from the Court of Appeal. And that decision, I believe, that he was referring to is the decision between Valerie Harvey and the Saskatchewan Legal Aid Commission. The neutral citation is 2020 SKCA 110.

In that decision, the Court of Appeal was considering a decision from an earlier court and found that the Legal Aid Commission had unlawfully removed Valerie Harvey, who was a former director at Legal Aid, a long-time serving legal aid . . . She served in various roles, both as a staff lawyer, a director, and then had served many years as a member of the panel when she was in private bar. So many years devoted to representing low-income clients in one capacity or another through legal aid.

And in reviewing that decision, you'll see that there is some speculation that Ms. Harvey was removed from the panel after a stint with Legal Aid, but also in the context of her having penned a letter that was critical of the former leadership of the organization. Not the current leadership, I should clarify. But according to the facts of that decision, Ms. Harvey had been employed for many years with Legal Aid and had gone from being employed as a staff lawyer and then going into private practice and maintaining her status as a member of the panel.

And just for some context, there's two ways that you can represent clients through legal aid. Either, you know, individuals have access to a staff lawyer, or if there's a conflict or for some other reason staff lawyers can't represent that individual — be it a capacity issue or a complexity issue — then a member of the panel, it's referred to, which consists of private bar members,

take on that case.

One of the questions that the Court of Appeal had to answer was whether the commission could unilaterally remove a lawyer from that panel without just cause. And so the decision really turned on a statutory interpretation of the Act as it exists now, and the Court of Appeal found that the commission didn't act reasonably when Ms. Harvey was removed.

Previously, so as this Act currently exists it provides for no other basis for removal under I believe it's section 16, other than for just cause. And this legislation proposes a change to that wording. It proposes to allow the commission to set out terms and conditions. So the commission may now "... remove a solicitor from the panel for any reason set out in the terms and conditions established by the commission." That wording under section 16 was previously for just cause. So I think this is an aspect of this, a substantive change here that needs to be flagged.

I know that the critic will have questions for the Justice minister about these changes. One of the reasons ... You know, the Court of Appeal decision is quite interesting. If you go to section — just bear with me please — if you go to section 53 of that decision, it gets into the Carter report which was a report that was penned in the early '70s. It was prepared actually by Roy Romanow who at the time was AG [attorney general] for Saskatchewan. And I should add that this Carter report served as the basis for the legislative framework around this panel of lawyers, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And I'll just go to paragraph [55] of that decision:

The terms of reference given to the authors of the Carter Report included to "examine and make recommendations as to the extent of the need for subsidized programs of legal assistance". The Carter Report recommended the creation of a provincial program ... to provide legal services to ... [low-income] persons through lawyers employed by a series of clinics and members of the private bar.

So the Carter report was tasked generally with making recommendations around the legal aid framework.

Next paragraph [56]:

The Carter Report further recommended that persons who qualified for legal aid would, in some cases, be required to accept the services of an employed clinic lawyer but, in other circumstances, the person would be entitled to retain a member of the private bar.

And continuing on to paragraph [57]:

The Carter Report contemplated the creation of a "panel" of private bar lawyers who could offer services to legal aid clients.

And I won't read verbatim from the decision, but at paragraph [58] of the decision from the Court of Appeal, the features of these recommendations are summarized and the panel was ... And I'll just read from that, Mr. Deputy Speaker:

First, the idea of the "Panel" was directly tied to the choice to be given to legal aid clients to retain private bar lawyers

for certain types of cases. Second, private bar lawyers would have the *right* to be placed on the Panel list should they wish to act for legal aid clients "within the limitations of the system". Third, private bar lawyers could only be removed from the Panel, and hence not be eligible to provide legal aid services to clients who might choose to retain them to provide legal aid services, if "there is good cause for doing so". Fourth, the role of the executive director was to assist the legal aid client in the choice of counsel by providing information and advice on the experience and expertise of Panel members, tying back to the idea that the legal aid client would have the ultimate right to choose their private bar representative when not required to accept a clinic lawyer.

So I appreciate the patience as I go into this decision a bit, but I think it's interesting to look back at the reasons for the legislative framework providing that wording around "just cause" as it does today, and why this statutory infrastructure was created in the first place. The legislation confirmed the idea not only ... Sorry, I misspoke.

[15:15]

It confirmed the idea not only that this panel should facilitate some degree of client choice, but it also reinforces recommendations from the Carter report that panel members should not be, you know, there shouldn't be an opportunity for them to be unilaterally removed from the commission unless there was just cause.

So this is a bit of a long-winded way of saying, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that I think we need to be concerned about this proposed change. There are clearly good reasons not to remove panel lawyers unilaterally or extend the power to be able to do that. And my concern is that the wording introduced in these amendments does open the door to a certain degree of falling short of that important standard of only removing lawyers for just cause. It removes that important procedural safeguard, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

And in the context of where we're at today, which is significant cuts to Legal Aid, an access-to-justice crisis, fewer and fewer lawyers really having the appetite to do this panel work because it pays poorly compared to what they can bring in in private practice, and so it can be difficult to attract lawyers.

Fortunately we're not in the situation of some other jurisdictions where lawyers have banded together and simply said they will not do legal aid work because it pays so poorly. We're not quite there in Saskatchewan, although there is some informal, you know, discussions with my colleagues. Many talented lawyers across the province, despite the fact that they see the importance of legal aid work, they just cannot justify it financially.

Given that we're at this place, Mr. Deputy Speaker, where access to justice is of grave concern, you know, that only serves to reinforce my concerns around this change to make it easier to remove lawyers from the panel, short of just cause. The other clarification that the Court of Appeal decision provided is that removals from the panel are subject to a judicial review, so these decisions trigger the duty of fairness.

And I think that that aspect of the decision was welcome because it recognized a certain degree that when the commission is making a decision such as to remove a lawyer from the panel, they're exercising a degree of state authority that is of a sufficiently public character that, you know, obligations around fairness are triggered. And this only serves to reinforce my concern that, you know, we maybe need not change this wording around just cause.

Yes, Mr. Deputy Speaker, those are the main areas of concern that I have. The changes to section 16. The other thing I'll flag is, you know, I don't think it's ever a very good idea to make changes to legislation based on one case. You know, there's a saying in the legal world that that can make bad law.

And you know, if you look at the changes to section 15, under the current Act — sorry, I'm just reviewing it here — under the current Act, it used to be that a lawyer could be removed from the panel if they withdrew or were removed pursuant to the Act. Now that list of reasons that a lawyer can be removed from the panel include a solicitor, under subsection . . . This is section 15(2)(a), "If the solicitor is an employee of the commission, the solicitor ceases to be an employee of the commission."

Again this seems to be a direct response to the case of Val Harvey. And I just question whether it's good practice, if you've had salaried lawyers through Legal Aid who then move into private practice, that that would trigger an automatic removal from the panel. So that's another aspect that I'll flag for all of the reasons that I've already stated when we're in this environment where we should be encouraging lawyers to be . . . I'm getting . . . We need more . . .

Yeah, I'm being heckled that, you know, we don't need more lawyers. But — and that may be true, and Shakespeare would agree with you about that — but I would say we do need more lawyers who are willing to do the fine work of Legal Aid. We have a dearth of good lawyers willing to do that work. So the extent to which that can be encouraged and fostered by legislation, I would hope this government would embrace that and not make changes to existing legislation that make it harder for good lawyers to do this work. So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, with that, it's my pleasure to move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 46, *The Legal Aid Amendment Act, 2021*.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

#### Bill No. 47

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Bradshaw that **Bill No. 47 — The Highways and Transportation Amendment Act, 2021** be now read a second time.]

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Regina Elphinstone.

**Ms. Conway:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's a pleasure

to be on my feet to join in debate on Bill No. 47, *The Highways and Transportation Amendment Act, 2021*. My colleagues will be no doubt glad to hear that I have far fewer comments to make on this bill. I'm entering into debate at a later stage here. I believe that much of what can be said at this stage on this bill has been said.

This is a bill that modernizes the operation and management of highways. It gives the province the power to clear obstructions to improve safety at intersections. It creates a freedom-of-passage provision which requires municipalities get consent to close access to public highways.

These all seem eminently reasonable, although I've been wrong before about that. I know that our critic is looking at this, is reaching out to stakeholders. I know we have questions about or curiosities about what kind of consultation occurred and what are the incidents and events that led to the need for this legislation. But I think that I will leave those pursuits to the able critic in the area, and I'm happy with that to move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 47, *The Highways and Transportation Amendment Act, 2021*.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

#### Bill No. 49

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 49 — The Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation Amendment Act, 2021** be now read a second time.]

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

**Ms. Nippi-Albright:** — miigwech, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to enter into debate on Bill No. 49, *The Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation Amendment Act, 2021*. Mr. Speaker, this bill creates the ability for revenue sharing between the Government of Saskatchewan and the First Nations Trust, which would be a 50/50 revenue sharing. And this also establishes amendments to the gaming framework agreement, and amendments to this Act will allow SIGA [Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority Inc.] to operate the online gaming platform.

Mr. Speaker, Indigenous leaders are very happy about this partnership. You know, the minister notes that the legislation is a step toward reconciliation, in particular economic reconciliation. It is great to see steps in the right direction. And I want to encourage, as a First Nations MLA, I want to encourage the minister and the government to continue the work of reconciliation, and that reconciliation has to happen in all sectors.

When I was reading this bill I thought, I read, and listened to or read the minister's comments on this, and he talked about this bill here was a collaborative process. Collaborative process. And I repeat that because a collaborative process also needs to happen when it comes to duty to consult and the sale of Crown land. So

this government needs to use its words and follow what their minister says about collaborative process.

And when it comes to economic reconciliation, they now use the word very different of economic reconciliation, and basically it's revenue sharing when it comes to SIGA and the online gaming. That's really good to hear. You know, it's good that there's a step in working with Indigenous communities, Indigenous leaders, and organizations to work towards economic reconciliation so that Indigenous people can be equal partners with the government, not just an afterthought.

And that is all that Indigenous people are asking is they want to be at those tables. They want what the minister has talked about — collaborative process. That's all they want is to be at those tables. And I really would hope that when this government is talking about reconciliation that they also think about the duty to consult and the sale of Crown land, and that they enter into collaborative process with First Nation and Métis peoples of this province. And the leadership need to be part of this collaborative process.

So I was really pleased to read that in the minister's comment about this discussion on this Bill No. 49 was a collaborative process. And I thought, wow, great language. Now let's move that collaborative process to the duty to consult and the sale of Crown land, and let's engage in a meaningful way with Indigenous leaders and communities in this province in a collaborative process. Love that word, collaborative process. And we need to use that; we need to actually make work, work that collaborative process.

I've been involved with many collaborative processes in the past where the people that I was working with were equal partners. And we even used even fancier words. We called them . . . What the heck was that called? Pardon my language. Transformational change. Wow. It's just as sexy as collaborative process. But collaborative process, they actually did it here with *The Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation Amendment Act*. And I am pleased to hear that.

And I encourage this government to continue this collaborative process when it comes to the duty to consult with Indigenous folks and the sale of Crown land, because that is what Indigenous people want, is a collaborative process. So with that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'm in favour of this amendment and this Bill No. 49. I am pleased that this is happening in terms of economic reconciliation and also engaging Indigenous peoples as equal partners and not in tokenistic measures. So with that I will conclude my remarks on this and, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 49, *The Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation Amendment Act, 2021*. miigwech.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

[15:30]

### Bill No. 50

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 50 — *The Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2021*** be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to weigh in briefly to Bill No. 50, *The Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2021*. I understand that this bill provides the authority to immediately suspend drivers' licences and impound vehicles for drivers charged with stuntng, racing, and excessive speed. It allows suspended drivers to legally partake in driver evaluations while in the company of an authorized driving instructor. This is an important thing to ensure that they're legally able to partake and have coverage to do so in this important training.

I understand that it brings all road signs including municipal speed and road signs into legislation. All road signs erected will be considered lawful, and that the purpose, of course, is to keep roads and residents safe. We fully agree with the aim of this legislation. We, you know, certainly want to make sure that law enforcement communities have the tools to address dangerous driving and stuntng and racing, Mr. Speaker. That's certainly a serious risk on the road, serious risk to life. So we want to make sure that we're bringing forward the tools and the mechanisms that will allow us to effectively keep our roads safe and respond to that sort of stuntng, racing, and dangerous driving.

Of course it's real important that people are safe and that standards are being met. Certainly we'll be looking forward to the input of stakeholders on this front to hear their thoughts and make sure that this legislation is as effective as it can be and that there's not, you know, a set of unintended consequences as a result of some of the changes that are being brought, you know, in absence of that meaningful consultation with those stakeholders. Importantly, we'll want to have conversation and consultation with law enforcement on this front, those that are going to be enforcing these laws. We need to make sure that it's enforceable, that it's practical, that we understand the realities that they face in responding to these situations in keeping roads safe.

With respect to the suggestions around that all road signs will be considered lawful and that they're going to be brought into legislation, we have some practical questions around what that actually means. Certainly we want to make sure that we're communicating effectively to drivers, that everyone is, and that those signs are effective. We also want to make sure though that there's not, you know, a bunch of costs that are being placed onto municipalities or that, you know, without support on that front. So we just want to fully understand the consequences of the changes on that front and fully understand what it means.

We'd invite, at this point, all stakeholders that are involved in traffic safety and in the efforts of enforcement to keep our roads safe, to be engaged, to read this legislation, to connect with our critic on this front, and to share their perspective and their insight. Certainly as the official opposition, we'll look for every opportunity to strengthen legislation in a constructive way, to improve legislation, and make sure ultimately that our roads are

safe.

With that being said, Mr. Deputy Speaker, with respect to Bill No. 50, *The Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2021*, I'll adjourn debate.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

### Bill No. 51

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 51 — *The Privacy (Intimate Images — Additional Remedies) Amendment Act, 2021*** be now read a second time.]

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

**Ms. Ritchie:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise on my feet here today and speak on Bill No. 51, *The Privacy Amendment Act*, intimate images and additional remedies. This bill was first amended in 2019 and created a tort for the non-consensual distribution of intimate images.

This current bill will expand the remedies for non-consensual distribution of intimate images, including requiring the defendant to return any copies of visual recordings. It also includes threatening to distribute to the tort, including the depiction of an individual in the definition of protected images to address fake or altered images as well. I think that's an important addition. And also it requires the defendant and its internet intermediary to make every reasonable effort to remove all visuals of the victim.

So in terms of comments on these amendments, the distribution of intimate images also known as revenge porn, or even the threat of that, obviously can be extremely traumatic for victims. Often in most cases those victims are women, and this has certain dimensions of being a gendered issue and one of which of course members here in opposition welcome any attempts and amendments that can strengthen provisions to protect those who are victims of non-consensual distribution of intimate images.

I do want to relate, you know, just a couple of cases here that I've been familiar with as it relates to this bill. Certainly it is a sign of the times. As a mother in particular, it's something that concerns me greatly to see that as Androids and smart phones have become so pervasive allowing for the capturing of images and their sharing both by the originators and people within their network, that this has created a lot of concern for families and the harms of their children.

And we've seen in other jurisdictions, you know, what the devastating results of that can be when intimate images are shared, when they are shared without consent, further when they may be altered in some fashion. Certainly now with deepfake technology, that's become an even more wicked problem. And it's in that context that I share these comments as a mother of three grown women and a son, and recognizing the cases we've

seen here in Canada where, because of these crimes, it has resulted in death by suicide of the victims in some very tragic cases.

Also in addition to that, I'm familiar with cases where images of pornography have been captured on phone and computer technology. And law enforcement officers have gone to considerable effort to unlock those devices and try to capture those illegal images and haven't always been successful in doing that. And that has prevented the full prosecution of those who have been perpetrators of those crimes. And I haven't been watching very closely, but I do know that there is another case before the courts right now on a related matter.

And I guess I just bring that question forward in terms of, as I review the legislation and I see the provisions that have been added, if they will enable the unlocking of computer and phone devices to remove those images, whether it's for the purposes of gathering evidence or preventing the distribution, non-consensually, of those intimate images.

Like I say, we're encouraged. I personally am encouraged to see that there are these amendments intended to strengthen *The Privacy Act* and ensure that law enforcement agencies are able to prosecute and go after the perpetrators of these crimes. And we welcome that.

At the same time of course, prevention is always worth a pound of cure. One ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. And what concerns me is that we're impeded in the ability to prevent these measures through education and awareness building within our school systems because of cuts to education. And I really call on the government to remedy that situation and address the real reduction in funding per child in our education system in order to enhance curriculums and education to ensure that we are promoting technological literacy, and improving the ability of young people to also be better agents for themselves and avoid these kinds of instances, and for there to be more broadly that awareness of the harms attached with these kinds of crimes and acts and for all those who are both, you know, young adults, pre-teen, older adults, that they understand the implications of these kinds of non-consensual activities and can prevent them in the first place.

And certainly we've seen how it has damaged individuals in terms of their mental health and had led to these cases of suicide as I've mentioned already. And I encourage the government to look to see how they can prevent these cases from occurring in the first place.

I'm sure that our critic for this area will have much more to say, and I hope that there has been extensive work done to ensure that consultation on this bill has been sufficient and properly informing the bill. And with that I will adjourn debate on Bill No. 51, *The Privacy Amendment Act, 2021*.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

**Bill No. 52**

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 52 — The Automobile Accident Insurance Amendment Act, 2021** be now read a second time.]

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

**Ms. Beck:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And it is a pleasure to rise again this afternoon and enter into second reading debates. I will be speaking to Bill No. 52, *The Automobile Accident Insurance Amendment Act* of 2021. And if it sounds a little bit familiar, some of the content of this bill, it's because it is, we'll say . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Oh, I see. Sorry, Mr. Speaker. I'm doing some consultations in my seat here as we speak.

[15:45]

If this sounds familiar, it's because my colleague from Rosemont recently spoke to this bill or a sister bill that makes changes to *The Traffic Safety Act*, specifically those changes that now make clear that insurance is . . . Those who have a suspended licence do have insurance when they are taking an SGI [Saskatchewan Government Insurance]-mandated road test or driver evaluation. So that is again, if those watching at home . . . We're not on repeat. This is a separate bill but with a similar issue.

The minister noted in his second reading comments that there is currently some lack of clarity about whether those drivers who are suspended are actually insured while participating in driver training, road test, or driver assessments, Mr. Speaker. So this bill makes the appropriate changes to that Act.

Sometimes you wonder, Mr. Deputy Speaker, when you see legislation or a bill like this in front of us, you know, what brought us here. It's one of the questions that I often talk about. I think we all, you know, seek to understand the reasons that we see a particular bill in front of us at a particular time. And you know, reading this and around the clarity, the need for clarity leads me to at least wonder, if not suspect, that at some point someone with a suspended licence was, you know, on a road test or doing an evaluation and got into an accident, and there was this question were they insured or not came up. Which I would suspect was a very, very bad day for that person taking that driving test, but also a very, very bad day for the driving instructor in the car with that person. So I think we can all understand why this would need to be clarified.

And then as it sometimes does, Mr. Speaker, you know, you start thinking of other things adjacent to this. We've recently at our house gone through our youngest daughter, in the middle of a pandemic, going for her learner's licence. And I know that that was, like school, one of those pieces of normalcy that are so important right now. And you know, feeling very appreciative of that driving instructor, of that opportunity availed to our schools to ensure that students have that opportunity.

And then I was thinking I believe that there are some members in this Assembly who are former driving instructors, and I'm sure that they have stories thinking back to my own experience as a

learner driver with a driving instructor. Mercifully, the question of whether I was insured or not did not come up, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and that's a good thing. But I'm sure that those driving instructors have many, many stories to tell.

The driving instructor that I had, I believe was from Creelman. Her name was Ms. Vollbrecht. And little story, Mr. Speaker, just to tell you what a small world it was. I believe that the member for Indian Head-Milestone was on leave and Ms. Vollbrecht came in and was the driving instructor in Milestone where I took my driving, my instruction. So all of that to say, Mr. Speaker, I'm sure that those driving instructors do have some stories to tell. I suspect that's the reason that we see the bill in front of us. And you know, there are a lot of names I don't remember over the course of, you know, the last 40 years. But I do remember and always remember very fondly Ms. Volbrecht who was a very fine driving instructor indeed.

With regard to this bill as I mentioned, this makes the necessary changes that my colleague from Rosemont spoke to earlier. It's always something that we can agree to — measures to keep our roads safer, to clarify legislation as needed. And it does seem a very reasonable measure to ensure that those who are undertaking those driving tests, the evaluations, that they are fully insured and that there's no . . . that there's the greatest level of clarity about that.

As the member for Rosemont also noted, you know, if there are those who are watching or those in the community who have particular interest in this bill, as always with any bill, it's appreciated and important that people reach out. And I know the critic will be doing her due diligence on this as well, to ensure that we provide the oversight that's needed. Again I'm not sure that that's required in great detail but this bill, it does appear to simply make that necessary change in *The Insurance Act*.

So with that I am prepared to conclude my remarks, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and adjourn debate on Bill No. 52.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

**Bill No. 53**

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 53 — The Miscellaneous Statutes Repeal Act, 2021** be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Thank you so very much, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to enter in, albeit briefly, here today with respect to Bill No. 53, *The Miscellaneous Statutes Repeal Act, 2021*. I understand that this Act is used to repeal outdated legislation or obsolete legislation that is no longer in use. This year this addresses or repeals *The Agricultural Safety Net Act*, *The Pastures Act*, *An Act to incorporate Additional Municipal Hail*,

*Limited, and An Act to incorporate Sisters of St. Martha*, are being repealed.

The focus of this is to modernize and clear out unused legislation. Certainly, you know, this is housekeeping in nature. If legislation is obsolete and outdated, it is not required.

When you look at past pieces of legislation, you think of those times and those eras and those challenges that were being responded to by governments of the day, you know. *The Agricultural Safety Net Act* as an example, you think of what it was intended for and the supports that it provided to producers. You know, we think of that in this current year where producers of course have faced such an extraordinary and horrible drought that continues to cause great stress to many farm operations, many ranch operations across Saskatchewan. Of course we have a host of new legislation and tools to respond to that drought and to support producers.

And we'll of course on that very point, as the official opposition, we're going to continue to push and press this government to make sure that producers and ranchers have the support that they need and deserve in face of these historic challenges. I won't delve into the critiques that I've brought forward in the past with respect to the government really failing producers in not fixing business risk management programs and not stepping up to the plate when producers were united on those fixes and the federal government was there with the lion's share of the funding to do so. But we'll continue to press on these fronts as we move forward because agriculture is so critical and so vital to Saskatchewan.

And you know, producers — livestock producers, grain producers, ranchers — across Saskatchewan, they do their part year in, year out and do a lot for Saskatchewan, do a lot for their communities, do a lot for our economy, do a lot in feeding Saskatchewan and feeding the world. And so when they're facing these extraordinary circumstances and hardship, it's only right that Saskatchewan do right by them and to ensure those supports are there.

But with respect to this piece of legislation that repeals obsolete legislation, that's all pretty straightforward. And if there is a stakeholder out there that has a concern with what's going on on this front or sees this from a different lens, please reach out to us as the official opposition, because it's always our aim to stand strong for Saskatchewan people and to improve, in a constructive way, every piece of legislation that we can in this Assembly.

With that being said, I'll adjourn debate for Bill No. 53, *The Miscellaneous Statutes Repeal Act, 2021*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

#### Bill No. 54

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed

motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 54 — The Miscellaneous Statutes (Remote Witnessing) Amendment Act, 2021/Loi modificative diverse (attestation instrumentaire à distance) de 2021** be now read a second time.]

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

**Ms. Ritchie:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's a privilege and honour to be on my feet again this afternoon to speak on Bill No. 54, the miscellaneous statutes remote witnessing Act, 2021.

This bill amends three Acts to allow lawyers to witness powers of attorney, wills, and health care directives remotely via electronic means. There is temporary and permanent regulations that were passed during the pandemic to allow for this, and so really this is sort of just a catch-up that will have those remedies now included in the Act. It will allow for lawyers that follow any rules established by the Law Society of Saskatchewan, and of course they are subject to oversight already by the Law Society. So that's also accommodated within the bill.

The bill is codifying, as I say, what was made practice during the pandemic. We had situations arising of course where there was urgent need for access to lawyers and to justice in some pretty dire situations, as I understand it, because of the pandemic. And so I think really what it was doing was formalizing, I think, what was already happening in many cases. And so with the codification of these practices, it will formalize that and ensure that there is recognition before the law in strengthening those provisions, ensuring that when it comes to powers of attorney, witnessing those as well as wills and health care directives, that they won't be subject to challenge.

I do want to speak a little bit again here in terms of a little sort of personal relevance for this. And it's of course a welcome amendment and definitely again a sign of the times that, you know, we see a need for these sorts of electronic provisions to be undertaken through remote witnessing, and with the pandemic and the dire situation that we have experienced here that, you know, cases where lawyers can't be present to witness.

And I can say that, in my own situation or case, that I think it's kind of being relevant in terms of dealing with elderly members of my family who have wanted to ensure that their own health care directives were updated to also include provisions in the event that, God forbid, they were to contract COVID-19, and with COPD [chronic obstructive pulmonary disease] and being elderly, you know, there would be a high likelihood that they would indeed find themselves in an ICU [intensive care unit], and wanted to make sure that they had the ability to direct their care in that sort of situation. And I mean that's a really scary point to find oneself to be contemplating while we have a pandemic, the highest COVID case rates and death rates in the country.

[16:00]

And so the potential for being in a situation . . . I'm talking about a personal family member. I would appreciate not being heckled at this moment. This is something that is deeply, deeply troubling and concerning, talking about people making health directives that are end-of-life situations. They are contemplating their care and whether or not to receive that care at end of life, knowing

their prognosis for surviving and the horrible, horrible traumatic event and situation that they would be undergoing to be intubated and surviving that situation.

I'm talking about a case where a health directive has been verbally communicated that this individual would not want to be intubated, would not want to go through the most traumatic and horrible situation of having been put unconscious and going through that traumatic health care procedure, not something that anyone wants to have to undergo and wanting to ensure that they are able to make that active choice in advance through a health care directive that they would not be intubated.

That's pretty powerful stuff, I would say, and it goes to the heart of why we have been prosecuting day in, day out on the record of this government. And so while it is welcome that we have this ability for lawyers to witness these sorts of powers remotely, it comes at a time of a dire situation. These are real people facing real consequences about their end of life. I just need a moment to regain my composure because, as I said, it's getting personal in terms of how this kind of legislation is affecting myself and my family and all families here in the province. Of course we all have loved ones who are elderly, who are immunocompromised, and are having to make these kinds of choices.

So as I say, we welcome provisions always, always, always to improve access to justice, whether it's in the case of powers of attorney, wills, and health care directives, or anyone that's been the victim of crime, of discrimination. That is something we have spoken at length on throughout these second readings on various bills that have been brought forward. It's no less the case in this instance here, and we'll continue to carry that message. And it's important that people have access to legal services regardless of location or ability, and in particular when faced with the real life-and-death consequences of a COVID prognosis.

And with that I will conclude my remarks. I know that the critic will have more to say on this particular bill when it goes to committee. And I will adjourn debate on Bill No. 54, the miscellaneous statutes (remote witnessing) Act, 2021.

**The Deputy Chair of Committees:** — The member has moved to adjourn debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Chair of Committees:** — Carried.

#### Bill No. 55

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 55 — The Miscellaneous Statutes (Remote Witnessing) Amendment Act, 2021 (No. 2)** be now read a second time.]

**The Deputy Chair of Committees:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Nutana.

**Ms. Ritchie:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I rise on my feet again to speak to Bill No. 55, *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Remote Witnessing) Amendment Act*. I'm sure that those listening and watching will appreciate that this sounds a lot like

the previous bill which I just spoke to. It amends *The Electronic Information and Documents Act, 2000*, implementing measures similar to those set out in the miscellaneous statutes Act, and allows for electronic witnessing of documents such as wills, powers of attorney, and health care directives.

And as before, it's important of course that people have access to justice. COVID certainly prompted this kind of modernization and the ability to act more nimbly through electronic means. And it's always kind of that strange situation we find ourselves, any time in a crisis, where it's also an opportunity to act urgently to bring about changes that have been advocated for for quite some time, and you know, finally there's the impetus to move ahead.

So we welcome that. It's, as I say, important that people have access to these remote witnessing services, particularly when we've been through restrictions in an access to congregating. With that, I will move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 55, the miscellaneous statutes amendment Act, 2021.

**The Deputy Chair of Committees:** — The member has moved to adjourn debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Chair of Committees:** — Carried.

#### Bill No. 56

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 56 — The Queen's Bench Amendment Act, 2021/Loi modificative de 2021 sur la Cour du Banc de la Reine** be now read a second time.]

**The Deputy Chair of Committees:** — I recognize the member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

**Ms. Conway:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's a pleasure to engage in debate on Bill No. 56, *The Queen's Bench Amendment Act, 2021*. This bill is fairly straightforward. It contains, from what I can see, some housekeeping items to modernize some of the terminology of the Act, of course which governs the superior court.

It also contains some changes so that the legislation reflects the current makeup of the court, for example increasing the number of family law judges that are sitting. Of course we know that this is an area that is extremely . . . has a high volume, a lot of self-represented litigants, a lot of unfortunate delays due to the chronic underfunding of our legal system, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

As I understand it, the Act contains some provisions also that deal with beneficiaries, and it contains some provisions that will allow the court to make an order to allow changes to those beneficiary designations for people without capacity. And I think that's the primary area around which our critic will have more questions for the minister in terms of this legislation and its impacts.

I know that the critic is in the process of reaching out to stakeholders, Mr. Deputy Speaker. She always does such a good job of that, of really leaving no stone unturned. So with that, I am content to leave that good work to my colleague, and I move to

adjourn debate on Bill No. 56, *The Queen's Bench Amendment Act, 2021*.

**The Deputy Chair of Committees:** — The member has moved to adjourn debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Chair of Committees:** — Carried.

#### Bill No. 57

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 57 — The Land Titles Amendment Act, 2021** be now read a second time.]

**The Deputy Chair of Committees:** — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

**Mr. Vermette:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to join in on Bill — let's see, making sure I got it right — 57, *The Land Titles Amendment Act, 2021*. Initially I know many people when you think about land titles, a lot of people know it means it's where your land, whether you own property, whether you're a business. There are certain places where, in our province, when you have land titles it means the title of the land. So I know when people own properties, they have that title. And we have an office of land titles that, you know, is supposed to make sure everything is done right, you know, the process is there.

I've heard different people say, when they're selling their properties and they're waiting for land titles to do changes, it's obviously a legal process. And sometimes maybe for some it's a quick process, maybe it's longer. But some of the amendments that the minister is asking, there's a number of different things he's referring to in this amendment to the legislation. And I was just kind of looking at it, but as soon as when I said, land titles, it just meant, to my head, going, hmm, people's property. Again, we make sure.

It's an office that makes sure that, you know, your property, the title is in your name, there's markers, you have it surveyed. It's making sure. And that's what land titles usually does, making sure your property, you know, you're not taking 10 feet from your neighbour. Because I've heard some of those battles where somebody has the pin, it has not been used or, you know, for whatever, somebody thought the pin was there and they went over and they went to somebody else's property. But in this bill that's what we think about land titles, for me anyway.

And you know, some have more experience when they're dealing with real estate and closing deals with properties, but for the main part that the minister was referring to, let's talk about some types of compensation. In this bill they're looking at different compensation when there are situations, I guess, that warrant somebody to say, I want to come forward and have some compensation for something that may have happened, whether it's the land titles, whatever has caused it. It sounds to me, it looks like they're limiting how much you could actually be compensated, when you can be compensated.

And I know for myself, again, it's going to be interesting to have

our critic talk about this in committee, look over some of the information to make sure we're getting it right. There must be a reason why, obviously, this amendment is coming forward. And as the minister, from his own comments, they're clarifying, and there must be somebody who has brought forward a concern. I'm hoping again, as I've always said, government needs to listen to people when there's issues. And maybe this is coming from land titles. As we say, you know, our land titles does some good work and we want them to continue to do what they need to do to make sure things are done right.

So with saying that, you know, I know there'll be more work to be done on this. We'll have more questions, and I know the critic will ask those questions in committee. Like why was this brought forward? Did you consult with . . . you know, who all did you consult with? Because I'm not sure on here. The minister doesn't say who they talked to, you know. And that's where committee gives us more opportunity.

For me just looking at it, you know, the comments the minister has made, it's about compensation. It's about limiting certain liabilities, the public funds and stuff like that. So having said that, I know that there'll be more work to be done on this in committee where we get a chance to speak to the minister and ask some of those tough questions, you know, exactly what it's about. Why the change? Why the amendments? And is it the right legislation? And sometimes it works well and it's effective that way.

So at this point, you know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I don't have a lot more comments. And I'm prepared to move adjournment on Bill No. 57.

**The Deputy Chair of Committees:** — The member has moved to adjourn debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Chair of Committees:** — Carried.

#### Bill No. 58

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 58 — The Securities Amendment Act, 2021** be now read a second time.]

**The Deputy Chair of Committees:** — I recognize the member from Regina Lakeview.

[16:15]

**Ms. Beck:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It is my pleasure to rise at the appointed time and speak to Bill No. 58, *The Securities Amendment Act, 2021*. Mr. Deputy Speaker, there are four main points that are proposed with this bill that the minister spoke to in his second reading speech. That was back on November the 22nd.

At a high level, the main points being the intent to prohibit aiding and abetting those who contravene security laws; it seeks to amend the Act to clarify that the limitation period is suspended while the plaintiff is seeking leave of the Queen's Bench; and it also seeks to prohibit false and misleading promotional activities

in the capital market industry; as well as allowing for electronic filing and delivery of documents under the Act.

So, Mr. Speaker, it would seem that this is legislation before us because the minister did a scan of some of the best practices or recommendations in this case, specifically the Canadian Securities Administrators, and I think that that seems to be good practice. And as I've said before, I always appreciate the rationale for why we see this legislation in front of us as well as who is consulted or who is promoting this as, hopefully, best practice. And that was part of the minister's second reading speech.

It also is important to ensure that legislation that we have in the province is modernized. Thinking of, you know, the promotion of security trading on social media is probably something most of us in this Assembly didn't deal with when we were younger. Surprised a couple of years ago, our son is 19, and him striking up a discussion about the stock market and securities trading, Mr. Speaker, which certainly wasn't what I was talking about at 17. We didn't talk about that a lot in Lang, you know, at the road parties and such. But that was something that he and his friends were discussing.

And certainly if you watch, you know, television promotion, different apps that are targeted at young people to invest, you know, they've obviously had an impact. And I think that it is incumbent to ensure that those ads, but also I think more broadly, social media claims that are promoting trading, that they're factual and that there are some limitations and requirements of that advertising. Often things like social media move faster than our ability to update legislation, and there's a bit of a lag. And I think that's something that we're seeing here. So I am appreciative of bodies like the Canadian Securities Administrators and other bodies that do undertake these scans and ensure that we're looking at best practices.

Of course it also brings into focus the need for co-operation across the country but also on a global level where the regulations here are important. But the media being consumed by people in Saskatchewan often doesn't originate here, so the need for those larger pieces of communication, co-operation between governments both within Canada and globally, I think are increasingly important.

I wonder at, you know, the speed of those requirements. And you know, it does seem that it is near constant that we have updates for modernization and the pace — and maybe it's just as you get older, Mr. Deputy Speaker — but the pace does seem to quicken and certainly has with the introduction of things like the expansion of social media and again, here in this case, securities trading and that promotion on social media.

The other piece is, as I said, the electronic filing and delivery of documents. Allowing for that does seem wholly reasonable. And I think we all had to find different ways, some of these things . . . Particularly during the pandemic, we weren't going to have signatures witnessed at offices. It, I think, required this to be expedited and often not only works for the purposes of the pandemic, but you see some of these . . . The availability to file electronically benefits those who might be shut in or have limitations in different ways.

I think of some of the arguments or promotions, you know, people who during the pandemic had the ability to work at home — particularly people with disabilities — advocating, now look, we've shown that we can do it. Let's use the pandemic, use some of the things that we learned, to open up accessibility. So I guess I'm trying to find the silver lining in a pandemic, Mr. Speaker, but it certainly has brought a lot of changes and not all of them have been awful.

When I was looking at this piece of legislation — and will admit to madly looking up definitions and making sure that I had an understanding of exactly what was proposed in the legislation — was just struck by the realization of how much knowledge, how much you learn in these roles, and being profoundly grateful for that. And just thinking about the need for all of us to understand when there are things that we don't know, the need to be curious about them and the need to seek expert advice when we don't know. I think that sometimes that's humbling to admit when we don't know things, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And I believe I may have said this before on the floor of this legislature: it beats pretending to know something that we don't know.

So I just say that in the column of promoting curiosity and humility and leaning on those who do have expertise, Mr. Speaker, which . . . I think of the member from Rosemont and leaning into some of those constitutional experts in a recent way, that we are very blessed in this province to have . . . Really it's one of those places we do punch above our weight in terms of having people who have knowledge, who have a deep well of knowledge, often are humble about it and don't talk about it, but we would all do well to ensure that we seek counsel because we simply get better legislation, better oversight when we do that.

Anyway, that is a bit away from the bill itself and a little more general in the comments. As always the critic will be looking and consulting and ensuring that we have done our due diligence as the official opposition. And with that I am prepared to conclude my remarks on Bill No. 58, *The Securities Amendment Act*.

**The Deputy Chair of Committees:** — The member has moved to adjourn debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Chair of Committees:** — Carried.

#### Bill No. 59

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 59 — The Justices of the Peace Amendment Act, 2021/ Loi modificative de 2021 sur les juges de paix** be now read a second time.]

**The Deputy Chair of Committees:** — I recognize the member from Regina Rosemont.

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chair of Committees. It's a pleasure to enter debate with respect to Bill No. 59, *The Justices of the Peace Amendment Act, 2021*. First off I just want to recognize how important JPs, or justices of the peace, are to justice and to the people of Saskatchewan. They play a very important role within the system, wide-ranging roles.

And what I understand here is that this bill creates relief justices of the peace, so that would add some capacity to this very important role, and that currently, a Justice of the Peace needs to retire, I believe, at age 70 — in the month they turn age 70 — and that this piece of legislation would extend that legislation until they're 75, Mr. Speaker. And I can understand.

I suspect that the former minister of Justice, the current Minister of Labour is probably an advocate for this change, Mr. Speaker, because he will recognize how vital someone can be in those later stages of life and how much they can continue to offer and serve and contribute. And when we think of people that are in their 70s, we're talking about vital folks, Mr. Deputy Chair of Committees, who can continue to contribute professionally and to their community and through their career, and certainly it only makes sense to extend the ability to continue to serve as a Justice of the Peace.

I understand that this bill also shortens the term of the Justice of the Peace commission from six years to four years. I understand there's some reasons for this alignment that the Justice minister has spoken to. Certainly we'll be seeking clarity on that front and working with stakeholders. At first blush these changes appear to be good and important changes based on terms and positions that are currently used in the Provincial Court system.

I guess an additional piece is that there's a new role being established for Justice of the Peace, and that role would be a new position of the administrative Justice of the Peace, and that would be somebody who would be supervising justices of the peace and allows for the appointment of relief justices of the peace from a list with Justice of the Peace absences. So again addressing the capacity and making sure that the supports are there for this important role.

I know our Justice critic will be directly engaged with stakeholders on this front. We would invite, at this point, any impacted stakeholders to share their insight, to share the consequences intended or unintended, with us as the official opposition. Certainly it will be our aim to support the important work and the role of justices of the peace and to work at every opportunity to strengthen this legislation in a constructive way, if that's necessary, and certainly to support legislation that's in the interest of the public.

At this point in time I will adjourn debate with respect to Bill No. 59, *The Justices of the Peace Amendment Act, 2021*.

**The Deputy Chair of Committees:** — The member has moved to adjourn debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Chair of Committees:** — Carried.

#### Bill No. 61

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Makowsky that **Bill No. 61 — The Post-Secondary Education and Skills Training Act, 2021** be now read a second time.]

**The Deputy Chair of Committees:** — I recognize the member from Regina Lakeview.

**Ms. Beck:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It is my pleasure this afternoon to again rise and enter into debate this time on Bill No. 61, *The Post-Secondary Education and Skills Training Act of 2021*.

I've had opportunity to look over the minister's second reading comments. I'm just going to preface my remarks with some of his. And he noted that this Act replaces the existing Act enacted in 2000, *The Post-Secondary Education and Skills Training Act*, and proposes a number of changes that we have heard, and heard both some appreciation for the three-year funding, but also some concerns about this legislation that we will continue to meet with stakeholders about. I know that I've had several stakeholders in my constituency who are connected to our post-secondary institutions who have expressed concern here.

[16:30]

Mr. Speaker, when you look at the future of this province, and you know, you acknowledge that the next 50 years in this province are likely to look very different than the last 50 have, one of the ways that we are going to meet those challenges and those opportunities — because I do think that there are a lot of opportunities — is through our post-secondary institutions, through education and ensuring that we give and provide for young people in this province the base for which they need to not only realize their individual success but collectively that we find success as a province.

I think of the tech sector for sure, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I think of the trades and the opportunities, opportunities in the North. But also I think there's both an opportunity and a pressing necessity in this province to find a way to bridge some very apparent and very damaging gaps in our province. And that is around income inequality for sure, the availability of jobs, meaningful and good-paying jobs in all communities in this province. And also to ensure that we have a good match in terms of the skills that are available, that we have people trained for in the province, and the needs of industry, the needs of the province. And right now we're not seeing . . . There's a bit of a misalignment or a very big misalignment in some instances between some of those factors.

I know many of us on both sides of the Assembly will have had opportunity to meet with stakeholders who are experiencing inability to fill positions in some sectors, Mr. Speaker. And these are not simple. There are no simple solutions to this, but it's something that we need to ensure that we are not only scanning for today but we're scanning the horizon.

So any instance of skilled labourers in the trades, for example, Mr. Speaker. It wasn't that long ago, a year ago, two years ago we had an instance where there was a slowdown in the economy. The government put PST [provincial sales tax] on construction labour. We saw a lot of downturn in that industry and many of those skilled labourers either found other work or moved out of province.

Fast-forward to today, Mr. Deputy Speaker. We do see certainly improvement in commodity prices. We see an uptick in investment by the provincial and the federal government in terms

of infrastructure. And we see an increased need for the skilled tradespeople in the province. However they don't exist or they're difficult to find in many communities, Mr. Speaker. And if we were to start training those skilled workers today to go through Polytech, for example, or SIIT [Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies], it would take a couple of years for that workforce to be built up.

So while planning on a three-year cycle for the budgets of the post-secondary institutions is important, I think it's also important that we are doing a better job, because we're not doing a good job right now in terms of labour force planning. And certainly there's a huge role to play here with our post-secondary institutions.

When I was reading through the minister's comments, I noticed, you know, a lot of comments about oversight accountability for public dollars, which certainly is always something that we should aim for. Going back to the question that I often ask and I think members on this side ask, you know, when we're speaking to second readings: what is the reason that we're seeing this bill in front of us?

And reading the minister's second reading comments, I would suspect that there's an accountability issue with our post-secondary institutions. So that's not something I've heard, and I guess that would be something that the critic will want to look into further. I'm not suggesting there is, Mr. Speaker. What I'm suggesting is that given the minister's comments, you might think that that's the reason for the bill in front of us.

I'm just going to go back to a few of the . . . the summary of this bill, as I said. Replacing the Act from 2000, providing legislative oversight for post-secondary education and skills-training institutions, again provides the minister clear and present tools to oversee and account for public funds in the sector, centralizes the minister's authority to provide grants, and articulates what they can receive money for, and outlines the process for providing monies. And in addition, too, it establishes reporting requirements and new data reporting abilities, Mr. Speaker.

So again a lot on the fiscal accountability side. When we're thinking of something like our institutions of higher learning, I think that there's sometimes a propensity to, you know, want to directly connect the dollars into an output. In some cases those are there, but when we think of things like critical thinking skills, liberal arts contributions, Mr. Speaker, those are a little less linear.

And I'm here, I guess, in support of the value of things like liberal arts education, things like, you know, the places that we think about ideas, that we think about psychology, we think about political psychology. Because they are very important and will continue to be important for sure after we move out of this current period.

Anyway, Mr. Speaker, those are some of the comments that I had. I will continue to meet with or bring the concerns forward to the critic, and I know that others in our caucus will have opportunity to do that as well. But I am at this point prepared to conclude my remarks and adjourn debate on Bill No. 61.

**The Deputy Chair of Committees:** — The member has moved

to adjourn debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Chair of Committees:** — Carried.

### Bill No. 62

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Hindley that **Bill No. 62 — The Dental Disciplines Amendment Act, 2021** be now read a second time.]

**The Deputy Chair of Committees:** — I recognize the member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

**Ms. Conway:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and it is a pleasure to enter into debate on Bill No. 62, *The Dental Disciplines Amendment Act*. I'm looking forward to drilling down on this bill today, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And my understanding is that the main reason for these changes is to decrease some of the barriers to hygienists, dental therapists, and dental assistants practising independently.

And you know, I listened with keen interest. I really was bracing myself during the comments of the member from Rosemont when he spoke about the dental program that of course was scrapped under the Devine government. You know, if we really are concerned with reducing barriers around access to, you know, hygiene and dental hygiene, this program, it was a spectacular success — one of the many spectacular successes of the Blakeney government. And I know it would have made a huge impact to constituents of my riding, particularly in North Central, to have access to this in their schools.

I understand, you know, that the Minister for Rural and Remote Health claims to have done some pretty broad-based consultation. And you know, through word of mouth, I've heard stakeholders are quite pleased about this bill.

But I will be looking to our critic to fill in any gaps with respect to this bill. And I know that the critic is reaching out to ensure that the consultations that the minister claims have taken place and the near consensus he claims exists on this bill were truly done and are truly there, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

So with that I am pleased to move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 62, *The Dental Disciplines Amendment Act, 2021*.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

### Bill No. 63

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 63 — The Reviewable Transactions Act** be now read a second time.]

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I recognize the member from

Saskatoon Fairview.

**Ms. Mowat:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I can't promise to bring in as many puns as the member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre, but am pleased to enter into debate on Bill No. 63, *The Reviewable Transactions Act*, 2021.

There are a number of changes that are being made here today. When the minister was giving his second reading remarks on this bill, he talked about why this is a full repeal and replace. For those who are following along with the evolution of legislation, they know that in many cases when there is existing legislation, there are simply some provisions that are amended, and that's when we have amendment Acts and explanatory notes that detail what each change is. Sometimes it's a little bit more complicated when a bill is being repealed and replaced with a new bill because it can be . . . You sort of have to track those changes on your own.

So that's what's happening here. And according to the minister, this legislation is being recommended by the Uniform Law Conference of Canada, and further adopted by the Law Reform Commission of Saskatchewan. And some of the changes are around terminology which will allow for certain transactions to be reviewed, so there's a few things here.

The goal is to replace outdated laws that govern fraudulent preferences and conveyances in Saskatchewan. A fraudulent preference involves a transfer of property by a debtor to pay one creditor which results in the other creditors being able to pay their debts fully or in part against the debtor. In general terms, a fraudulent conveyance is where a debtor transfers property to reduce their assets.

The current laws fail to address modern commercial transactions and create confusion, according to the minister, and so it certainly seems prudent to create some of these updates. And we'll be watching to make sure that the intent is met of creating a balance between the rights of creditors and the interests of debtors.

It is important that we have an adequate review process and that our legislation is aligned with other jurisdictions. Certainly we want to see these bills modernized and it sounds promising, but we will be watching to make sure there are no unintended consequences of this legislation, and reaching out to stakeholders. Typically we see positive effects when other jurisdictions have made these changes, but just because everyone else is doing it, it doesn't mean it's something that we necessarily need to do. So we'll still do our due diligence and have a look through this. And I know many of my colleagues will want to weigh in, but with that, I would move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 63 for today.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

[16:45]

#### Bill No. 64

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed

motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 64 — *The Reviewable Transactions Consequential Amendments Act, 2021*** [*Loi de 2021 corrélatrice de la loi intitulée The Reviewable Transactions Act*] be now read a second time.]

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

**Ms. Mowat:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. If you thought Bill No. 63 was exciting, you will be very interested to hear about Bill No. 64, which is related to *The Reviewable Transactions Act* and makes consequential amendments.

So this bill contains consequential amendments to the bilingual legislation that's necessary to implement the bill we talked about last, *The Reviewable Transactions Act*. We know that it's important that we have bilingual legislation, although I must admit that I'm not bilingual. I know that we've got some folks around the Assembly here that are, or at least have a working understanding of French. It is still a part of our . . . Just canvassing the room to see what people's linguistic abilities are, Mr. Deputy Speaker. We know it's an important piece to all of this.

And when we see consequential amendments, we know that this is just other Acts that are being amended to put them in line with the new Act that we talked about that's replacing the other one. It all trickles down and there are other effects based on what has been happening here.

So there is another change here that clarifies that a remedy cannot be sought under *The Co-operatives Act* or *The Non-profit Corporations Act* if it's made available under the Act. It certainly is important that legislation be clear and concise in ensuring that the correct remedies are being used. We wouldn't want to create any confusion by having this new bill and then not being clear about how to operationalize it.

I think my remarks have gone well beyond what the minister said about this in his second reading speech. And I know that my colleagues will have a lot to say about this, making sure that we're dotting our i's and crossing our t's. But with that I would move that we adjourn debate on Bill No. 64 for today.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

#### Bill No. 65

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 65 — *The Provincial Court Amendment Act, 2021*** be now read a second time.]

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Eastview.

**Mr. Love:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'm proud to rise late this afternoon to enter into adjourned debate on Bill No. 65,

*The Provincial Court Amendment Act* of 2021. I see that this is making an amendment to the previous Act, *The Provincial Court Act* of 1998, which is in fact the year that I graduated from high school. It was a good year, lots of good . . . 1998. Just for the record, 1998. I'm going to take a quick canvass. Are there any other 1998 grads? Don't think so; probably just me. Glorious year in the history of Matt Love.

I will take a few moments just to look at some of the content of this bill. And I notice that it kind of is focused on one big change, and that is following a recommendation of the 2020 Provincial Court Commission to set the salaries of Provincial Court judges as a percentage of the federally appointed Court of Queen's Bench judges, and that that percentage is at 95 per cent.

Definitely I think that the aims here are achieving things like reducing costs, complexity, and uncertainty of the process. And it was nice as I reviewed the minister's comments that there's some consideration given to what the minister called "extraordinary circumstances," that the presumption of 95 per cent salary will not apply if there are extraordinary circumstances, things that might make following that commitment to 95 per cent undesirable for parties involved.

And so you know, it's nice to see that consideration's been given, when we are tying that commitment of 95 per cent to other commitments, that there's some thoughtfulness put into, you know, the potential for things to change as this is . . . Hopefully it can provide kind of long-term, sustainable targets, and that things can change when we plan for long-term commitments. So it's good to see that the minister has considered that into the future for extraordinary circumstances.

You know, there's maybe one other thing that I want to enter into here, put on the record, is that certainly it's nice to see that with this piece of legislation, the government is showing an interest in the independence of the judiciary and a separation of powers. But you know, this government is kind of talking out of both sides of its mouth. While this bill, that I think we support — and I've listened to the comments of my colleagues in opposition — to support the independence of the judiciary while at the same time, with a separate piece of legislation, looking to create a partisan police force for the legislature that is appointed by and answers to members of cabinet.

And I'm not sure how this government lives with that kind of hypocrisy present each and every day. But that, you know, kind of makes, maybe makes it like less believable that the aims of other legislation they brought forward is as altruistic as they claim it to be. Certainly this puts that into question.

But you know, I think overall, like I do stand up for the independence of the judiciary, as I do for the legislature and for the security provided here, the phenomenal work done by the Sergeant-at-Arms. And I will reserve those comments for when it is my turn to stand and address Bill 70, but I just wanted to make that point as it relates to Bill No. 65.

With that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I will conclude my comments. I think we have lots of expertise in the world of legal affairs in opposition. And I'll continue to listen to my colleagues and their entries into adjourned debates on this topic and on the importance of a fully independent judiciary and how this legislation helps to

achieve that. But with that, I will conclude my comments and move that we adjourn debate on Bill No. 65, *The Provincial Court Amendment Act* of 2021.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

### Bill No. 67

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 67 — The Emergency Planning Amendment Act, 2021 (No. 2)** be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to enter in this afternoon with respect to debate around Bill No. 67, *The Emergency Planning Amendment Act, 2021*. I understand this bill brings about amendments that will provide enhanced protection from liability to individuals and organizations who comply with applicable public health orders, that it also provides a clarified liability protection for the Crown and its agents against COVID-related litigation.

You know, certainly these seem to be very reasonable and important measures to make sure that we're protecting people and organizations against unfounded threats of litigation. We've seen recent threats of litigation against our health care workers, our heroes in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, so we see legislation as welcomed. I may question whether or not there's a question of timeliness for this piece of legislation and would leave that as an open question. You know, this is legislation that's being debated here on the floor of the Assembly, most likely proceeding into the spring session, you know. If it's a given that this legislation is impactful and needed to respond to the threats and challenges that folks are facing, maybe this needs to be treated with more urgency as well.

Certainly those that are obeying public health orders and acting in good faith should not have to deal with the stress of litigation. You know, it's been a challenging time for so many people, so many businesses, so many organizations. We've seen heroic efforts from so many, you know, our friends and neighbours, those working on the front lines of the essential services of our economy through to health care and so many more, those that are doing all they can to protect their livelihood and the jobs of others through their local business as entrepreneurs.

And the stress has been so real and certainly we need to do all we can when we have, you know, measures like masking and proof of vaccines that are in place. We need to make sure that we're doing the heavy lifting and have the backs of businesses and organizations and all across our province on these fronts. Because certainly they shouldn't be losing any more sleep as to whether or not the threat from, you know, a protester out front is, you know, another threat to their livelihood.

And we owe it to them to have their backs because certainly Saskatchewan people have had one another's backs during this pandemic and they've risen to the occasion in an extraordinary way, Mr. Speaker. The heroes, everyday heroes that have worked throughout this period of time, those that are grinding it out, saving lives in our health care system, or those unsung heroes, Mr. Speaker. I think of those often paid a rather low wage as well, working in the grocery stores, but providing such a vital service throughout this pandemic, often subjected to risks to ensure a food system is there for all of us. And I think of those periods of time that we went through where there was, you know, many other measures that shut down certain businesses, but those essential ones continued to roll. Transportation, Mr. Speaker, those in trucking, those in warehousing, those in grocery stores that, you know, are unsung heroes of this pandemic.

And I think of all those heroes and how they rose to the occasion and stepped up for one another, and stepped up, you know, for our province to protect public health. And then I contrast that with the cowardly display of some, a few, Mr. Speaker. Those, that selfish lot that we've seen that have been willing to try to suggest that they're fighting for freedom, so-called freedoms around not being able to wear a mask or freedoms against fighting against simple things like the proof of vaccines, Mr. Speaker. And folks have no right, no right to infect or to harm the life of others.

And at this point, we've got folks out there calling, so-called freedom fighters, Mr. Speaker, who have been a soft and selfish lot when we think of the kind of folks who have really fought for freedoms and the kind of heroism that we've seen throughout this pandemic, Mr. Speaker.

I think of some of the messages I've seen. We've got health care workers that are out there working day in, day out, long hours with insufficient support. Yet I see a sign in front of the hospital. It says, the SHA, the Saskatchewan Health Authority, are serial killers, Mr. Speaker. This is horrible. It's cowardice. It's a disgrace, Mr. Speaker. And it's a contrast to the vast, vast majority in this province, Mr. Speaker. And that's why we've passed legislation to protect hospitals and health care facilities and schools and many more.

I see the time on the clock, Mr. Speaker. This is something that we should care about in this Assembly. We should stand up against that cowardice and lead as a province, Mr. Speaker, and recognize the heroes among us. At this point in time, I'll adjourn debate though with respect to Bill No. 67, *The Emergency Planning Amendment Act, 2021*.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

**Mr. Ottenbreit:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I move that this House do now adjourn.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — It has been moved that this Assembly do now adjourn. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the

motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried. This Assembly now stands adjourned until tomorrow at 1:30 p.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 17:00.]



# GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

## CABINET MINISTERS

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