



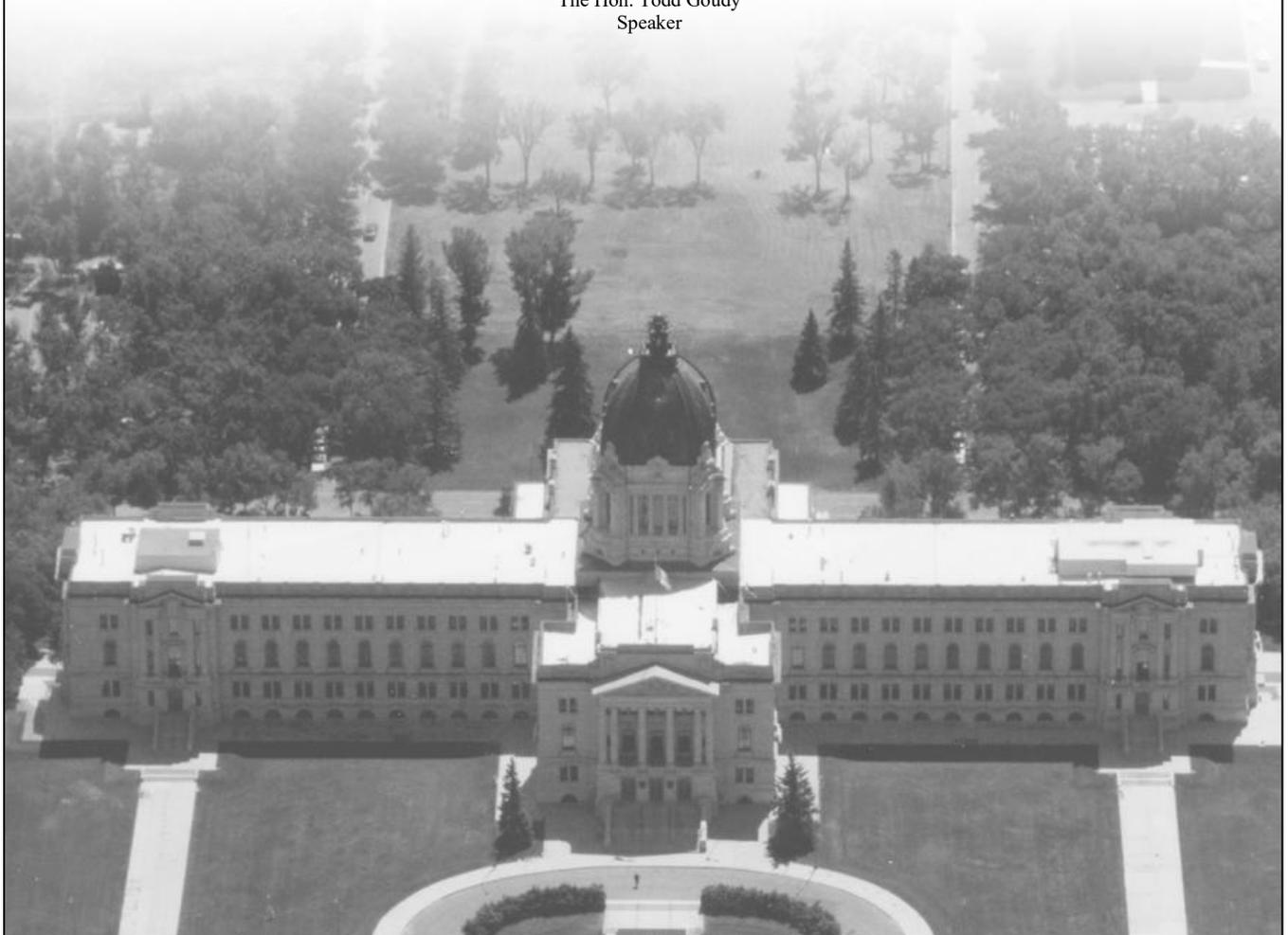
SECOND SESSION — THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE

of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
AND
PROCEEDINGS**

(HANSARD)
Published under the
authority of
The Hon. Todd Goudy
Speaker



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN
2nd Session — 30th Legislature

Lieutenant Governor — Her Honour the Honourable Bernadette McIntyre, S.O.M.

Speaker — Hon. Todd Goudy
Premier — Hon. Scott Moe
Leader of the Opposition — Carla Beck

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Weger, Hon. Michael — Weyburn-Bengough (SP)
Wilson, Hon. Sean — Canora-Pelly (SP)
Wotherspoon, Trent — Regina Mount Royal (NDP)
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Young, Colleen — Lloydminster (SP)

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[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

Hon. Alana Ross: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I request leave for an extended introduction.

Speaker Goudy: — The minister has requested leave for an extended introduction. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Hon. Alana Ross: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, seated in the west gallery and your gallery today are special guests who have joined us today to celebrate the Rendez-vous de la Francophonie 2026.

With us today are students and teachers from Monseigneur de Laval school in the west gallery, whose enthusiasm for French learning is inspiring. Also with them today are their teachers Tricia Wood, Sarah Vidal, Gérald Sévi, and Ornella Tsobze.

Also joining us today we have Denis Simard, president of the Assemblée communautaire fransaskoise, a valued partner to our government in support of French-language services and services for the Fransaskois community across the government.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to recognize Simone Lapierre, a Regina-born athlete who represented Canada at the U20 [under 20] 2023 worlds water polo tournament. Simone spoke at this year's event about her experience and her connection to the francophone community. And her father, Paul, is also joining us here today.

We also have a number of important people from the francophone community. Ronald Labrecque, executive director of ACF [l'Assemblée communautaire fransaskoise], and other ACF staff members: Melchior Niyonkuru, executive director of the Francophone-African Association of Saskatchewan; Ferdinand Bararuzunza, Francophone Immigration Network; Jennifer Wessner, representing official languages commissioner. And I apologize for the pronunciations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in welcoming our guests and in recognizing the meaningful contributions of Saskatchewan's francophone community. Thank you.

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the member from Regina Northeast.

Jacqueline Roy: — Merci, monsieur le Président.

[Translation: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.]

Asking leave for an extended introduction.

Speaker Goudy: — The member has requested leave for an extended introduction. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Jacqueline Roy: — Merci, monsieur le Président. J'aimerais me joindre avec la membre opposée pour dire bienvenue, bienvenue à la communauté fransaskoise qui est ici aujourd'hui avec nous pour très certainement marquer le Mois de la Fransaskoisie ou de la Francophonie.

Alors très certainement en premier on a, avec l'ACF, Monsieur Denis Simard et Monsieur Ronald Labrecque.

Et les élèves de l'École Monseigneur de Laval derrière moi. Pour ceux qui ne le savent pas, moi j'étais à cette école-là depuis la prénatale jusqu'à la douzième année. Alors bienvenue. Bienvenue à des enseignants aussi qui sont très exceptionnels: Madame Tricia Wood, Madame Sarah Vidal, Gérald Sévi, et Madame Ornella Tsobze. J'espère que j'ai bien prononcé vos mots. Désolé, je n'avais pas une copie moi-même.

On est très content que vous êtes ici aujourd'hui. Sachez que votre langue est la bienvenue ici, et que cette semaine et les semaines qui suivent je vais continuer de faire vivre votre langue ici.

Aussi bienvenue à Simone et Paul. Merci de ce que vous faites, très particulièrement pour faire vivre notre culture de différentes façons.

Monsieur Melchior, Monsieur Ferdinand, Madame Jennifer Wessner, bien sûr, qui vient du gouvernement du Canada, nous sommes contents d'être ici parmi vous aujourd'hui au nom de l'opposition officielle et de notre cheffe, Carla Beck.

[Translation: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to join with the member opposite in saying welcome, welcome to the Fransaskois community that is here with us today, most certainly to celebrate the Month of la Fransaskoisie or la Francophonie.

So very much first we have Mr. Denis Simard and Mr. Ronald Labrecque from the ACF.

And the students from École Monseigneur de Laval behind me. For those who aren't aware of it, I attended that school from pre-kindergarten right through to grade 12. So welcome. Welcome as well to some very exceptional teachers: Trisha Wood, Sarah Vidal, Gérald Sévi, and Ornella Tsobze. I hope I pronounced your names correctly. My apologies, I didn't have my own copy.

We are very happy that you are here today. Rest assured that your language is welcome here, and that this week and the weeks to follow I will continue to ensure that your language lives here.

Welcome as well to Simone and Paul. Thank you for what you do, especially for bringing our culture to life in different ways.

Mr. Melchior, Mr. Ferdinand, Ms. Jennifer Wessner, of course, who is here from the Government of Canada, on behalf of the official opposition and our leader, Carla Beck, we are happy to be with you here today.]

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Minister of Community Safety.

Hon. Michael Weger: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce Marley Brown to the Saskatchewan legislature, seated in the back row in the west gallery.

Mr. Speaker, Marley is a mother of three and educational assistant at St. Michael School in Weyburn, and she's a successful entrepreneur. Marley is the owner and operator of Marley's Dance Effex in Weyburn, where my four children have all received exceptional dance instruction over the years and hundreds of other dancers from Weyburn and area received the same. In addition to dance instruction, Mr. Speaker, my family has also received Marley's friendship and my children have received a role model.

And with that, Mr. Speaker, I would like all members to join me in welcoming Marley, Ms. Marley, to her legislature.

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the member from Regina University.

Sally Housser: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm delighted to rise today to welcome about 25 students ranging from grade 5 to 11 seated in the east gallery. These students are here at their legislature with the Regina home educators, led by their teacher Charity Mile.

I remember my first time ever being in a provincial legislature was through a school or an educational tour like this. And so super delighted to welcome all these students to this, their legislature. Very much looking forward to speaking with you after and answering all your questions. Enjoy the show.

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Minister of Energy and Resources.

Hon. Chris Beaudry: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce four guests who are becoming recurring guests here. And I'm going to have to check my notes. I believe it's Emily Beaudry, Sophie Beaudry, Lilly Beaudry, and their mother, Richelle Beaudry. I'd be pleased to meet with them after so they can introduce themselves to me. And I'd like everyone in here to welcome them to their Legislative Assembly.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

Jordan McPhail: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's an honour today to rise to present a petition to the Legislative Assembly to implement rent control now. The undersigned residents of the province wish to bring to the attention the following: that Saskatchewan tenants are currently experiencing the highest level of rent increases in the country; that rent in Saskatchewan has risen by 4 per cent in the last year alone, far outpacing wage growth and putting more pressure on families, seniors, students, and low-income residents; that without rent control, landlords can implement unchecked rent hikes, making housing increasingly unaffordable and unstable; and that with

rent control, residents can budget more effectively, potentially putting them in a position to save for a down payment on their first home.

I'll read the prayer:

We, in the prayer reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Government of Saskatchewan to adopt fair and effective rent control legislation that limits annual rent increases, ensures housing stability, and protects tenants from being priced out of their homes.

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

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Westview.

April ChiefCalf: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present this petition to the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan calling for the repeal of Bill 137.

The undersigned residents of the province of Saskatchewan wish to bring to your attention the following: that queer and trans youth are at a higher risk of homelessness, self-harm, and suicide when denied access to safe and inclusive learning environments; that Bill 137, *The Education (Parents' Bill of Rights) Amendment Act, 2023* directs educators to non-consensually out two-spirit, trans, and nonbinary students under the age of 16 to their parents; that Bill 137 is in direct contravention to *The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code* and Charter of Rights and Freedoms as it relates to gender identity and expression; and that Bill 137 will result in direct harm being inflicted on Saskatchewan students.

And 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 immediately repeal Bill 137 and ensure that all 2SLGBTQI+ students are supported and protected in accordance with *The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code*.

Mr. Speaker, the signatories to this petition reside in Saskatoon. I do so present. Thank you.

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the member from Regina Northeast.

Jacqueline Roy: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to present a petition about something I've heard a lot about in recent years, and especially this weekend. It is a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan to build a school in White City.

Now, Mr. Speaker, as we know, White City and Emerald Park do have very large populations. In fact they're the largest communities in Saskatchewan with no high school. And in my riding, Regina Northeast, that does put a lot of pressure on the high school needs of that area. So I think this is a very smart move, not only for students in east Regina but for White City. We know that parents want their kids close to home. This is a very smart move.

So I will read the prayer:

We, in the prayer reads as follows, call on the Government of Saskatchewan to immediately prioritize the building of a high school in White City with definitive plans to open those doors by the 2028 school year.

The undersigned residents are from White City, Mr. Speaker. I do so present.

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

Nicole Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition calling on the government to reverse the ban on third-party educators from publicly funded schools.

Those who've signed this petition wish to bring to our attention the following: that on August 22nd, 2023, the Saskatchewan government banned all third-party educators from publicly funded schools; those who are banned include organizations like the North East Outreach and Support Services, Partners Family Services, the Prince Albert Sexual Assault Centre, and the West Central Crisis & Family Support Centre, amongst many others. Mr. Speaker, the topic that these organizations teach include things like consent, healthy relationships, and child sexual abuse prevention.

Mr. Speaker, with Saskatchewan's worst-in-the-nation rates in intimate partner violence and sexual abuse, the government should be doing everything possible to reduce these rates, including prevention education. The decision to ban these educators will make Saskatchewan's rates of intimate partner violence, sexual violence, and sexual abuse worse, not better.

I'd like to read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Government of Saskatchewan to immediately reverse its decision to ban third-party educators in Saskatchewan schools and consult with experts in developing a comprehensive curriculum for all Saskatchewan students.

Those who have signed this petition today come from Melville and Yorkton. I do so present.

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Southeast.

Brittney Senger: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present a petition to the Government of Saskatchewan calling on the government to step up for Indigenous students. The undersigned residents wish to call on the government to take immediate action to stand up for all vulnerable students by advocating for full restoration of funding previously supported by Jordan's principle. Jordan's principle was established to ensure that First Nations children have equitable access to the services they need, including supports in schools.

The recent loss of federal funding will leave a significant gap in Saskatchewan classrooms, especially for Indigenous students who rely on inclusive education supports to thrive. Funding cuts

by the federal government have led to the layoff of 80 educational assistants from Saskatoon public schools, with more funding shortfalls expected in September.

I shall read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan stand up for Saskatchewan and advocate for the restoration of federal Jordan's principle funding to support Indigenous students in schools; commit to sustainable, predictable, and equitable provincial funding for inclusive education across Saskatchewan; and ensure educational support workers have the resources and staffing they need to keep classrooms safe and support every student's learning journey.

The undersigned residents reside in Estevan. I do so present.

[13:45]

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Speaker Goudy: — So before reading and receiving petitions, can I just make a quick introduction too? It being Rendez-vous de la Francophonie, I have a special spot in my heart. I got to be a part of that in the past, and I just wanted to . . . Oh, and I wrote it down. It's very, very simple but I'll go by my French from grade 9. You know, I better find it. Oh, shoot.

Well I would like to say — I'll say it in English because it means more — but you know, I think the international love language has been spoken by my friend Denis Simard in my life. He's helped me out. He's looked after me. And I was probably the only monolingual anglophone to be the secretary of francophone affairs for the province. And you know, I just want to say, I appreciate those years. And all the best to our francophone, Fransaskois Saskatchewan citizens. Blessings on you and I hope you have a great time with your Rendez-vous this year. Take care.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

White Butte Museum Celebrates Italian Culture

Nicole Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight a wonderful community celebration that was hosted this January by the White Butte Museum: Salute to Italy. I had the pleasure of joining my colleague from Regina South Albert and residents of White City and surrounding area as we gathered at the White City Community Centre to immerse ourselves in the rich culture, flavours, and sounds of Italy.

The evening was a tremendous success. Everyone had a great time enjoying a delicious meal, warm conversation, and we were even treated to the sounds of beautiful Italian music performed by the Regina Mandolin Orchestra.

The White Butte Museum engages the entire local region in its cultural programming including White City, Pilot Butte, Balgonie, and the village and RM [rural municipality] of

Edenwold. This annual cultural dinner plays an essential role in supporting the White Butte Museum's mission of providing the local community with programming that celebrates heritage and honours the diverse cultural and natural perspectives of the region.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members join me in congratulating the White Butte Museum and the White City Community Centre for hosting yet another outstanding and meaningful event. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the member from Yorkton.

Yorkton Lions Club Strengthens Community Pride

David Chan: — Mr. Speaker, today I'm thrilled to recognize the Yorkton Lions Club for their outstanding contributions to our community and their continued commitment to service. This past year the Lions once again demonstrated what dedicated volunteers can accomplish through their leadership of the Legacy Co-op Wonders of Winter festival.

What began as a vision to brighten the holiday season has quickly become a cherished tradition for families across Yorkton and the surrounding region. Thousands of visitors travel through the beautifully lit displays at the Yorkton City Campground, creating memories with their families while celebrating the spirit of the season. Events like Wonders of Winter do more than bring joy during the holidays; they strengthen community pride and bring people together.

Beyond this remarkable event, the Yorkton Lions Club continues to give generously to organizations that support the well-being of our residents. Over the past year, they have contributed to initiatives such as the Yorkton Regional Health Centre radiothon, SaskAbilities, and programs that support seniors in our community and much more. These donations make a meaningful difference in the lives of many people across Yorkton and the surrounding area.

Mr. Speaker, the Yorkton Lions Club exemplifies the very best of community service. Their dedication, generosity, and countless volunteer hours continue to enrich our city and strengthen the fabric of our community. I ask all members of this Assembly to join me in thanking the Yorkton Lions Club for their remarkable contribution to Yorkton and our province. Thank you, Yorkton Lions Club.

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Westview.

Students for Justice and Peace Fundraising Gala

April ChiefCalf: — Mr. Speaker, on February 7th I had the privilege of attending the Students for Justice and Peace third annual gala in Saskatoon. Concerned about the situation in Palestine, several students from the University of Saskatchewan formed Students for Justice and Peace in order to raise money and awareness. As well, Students for Justice and Peace supports other communities in need, both locally and globally.

Over the course of 2024 and 2025, they raised \$46,000 for Palestine and \$11,000 for Sudan, Congo, and Bangladesh. They

have also organized meals for unhoused people in Saskatoon and collected donations for local shelters.

This year's gala included several inspiring speakers, but I wish to make special mention of Maryam, a 12-year-old girl from Palestine, who addressed the humanitarian crisis with the following words:

To those who say the situation is too complicated, I reply: humanitarian need is never complicated. A child's hunger is not complicated. A mother's search for clean water is not complicated. A doctor's need for medical supplies is not complicated. Let us be people who choose compassion. Let us demand that humanitarian aid reaches those who need it most.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Maryam for her wise words, the student organizers of Students for Justice and Peace, and all the speakers who shared their truth at the gala. Thank you.

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

Social Workers Serve with Compassion

Megan Patterson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to join with the Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers to recognize Social Work Week, which has been proclaimed from March 16th to 21st in Saskatchewan. This year we join social workers across our province and the country in marking a remarkable milestone — the 100th anniversary of the Canadian Association of Social Workers.

Social workers contribute in countless ways: helping families find stability, supporting people through life transitions, offering guidance through moments of crisis, and working collaboratively with other professionals and community partners to improve outcomes for those they serve. Their work is often emotionally demanding yet grounded in compassion and dedication to helping others.

This year's theme — Registered Social Workers: Rooted in Relationship, Leading through Change — speaks to the heart of the profession. Social workers build strong, trusting relationships. Those connections help individuals and communities navigate change, strengthen resilience, and create opportunities for healing and growth.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of this Assembly, I want to express our sincere gratitude to all social workers for serving Saskatchewan people. Your contributions help build stronger, healthier communities across our province. Thank you.

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the member from Regina Mount Royal.

Provincial Debt

Trent Wotherspoon: — 40billion.moe, Mr. Speaker — that's where the people of Saskatchewan can go see just how damaging this Premier's fiscal mess is to our province. When he took office, the debt was \$20 billion. Now it's \$40 billion, and it's headed to 57 billion. That's right: \$57 billion. This Premier's

debt pile is nearly double that racked up by Premier Grant Devine and triple that of Premier Wall. The people of Saskatchewan are now paying \$2,500 per household to bankers on Bay Street and Wall Street just to pay the interest and to service the debt. Eight years of reckless taxing and squandering and record-breaking debt.

It's time for change. We need a government to get our finances in order. We need a government that stops making everyday Saskatchewan people and families pay the price for that government's mismanagement. We need a government that will open the books. My message to this Premier: come 2028, this fiscal mess will come to an end once and for all.

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Minister of Community Safety, the member from Weyburn-Bengough.

Dance Season in Saskatchewan

Hon. Michael Weger: — Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today as a proud dance dad, and right now in Saskatchewan we are in the absolute thick of what we call dance season. In my constituency, the Ogema Dance Competition was the first weekend of March. Marley's Dance Effex just hosted the Inspirations of Dance competition over the past five days, and next weekend is the Avonlea Dance Competition. And we aren't done there. From April 9th to 12th, De Tricky Feet Dance Studio will host their competition in Weyburn. And then once the competitions are done, well, Mr. Speaker, the season wraps up with each studio putting on their own recital.

To help explain how important these dance studios are in our province, I will use Marley's Dance Effex as my example. In Weyburn, Marley's Dance Effex currently provides dance instruction to 170 students, Mr. Speaker. This all started when Marley picked up and moved from Moose Jaw at the age of 21 to pursue a dream. In 2008 she purchased a dance studio building, and Mr. Speaker, this weekend her 17th annual Inspirations of Dance competition hosted 1,152 dancers from 23 different studios across the province.

Our dancers learn discipline, teamwork, and they build lifelong friendships. The parents and family members get the joy of watching their loved one display their talent. And the local businesses, Mr. Speaker — what a benefit to them. Thousands and thousands of dollars flowed into Weyburn this past weekend, and that's just at the Starbucks.

To all the dancers across Saskatchewan participating in dance season, I hope your jetés are grand and your fouettés are on point.

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Premier.

Statements in Party Fundraising Email

Hon. Scott Moe: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday the NDP [New Democratic Party] chief of staff and newly appointed campaign director sent out a fundraising email. And I want to quote from that email:

Just take a moment and think of all of the faces of all of the ones you hate so much: Scott Moe, Tim McLeod, Jeremy Harrison, Jeremy Cockrill.

“The ones you hate so much,” Mr. Speaker. That's the Opposition Leader's chief of staff in a fundraising email, telling the people in Saskatchewan communities, think of that young father's face; think of this husband and young father's face, Mr. Speaker; think of this father's face and hate them.

Mr. Speaker, this is sick. And in today's political climate, promoting this kind of hatred is not only careless, Mr. Speaker, but it is dangerous. The leader of the NDP opposition's chief of staff was just appointed campaign director late last week, and his first order of business was to elevate hate against fathers and husbands and individuals who are serving this province.

The Leader of the Opposition, I would say, today has a choice to make: she can endorse this hate or she can say that it is wrong, it is sick, and it is unacceptable. And fire that individual for promoting hate in this province of Saskatchewan.

STATEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

Ruling on a Point of Order

Speaker Goudy: — So before question period, I'm going to speak to a point of order from last week. On Thursday, March 12th, 2026 the Opposition House Leader rose on a point of order addressing to the Speaker, requesting that I explain specifically which rule the member for Regina South Albert violated. I commented that it was concerning repetitive questions and that I would get back to the House on Monday with more clarity.

So I have brought some of our rule books, and we'll read a few portions that are applicable. First of all, from our *Rules and Procedures of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan*, I guess when you look it says:

The rules of debate shall apply to Question Period except that the Speaker shall not entertain points of order during Question Period.

That is rule 20(4). And so Rules of Debate, 51(m) says “. . . [persistent, irrelevant] or tedious repetition, either of his or her own arguments or of the arguments used by other Members.”

And though that's not specific concerning debate, I do want to touch on . . . or sorry, on the question period, I do want to read from Beauchesne's, 6th Edition, page 124. It says, point 428:

“A question . . . must not:

(d) repeat in substance a question already answered, or to which an answer has been refused.”

So I think that's fairly clear.

Also *House of Commons Procedure and Practice*, just for some clarity on the questions because I know there was some concern being raised:

The Speaker ensures questions and answers follow parliamentary rules but does not judge the quality of questions or answers.

In response to a question, a minister may provide an answer,

defer an answer, explain briefly why an answer cannot be provided or even say nothing at all.

11.12 The Speaker ensures that replies adhere to the standards of order, decorum and parliamentary language, but is not responsible for the quality or content of replies to questions.

And in again our Saskatchewan rule book: “Responses shall be relevant to the question, but a Minister of the Crown may decline to answer or may take notice of a question.”

So I also wanted to make a point that I couldn’t find in the rules, but I think at some point repetitive questions can bring disorder to the Chamber, which is the rule that the Speaker has the right and responsibility to keep order. And the same question was asked six times, and I had asked that we would move on from that. So that is the first point that I wanted to make.

[14:00]

If anyone has any concerns with that, I suppose there is a spot in the rules where we can bring up a concern of the Speaker’s conduct. Because one of the concerns I had with Thursday was that a point of order was brought up by the Opposition leader of the House concerning a ruling of the Speaker.

The role of this Chair is to uphold the rules and make sure that all members have their rights and privileges upheld but, according to rules of debate, to “. . . reflect on the conduct of the Speaker or other presiding officer except by way of a substantive motion with notice.” So that would need to be done in a different way than bringing up a point of order or involving the Speaker or any presiding officer or Officer of the Assembly in the debate.

So I would say that Thursday, some lessons learned.

One of the clear rules of this Chamber would be that when the Speaker is standing and putting a question, no member may enter, walk out or across the Assembly, or make any noise or disturbance, let alone while I was making comments. And I don’t think I was being angry or, you know, lashing out. I think I was fairly rational in my comments.

And a statement was made when I was talking about my responsibilities that I was also supposed to remain neutral. So when the Speaker stands as the representative of this Legislative Assembly, they’re supposed to keep order. When he stands and there’s heckling and discussion and debating going on, like, I don’t know what you expect that my role would be to do at that point.

And so I would hope that, moving forward as an Assembly, that we honour the people of this good province. And that we show the level of decorum that needs to be held and that we would follow the rules. If there’s questions that you would like to ask me afterwards, I don’t think any of you in this place would feel you couldn’t contact me afterwards for clarification.

So unless it is about my conduct and you would like to ask by way of a substantive motion with notice, I would ask that we don’t in future have a point of order on the Speaker’s judgment for clarification in this Chamber. Because that, I believe, is not

showing honour to the role of the Chair in this Assembly.

QUESTION PERIOD

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Government’s Fiscal Management

Carla Beck: — Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt about it: Saskatchewan people are angry. They’re frustrated — whatever word you want to use — because they are working harder and harder, but they’re falling further and further behind. They’re struggling to make ends meet.

Yet we have a premier who, continually, he stands up and tells them how good they have it. Even after they’ve taxed groceries and kids’ clothing. Even after they’ve downloaded to municipalities to the point of jacking up property taxes. And, Mr. Speaker, after rate hikes to car insurance and to power bills. Even after they were promised that simply wasn’t going to happen.

Mr. Speaker, then lo and behold, this last Friday on a sneaky weekend news dump, even more bad news for the people of this province. This time they’re going after hunters and fishers and skilled workers, and they’re going after drivers again.

Mr. Speaker, to the Premier: when does it all end?

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Scott Moe: — Mr. Speaker, and the fact of the matter is, is that today our province of Saskatchewan is the most affordable province in the nation of Canada to live, Mr. Speaker.

We are seeing investment come into this province, creating careers, Mr. Speaker. Just this morning, \$12 billion into an AI [artificial intelligence] fabric data centre, bringing investments in this province by project to 60, Mr. Speaker, with over \$62 billion of private sector investment creating jobs from corner to corner in this province.

And that is fair. This is a fair debate for the floor of this Assembly, which was where Saskatchewan people send us, from a policy perspective, Mr. Speaker, to debate, not hate. What we saw are some very hateful comments coming from a member of that caucus office, Mr. Speaker. And I would ask the Leader of the Opposition to remove that individual and those hateful comments from this building.

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Carla Beck: — Mr. Speaker, if the Premier wants to have a debate, who wants to talk about timeline, about putting a target on people, vulnerable people in this province, we can have that debate. But he’s not going to come out very good in that debate, Mr. Speaker. I’d be happy to talk about it.

But right now, Mr. Speaker, we’re going to get underneath that spin and talk about the reality in this province right now. Four in ten people in this province are borrowing money just to pay for food. We had 500 businesses close under that Premier’s watch, most of them saying that it was too costly to remain open in this province. And right now we have people leaving to the point of

population decline, something that hasn't happened for 20 years in this province. Mr. Speaker, the Premier's response: well that has been to jack up even more fees, this time on some of the favourite pastimes in this province like hunting and fishing.

Mr. Speaker, when is that Premier going to understand? And when is he going to stop making the people of this province pay for the fiscal mess that he's created?

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Scott Moe: — Mr. Speaker, I just want to correct an inaccuracy brought to the floor of the Assembly when it comes to the businesses in the province. Statistics Canada from 2018 to '25 is a net gain in the province of 7,583 businesses . . . have moved to Saskatchewan. We saw significant investment this morning by one of those businesses, Mr. Speaker.

With respect to the Fish and Wildlife Development Fund, Mr. Speaker, we have a great wildlife and fishing resource in this province. And investments through the Fish and Wildlife Development Fund are going to ensure that that resource is there for future generations, Mr. Speaker.

These are precisely the types of debates that Saskatchewan people send us to the floor of this Assembly for, Mr. Speaker, not for hateful comments of which we saw earlier this week or over the course of the weekend. And so I would ask the Leader of the Opposition: does she endorse those comments, or is she going to remove the person that made those comments from her caucus and party?

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

SaskPower Rates

Carla Beck: — How very precious of the Premier to clutch his pearls and talk about hate when he knows what he did in the last election. If he wants to debate that, I'll be happy to stand beside him and debate it in that rotunda today, Mr. Speaker.

But right now what we have is a desperate Premier who says one thing and then goes on to do another thing. He's done that with the budget, and he's also done that when it comes to SaskPower rates.

In November the board met. In December we asked the Premier about it. And he said, and I quote from the record, "There's been no discussion on this side of the House with respect to hiking power rates." January 2nd, we saw the Sask Party government announce not one but two rate hikes. And, Mr. Speaker, the timing of those announcements or the timeline here tells me that the Premier understood that this was going to be incredibly unpopular.

When did he know that he was going to hike power rates?

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Scott Moe: — Mr. Speaker, in the spirit of asking questions and providing answers, it was after that question was asked on the floor of the Assembly.

With respect to the power rates, the affordable, reliable power that we provide in this province, we saw the most significant investment in just that affordable and reliable power this morning with a 300-megawatt data centre that's being constructed just outside Regina, Mr. Speaker. The largest data centre, once it's up and running, not only in the nation but one of the largest in the world. A \$12 billion investment, part of \$62 billion private sector capital that's being invested and creating jobs from corner to corner in this province, Mr. Speaker.

And I would say again that this is a fair debate for the floor of this Assembly. This is why the people of Saskatchewan send their MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly] here, Mr. Speaker. And what I would ask the Leader of the Opposition today is, let's have that debate. Let's get rid of the hate, Mr. Speaker. Let's remove that member that had those hateful comments, not towards the policy . . .

[Interjections]

Speaker Goudy: — Order, please.

Hon. Scott Moe: — That hate — not towards the policy, Mr. Speaker, but specific towards individuals, fathers, and husbands on this side of the House.

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Carla Beck: — Well, Mr. Speaker, I've already offered to go into the rotunda right now and have that debate with the Premier. And we could talk about timelines and directing hate to vulnerable people in this province.

But, Mr. Speaker, let me get this straight. The Premier just stood up, and he told us that after December, after he stood with hand over heart and told the people of this province that we weren't even considering a rate hike at SaskPower, he expects the people of this province to believe that come January 2nd, all of a sudden all of that work had been done, and he simply didn't know about it then. Mr. Speaker, it honestly stretches belief for the people of this province.

But I will ask him: does he understand what the impact of those SaskPower rates that he up until now pretended he didn't know about, what they're doing to people in this province, to farmers, to . . .

Speaker Goudy: — I'm going to ask the member to withdraw the "pretended not to know about." We have to . . . This is debate. We take people by their words.

Carla Beck: — Mr. Speaker, I apologize and withdraw.

Hon. Scott Moe: — I will just clarify my previous answer, Mr. Speaker. It was after December the 4th that cabinet considered that item. There's multiple options obviously that cabinet would consider at that point in time, Mr. Speaker.

And I would say about impact of the power rates, the affordability and the reliability of the power grid that we have in Saskatchewan: we saw a vote of confidence with a \$12 billion investment by Bell Canada today. One of the top three investments in the history of our nation, Mr. Speaker, one of

those other three actually being a potash mine here in the province of Saskatchewan as well. Part of \$62 billion worth of investment, 60 private sector projects that are moving forward, creating jobs in this province, Mr. Speaker.

The impact by contrast would be what we see happening in British Columbia, where they have a 14 per cent power rate increase just from 2024 to 2026, Mr. Speaker.

Again this is exactly what Saskatchewan people sent MLAs, their members of this Legislative Assembly, to the floor of this Assembly, is to have that debate on the floor of this Assembly, not to spread hateful comments that we saw this weekend, Mr. Speaker. And I would yet again ask the Leader of the Opposition, remove the individual from their caucus and from their party that made those hateful comments.

[Interjections]

Speaker Goudy: — Member . . . Please. Member from Saskatoon Meewasin, please.

I recognize the member from Saskatoon South Albert.

Aleana Young: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It is patently clear that this is a government who has forgotten who they work for. They're supposed to work for the people of Saskatchewan. And those people, Mr. Speaker, they deserve some respect. And they deserve some basic accountability and transparency when it comes to their bills and how this government is piling on month after month.

So first, Mr. Speaker, we saw for weeks here the Premier claimed there were no power bill hikes coming, despite ramming through nearly a billion dollars of extra borrowing at SaskPower with no oversight at committee just two days before he said there were no bill hikes coming.

Now his minister said that they couldn't betray cabinet confidence. So evidently, as we heard, the Premier was informed at a cabinet meeting. When was the Premier informed that he would be hiking SaskPower bills?

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Minister of CIC [Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan].

Hon. Jeremy Harrison: — Thank you. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. This has been a question that's been addressed repeatedly. The Premier just addressed it. Again, Mr. Speaker, I won't retread that same territory.

But what we saw today was really one of the most significant investments in the history of the country, Mr. Speaker, that was made by Bell Canada. This is a great day for the province of Saskatchewan, something that is incredibly positive, that's . . . Well, Mr. Speaker, I know the members opposite obviously don't support this announcement. But \$12 billion investment, Mr. Speaker, that is going to result in a positive future for literally thousands of families here in this province. That's going to be an incredible benefit for the University of Regina, for Sask Polytechnic, for the city of Regina, and for the entire province, Mr. Speaker.

[14:15]

And this would never have happened but for the fact that we moved forward with our energy security strategy, a responsible approach to moving forward. Industry are literally voting with their investment, their confidence in the direction that this government is taking.

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the member from Regina University.

Sally Houser: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's been addressed a couple of times today. We're here in this legislature to represent the concerns of our constituents. So as long as my constituents keep asking why all their bills are going up, I'm going to keep asking it here in this legislature.

Mr. Speaker, the people of my constituency of Regina University are struggling to pay their bills. They already have to pay the Sask Party government's PST [provincial sales tax] on groceries and kids' clothes. Now they see their hunting and fishing licences go up as well as just driving their car, and now they're facing two power bill hikes in a year.

Mr. Speaker, the Premier refuses to say when he signed off on the deal. When did the Premier know about the SaskPower rate hikes?

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Minister of CIC.

Hon. Jeremy Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I've addressed that question about six times as you noted last week, and it has been addressed repeatedly here today . . . What I would say though, Mr. Speaker, is today is a great day for the province of Saskatchewan. A \$12 billion investment made by Bell Canada into our AI ecosystem, Mr. Speaker, that is going to make a tremendous difference not just for Saskatchewan but for the entire country, Mr. Speaker.

This is going to have an impact nationally as a part of our AI sovereignty and data sovereignty backbone that Bell is building across the country. We're proud to be a partner, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of SaskPower, on behalf of SaskTel, on behalf of SaskEnergy, who have all been very closely working with Bell in making today a reality.

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Chief Mistawasis.

Don McBean: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Premier refuses to clear the air on when he knew about the SaskPower rate hike. He owes it to the Saskatchewan people. He told the House there was no discussions. A few weeks later he jacked it up. It doesn't add up.

And I might just say as a retired teacher/principal, whenever I was dealing with a mistake, we admitted it and it went away. But when we didn't take responsibility, it went this big. And I feel that lesson is lost on this government.

When did the Premier know about the Sask Party rate hike?

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Minister of CIC.

Hon. Jeremy Harrison: — Well thank you. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And we have answered this question over and over and over again. And this is precisely why the people of this province don't take this opposition seriously.

I'll tell you the other reason that they don't take this opposition seriously, Mr. Speaker. As we saw, in their own report that they released on Friday, Mr. Speaker, their rock-solid commitment to putting the carbon tax back on your SaskPower bills, Mr. Speaker, and also their rock-solid commitment to meet the federal Trudeau-Guilbeault clean electricity regulations, Mr. Speaker. Those are two things that we have been very clear we are not going to do, even though the NDP stand up day after day and demand it.

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the member from Regina Wascana Plains.

Brent Blakley: — Mr. Speaker, more than two dozen times we've asked this Premier the question, and still no answer. When we ask questions in the House in question period, Mr. Speaker, we're asking on behalf of our constituents, the people of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, when the government rises to answer, they should be answering to the people of Saskatchewan. The people of Saskatchewan want to know what the Premier knew and when he knew it. We pay the second-highest power rates in the nation, Mr. Speaker, and now they're going up again twice.

Mr. Speaker, when did the Premier sign off on the \$136 billion SaskPower rate hike?

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Minister of CIC.

Hon. Jeremy Harrison: — Well thank you. Thank very much, Mr. Speaker. As we've said, the question on SaskPower was considered after the conclusion of the Assembly's sitting, which I've related to repeatedly in the rotunda and in the House as well, Mr. Speaker.

But we are happy to talk about SaskPower and our path forward, unlike the members opposite, Mr. Speaker, because our path and our energy security strategy are resulting in incredible benefits and investment here in this province. Two uranium projects moving forward, Mr. Speaker, just in the last couple of weeks. A potash project that we're getting closer to production on. A copper mine under construction. And today a \$12 billion investment from Bell Canada. All of these things only possible because we actually are producing baseload power in this province that is able to power those projects.

We have a great future, Mr. Speaker, and we're going to continue on the path that we're on.

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the member from Regina Mount Royal.

Provincial Budget

Trent Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, now we all know the real reason that Sask Party government keeps hiking taxes and costs for the hard-working people of this province, making life less

affordable. It's because they've blown — budget after budget after budget — the dollars of the hard-working people of this province. He's more than doubled the provincial debt.

You don't have to take my word for it, Mr. Speaker. You can pull up your phone, and you can look at 40billion.moe. It'll show you the provincial debt is nearly \$40 billion and climbing fast all the way to \$57 billion, rising every second.

To the Premier: how many more billions is he adding to our provincial debt in this upcoming budget?

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Jim Reiter: — Mr. Speaker, I'll save the corrections to the NDP math for a different day. But I will say this: the debt the member's referring to was used . . .

[Interjections]

Speaker Goudy: — There's been a lot of talk. I think we've all noticed. I think we deserve to show ourselves some respect and sit and listen when the questions and answers are being given. There was a teacher, spoke out about some lessons he learned from the classroom, and I don't think we could hurt to hearken back to our days in the classroom and show some respect for one another and for the members and the people that we all say we're serving.

So, Minister of Finance, please.

Hon. Jim Reiter: — Mr. Speaker, that debt was used to construct hospitals and schools and long-term care facilities and highways to serve a growing population in this province. And what the member opposite neglected to point out is, he tries to position it like somehow we're in horrible fiscal condition, Mr. Speaker.

The simple fact is, on debt, we have the second-best net debt-to-GDP [gross domestic product] in the entire country. And, Mr. Speaker, we have the best credit rating in the entire country.

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the member from Regina Mount Royal.

Trent Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, a year ago that Finance minister said we'd have a \$12 million surplus. Billion dollar miss, Mr. Speaker.

You know, he and the Premier would have us believe that he's got an exceptional financial record. And in a way, he's true. He's added over \$20 billion to the provincial debt, more than doubling it. That's an achievement. Not even premier Devine can match that one. But Saskatchewan people shouldn't have to pay the price for second-to-none financial mismanagement. And yet their costs just keep getting driven up and up by that mismanaging government.

How many more taxes and costs is that Premier going to pile onto the hard-working people of Saskatchewan to cover his own ballooning debt and his gross mismanagement?

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Jim Reiter: — Mr. Speaker, the member opposite might want to do his homework. This party, this government stands on a record of tax reduction. Education property tax, which ballooned under the NDP — sliced, slashed under this government, Mr. Speaker. Income taxes, we've seen income taxes continue to decrease, Mr. Speaker . . .

[Interjections]

Speaker Goudy: — Member from Saskatoon Meewasin, that's the second calling of you to order, please.

Hon. Jim Reiter: — Mr. Speaker, we're very proud of our record of tax reductions. And the great citizens of this great province can expect more of the same. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon South Albert.

SaskPower Rates

Aleana Young: — I've got to give it to the minister — that's something to get out with a straight face. But on December 4th, the Premier, he told this House that rate increases were not being considered by his government. And then less a than a month later, this government said that utility rates would be going up by 136 million bucks.

But that's just the tip of the iceberg, Mr. Speaker, because we know that their plan is to actually double SaskPower rates. Does the Premier really think that people can afford to pay twice as much for power?

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Minister of CIC.

Hon. Jeremy Harrison: — Well, Mr. Speaker, I can tell you Bell Canada wouldn't be investing \$12 billion if they thought we were going to double power rates.

The reality is that we have an energy security strategy that is going to result in reliable and affordable power, that's showing results to uranium mines, Mr. Speaker. A potash mine, the second-largest investment in the history of Canada, along with the investment made today, Mr. Speaker, the third-largest private sector investment in the history of Canada.

We also know what the opposition's approach is, which would double power rates, but in five years, Mr. Speaker. Because they would shut down our thermal legacy generation assets, replace it with some combination of something — we're not quite sure yet — at the cost of \$21 billion, Mr. Speaker, which would double your power rates in five years.

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the member from Regina South Albert.

Aleana Young: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's clear that the crack research team these guys had in on Friday can't read a graph to save their life. Because while those guys have his plan that he drew up on the back of a napkin with the Premier, we consulted the experts. Mr. Speaker, we hired the same experts used by that minister's close personal friend Doug Ford. And their independent analysis, Mr. Speaker, it showed that the

people in this province, the industries in this province, will be paying twice as much for power under that minister and that Premier's plan.

Why is the Sask Party government doubling the power bills of people, families, farms, and small businesses in this province?

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Minister of CIC.

Hon. Jeremy Harrison: — Well I can tell you we didn't have a Quebec consultant do our plan, Mr. Speaker. I'll tell you who we worked very, very closely with. That was the professional public servants at the Saskatchewan Power Corporation, Mr. Speaker, who know this power grid better than any other individuals in the entire province. Those . . .

[Interjections]

Speaker Goudy: — I don't know what to do. Please. I don't know. It used to work when I was a kid. You'd ask people to . . . Please.

Hon. Jeremy Harrison: — Well once again, Mr. Speaker, this is why these members can't be taken seriously. They hire a Quebec consultant to do a study on the Saskatchewan power grid, Mr. Speaker. We rely on the advice of our professionals at the Saskatchewan Power Corporation, who work extraordinarily hard, who provide great advice, and who know our grid better than anybody else in this province.

And that is paying results, Mr. Speaker. Today we saw a \$12 billion investment because we actually have allocatable, dispatchable power to power a 300-megawatt data centre, Mr. Speaker.

These announcements do not happen but for the fact that we have worked with SaskPower on creating a very, very well-thought-out plan that's going to take us to nuclear power into the future, Mr. Speaker, getting there in a responsible way.

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the member from Regina Rochdale.

Provision of Health Care

Joan Pratchler: — Mr. Speaker, I'm glad to be back in the House. This last week I spent four days sitting in hallways at Royal University Hospital. I was sitting with my mom. She's 89 years old, has dementia, and is living with Alzheimer's. Last Sunday she had a terrible stroke. Everywhere I looked in those hallways were seniors and their families, like ours. And they were crying, and they looked defeated because they were scared. They were confused. They didn't know why they were in a bed in a hallway. And you know, Mr. Speaker, neither do I.

Can the minister explain to me why seniors who have had strokes, or those who had heart attacks, those who are dying of cancer, are spending days on end in hospital hallways waiting for care?

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Jeremy Cockrill: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And, Mr.

Speaker, it's good to see the member back. And I sincerely hope that her mother is doing better now.

[14:30]

Mr. Speaker, it's stories like these that are the reason behind why we're making significant investments into additional acute care capacity. 109 acute care beds at Saskatoon City Hospital, 40 of which are now open and accepting patients, Mr. Speaker. Just last week as part of our patients-first plan we announced 36 new acute care beds at Royal University, 24 beds at St. Paul's Hospital, Mr. Speaker.

This combined with additional investments in long-term care that we're seeing in Regina and communities right across the province means that patients can flow better through our system and receive the right care at the right time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Goudy: — So there's not any points of order, but I have a few. I don't know if it's normal for the Speaker to stand up afterwards and have points of order, but there were so many things, I didn't want to keep stopping.

But, Member from Regina South Albert, you said, I don't know how he can hold a straight face. What does that connect to? Like, lying, gambling? I think we've become so used to just throwing out comments and not realizing what is meant by it.

And you know, some names were used. You know, cute ideas but still breaking rules. I won't even mention it because then again it mentions what it was. But there were rules being broken, and you know, the amount of conversation and the volume of the place.

So this is Monday. We're a couple weeks in. So I'm going to ask everybody to consider tomorrow coming here and asking ourselves, like, do we need to make the Speaker be on his toes and the Clerks and everybody all the time? Or do we want to just ask good questions and give good answers?

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Minister of CIC.

New Artificial Intelligence Data Centre

Hon. Jeremy Harrison: — Thank you. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It really is a pleasure today to be able to rise to talk about something we had a bit of an opportunity to allude to in question period. But this is a remarkable investment from Bell Canada Enterprises into this province that was announced just today, Mr. Speaker.

Mirko Bibic, the CEO [chief executive officer] of Bell Canada, along with the Premier, announced a new \$12 billion investment into this province, really of historic magnitude; one of the largest private sector investments in the history not just of Saskatchewan but in the history of Canada, Mr. Speaker. An investment that really is going to have generational significance in providing that AI fabric that Bell have talked about, the AI backbone and the data sovereignty backbone, not just for us here in this province but really for the entire country, Mr. Speaker. And Mirko Bibic

spoke about that during his remarks as we made the announcement today at the University of Regina.

Really this reflects what has been a significant advantage, I think, that we have in this province. And I spoke about it in that we have . . . You know, climate is a big advantage, to be candid, with regard to data centres. There's a measure that's called the power usage efficiency, which is really how you measure the efficiency of large data centres or AI centres. We are one of the most efficient of almost anywhere in the world, Mr. Speaker, simply because it's cold here half the year and that really is a major advantage as far as cooling.

So we have had, you know, many, many inquiries over the course of the last number of months, particularly since we had announced our energy security strategy. And it was clear that we actually had power to allocate, which is really a unique position, Mr. Speaker, for a jurisdiction to be in. We are one of the only jurisdictions in North America that is in a position to actually have dispatchable baseload — always on — power, which is what is required for a facility like the AI data centre that Bell announced today. Really it's a prerequisite for an investment like that to be made.

So we had many, many proponents who sought to speak to us and really put us in a position where we could work with a preferred partner. And Bell has been a partner with SaskTel for many, many years. We compete in some areas, but we do collaborate in a lot of areas as well. And this was an area where, between SaskTel, SaskPower, SaskEnergy, we really saw an opportunity for collaboration that would result in benefits for our Crown corporations, but also would result in the opportunity for Bell to make this sort of investment, which is really uniquely situated to our province here in Saskatchewan.

Outside of the \$12 billion of direct investment, this is going to create 1,600 jobs, Mr. Speaker — about 800 during the construction phase, 80 on site, and then about 700 off site that will be in the spaces of research and development and utilization of that large compute power, Mr. Speaker, by Bell, which Mr. Bibic spoke to as well, the implications of that. So enormous jobs that are going to be coming along with what is one of the largest investments in the history of Saskatchewan.

And this is moving forward very, very quickly. Construction is going to be starting this spring, so literally within weeks. And I want to really give credit to a lot of our partners in this as well because this has really been a team Saskatchewan effort, Mr. Speaker. The University of Regina have been involved, Sask Polytechnic have been deeply involved, the George Gordon First Nation have been deeply involved, along with the municipal governments: the RM of Sherwood, who will be hosting this; the city of Regina. Mayor Bachynski was at the announcement. We thank them for their support as well. The Sask Chamber were there and obviously very supportive of this investment as well.

And along with our Crown corporations, which I had already mentioned, who have been deeply, deeply engaged in getting to the point we're at today, which is a generationally significant investment for the province. Adding to many others — \$62 billion of projects under way here in Saskatchewan right now, 60 projects under way, and only because we actually have power to allocate to make this happen, Mr. Speaker.

So I want to thank our team at SaskPower, I want to thank our team at SaskTel, our team at SaskEnergy. This is a great day for the province, Mr. Speaker. It's incredibly exciting, and it's going to make a difference in the lives of thousands of people.

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Southeast.

Brittney Senger: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thanks to the minister for his remarks. We support investment in Saskatchewan to create good-paying jobs. We need more jobs, especially after losing more than 5,000 just last month. Data centres can play a pivotal role in our economy and can tap into potential that exists in every corner of this province.

People across Saskatchewan have reasonable questions that need to be answered to prevent widespread speculation and even backlash that could jeopardize this important project. Let me be clear, we don't want to see that happen.

The key questions include, what will this do for the community? Saskatchewan will be joining Manitoba, Alberta, Ontario, Quebec, BC [British Columbia], New Brunswick, and other Canadian jurisdictions in large-scale AI data centres. The community benefits to Regina, to the RM, and to Saskatchewan need to be clear and positive.

Currently in Saskatchewan we have no regulations that define how centres like this can be built and can operate. Other provinces in Canada have laid out strategies in advance, and we need to make sure that we get this right. That includes consulting, ensuring that laws and regulations are implemented and followed and studies are done on environmental and economic impacts. Will the jobs created by this data centre be permanent? Will they be full-time?

And of course the other matter is power. There are real concerns in the province about natural gas capacity. There is a huge disconnect between saying Saskatchewan is open for business when it doesn't have the gas to perform through a prairie winter. TransGas notified customers that they had concerns about whether they could perform their peak storage obligations to customers this winter.

The Sask Party's current plan for electricity is to double rates. Do we have idle plants? Is there a new plant sited and under construction that we don't know about? Where will capacity come from to operate a 300- to 900-megawatt demand is anyone's guess. Industry doesn't want to be tied to whims of political decision making and political timing. Currently we don't have the reliability of energy.

So my question, Mr. Speaker, is where is the capacity going to come from? The Sask Party's current plan is raising bills by 136 million and then further increasing bills by 100 per cent. This isn't affordable for households and it isn't competitive for business.

So, Mr. Speaker, the community and the province need to benefit from this project. And it is exciting. That means planning, that means consultation, and that means transparency for the province. We're excited for Bell. We're excited for this opportunity. We have important questions and look forward to

continuing this dialogue. We hope for a responsible development that will make life affordable for Saskatchewan people, create jobs and opportunities for young people in post-secondary school, and help them pursue a career here at home. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Government Whip.

Brad Crassweller: — I wish to table question no. 31.

Speaker Goudy: — Question no. 31 is tabled.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 24

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Warren Kaeding that **Bill No. 24 — *The Saskatchewan Internal Trade Promotion Act*** be now read a second time.]

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Fairview.

Vicki Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to enter into debate today on Bill No. 24, *The Saskatchewan Internal Trade Promotion Act*. I've spent a lot of time thinking about trade over the past couple of years, as I'm sure most of us have. It feels like we are in very uncertain times.

I know that as part of the Partnership of Parliaments trip to Europe, I had a chance — along with yourself and the member opposite — to engage in many conversations with European legislators about the importance of trade diversification, of building up relationships and building up trade partnerships, especially in light of what's been happening with United States-imposed tariffs in the south and really the escalation of a global trade war.

And so there's this very complicated environment right now that I think probably most people don't have a good understanding of because things change so quickly and there are so many different tariffs on different products.

But it has been a very hard year for producers and businesses in our communities as well as individuals who are trying to keep up with what often feels like the whims of other countries, Mr. Speaker. In the face of this environment there have been several reactions. You know, one of the reactions, of course, is to defend ourselves, put our elbows up, and make sure that we are looking after each other. And some of this bill I think falls within that spirit of being able to rely on other provinces and to prioritize Canadian trade where possible.

We know that the United States is our largest trading partner.

There are tons of implications. We know we need to diversify trading partners. And being able to prioritize a streamlining of interprovincial trade to reduce some of those barriers makes a lot of sense. We know several folks who have presented examples of, you know, it being easier to trade liquor with other countries than other provinces in some cases, Mr. Speaker. Reducing some of these barriers makes sense.

[14:45]

So this is I think in theory a good piece of legislation. We need to be aware of the details, of course. There was a bill that was put forward by my colleague from Saskatoon Riversdale that also looked at trade. Unfortunately, you know, the rules of the Assembly do not allow for both of those bills to be considered at the same time. So we're talking about this bill, not that bill, right now.

I think something good that could be taken from that piece of legislation, though, is the inclusion of consideration on occupational health and safety standards. You know, of course we want to be able to recognize things like certifications from other provinces, but it cannot be and should not be a race to the bottom of the minimum standard that exists in other places, Mr. Speaker.

And you know, all it takes is talking to a few different industries to understand what this looks like. We have some amazing centres of excellence and folks who have worked very hard to be considered to be at the top of their craft in this province, who are quite concerned about what that would look like if the standards for their occupation were lowered to a standard of another jurisdiction. So this is complicated. Things like this are never easy, but there needs to be consideration due to what these processes look like.

Of course we think that prioritizing Canadian contracts where possible is a good idea. We have frequently called on the government to do this with their own procurement processes and have been quite outspoken on that front. I think in many cases, Mr. Speaker, people right now are concerned about tariffs. They're concerned about long-term implications for our economy as we're largely export driven, and they're concerned as well about what our overall relationship looks like with our neighbours to the south and the threats to Canadian sovereignty that exist right now.

None of these issues should be taken lightly. We should be looking at this legislation very closely to look for implications. And I know that many of my colleagues will have more to say on this bill. But with that, I would move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 24 for today.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Speaker Goudy: — Carried.

Bill No. 33

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed

motion by the Hon. Tim McLeod that **Bill No. 33 — *The Credit Union Amendment Act, 2025*** be now read a second time.]

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Riversdale.

Kim Breckner: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to be on my feet and add some remarks on Bill No. 33, *The Credit Union Amendment Act, 2025*. In summary it's a bill that, among other things, looks at clearing up the process for terminating credit union memberships. It's got some processes there for the credit union side of how to go about terminating that. Of course anyone can withdraw from the credit union via verbal notice. It also talks about members getting copies of credit union bylaws for free.

And credit unions have a long history in the province. They're an important cornerstone of many communities. I know in my volunteer work, a number of the boards or non-profit organizations I sit on, we utilize credit unions for our finances. Credit unions are great for the local economy, ensuring that Saskatchewan's people's dollars stay in Saskatchewan. So this makes for a stronger community.

We'll continue to consult with our stakeholders on whether this bill will increase efficiencies to credit unions or not. And I'm sure the shadow minister will have more say on this bill. And with that, I move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 33.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Speaker Goudy: — Carried.

Bill No. 36

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Jeremy Cockrill that **Bill No. 36 — *The Change of Name Amendment Act, 2025/Loi modificative de 2025 sur le changement de nom*** be now read a second time.]

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Westview.

April ChiefCalf: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's an honour to rise today to enter into debate on Bill No. 36, *The Change of Name Amendment Act* of 2025. So my understanding is that this bill allows the government to notify police and vital statistics in other provinces of name changes of Saskatchewan residents. The bill also restricts name changes to individuals who are Canadian citizens or permanent residents.

And then interestingly this bill allows for names that have more than three components. Now the reason why I find that interesting is because when my daughter got married, her husband has a hyphenated last name. Both his parents' last names are his last name, and so there was quite a difficulty about her hyphenating her name with his name because she would have had to take on two names plus her maiden name. So this might allow her to do that if she so chooses.

The bill also makes allowances for one to change their name without notifying a spouse, but it does not allow for a spouse to change their partner's name without the partner's written consent.

Now, Mr. Speaker, our province is becoming a very diverse place, and we want to respect the naming practices of all cultures and ethnic groups. I hope we also live in a place where we can respect the names and pronouns that reflect gender identities of individuals in our province as well. And with that, Mr. Speaker, I am confident in seeing Bill No. 36 move on to the next stage. Thank you.

Speaker Goudy: — The question before the Assembly is the motion moved by the member that Bill No. 36, *The Change of Name Amendment Act, 2025* be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Speaker Goudy: — Carried.

Deputy Clerk: — Second reading of this bill.

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

Hon. Tim McLeod: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Standing Committee on Human Services.

Speaker Goudy: — This bill stands committed to the Standing Committee on Human Services.

Bill No. 37

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Jeremy Cockrill that **Bill No. 37** — *The Vital Statistics Amendment Act, 2025/Loi modificative de 2025 sur les services de l'état civil* be now read a second time.]

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Leroy Laliberte: — Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm honoured to rise into debate on Bill No. 37, *The Vital Statistics Amendment Act, 2025*. I'll be very brief, Mr. Speaker, seeing that most colleagues had had the opportunity already to speak to this bill. Seeing again that it's good that they modernize names, regulations in keeping with more of our diverse province as of up to today.

There was a few things in here, when I was taking a look at the bill summary based on this bill, because I did have a personal run-in with vital statistics. And there was some documentation that I was seeking a couple years ago for my parents that passed away years ago. So it was a bit of a process going through that while getting that type of documentation, and that also for my grandparents when we were going through a family tree and we needed that type of information to be able to deal with INAC [Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada] at one point.

So seeing that there was a bunch of questions already and seeing that, like I said, most colleagues spoke to this bill, I would say that, you know, probably have the opportunity now to go to

committee, Mr. Speaker. So I'm going to say that. So we could move this Bill 37, *The Vital Statistics Amendment Act, 2025* to committee, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker Goudy: — The question before the Assembly is a motion made by the member that Bill No. 37, *The Vital Statistics Amendment Act, 2025* be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Speaker Goudy: — Carried.

Deputy Clerk: — Second reading of this bill.

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

Hon. Tim McLeod: — To the Standing Committee on Human Services.

Speaker Goudy: — This bill stands committed to the Standing Committee on Human Services.

Bill No. 38

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Everett Hindley that **Bill No. 38** — *The Building Schools Faster Act* be now read a second time.]

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

Noor Burki: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour and pleasure to be entering into the debate on Bill No. 38, *The Building Schools Faster Act, 2025*. Mr. Speaker, we know the fact that we all have been through one of . . . the best first place, which we call it school. And it is the first building block that each and every person sitting in this House has been through that.

Definitely schools are one of the most important and vital places to make our life and be successful in life as well. I was looking to the bill. I wish I could make schools everywhere. Schools make our life really great, and I will say education is not a cost. Spending money on educational institutions is one of the best investments that we will get paid one day out of that for sure.

I'm really fortunate that I'm living in a very small constituency but we have a lot of schools over there. We have four high schools. Due to the previous boundary change I lost one school, but we were having five schools before and now it's four schools. And I'm very proud of that.

And we make sure when we are building a school, we have to take care what facilities we are giving to the communities and what we are taking away from them. In Regina Coronation Park I've been working very closely with so many schools. And I believe in 2008 when I moved to this constituency I was getting . . . from many people, they were telling us that we need a new school. Imperial school, elementary school, was really in a very worse situation, but it took so long. That 2008 school, that was the dream of the constituency residents, eventually came true last year in 2024, closer to that.

Again it is late, but it took about one decade. And I don't know how many students were having a dream that we'll be going to a new building, new school, but unfortunately . . . So I will say, if it is late but still giving our next generation some life, that will be great.

I have experience that I went . . . Last weekend I was in White City. I've been talking to many people over there, being in education sector and working very closely with schools, teachers, students. And it was really great that I met with so many teachers that we were working in the same schools. I saw my ex-student as well. And the same thing we heard loud and clear: that Emerald Park and White City, they need a school, where the population is about 5,000 and kids are going back and forth, and it's really, really hard for parents to move them back and forth.

Mr. Speaker, schools are one of the most important places for our children, for the growth of our future faces. I will say that's great, but we make sure we have to be facilitating other schools and the necessities there as well. With that I will adjourn debate on Bill No. 38, *The Building Schools Faster Act, 2025*. Thank you.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Speaker Goudy: — Carried.

Bill No. 39

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Everett Hindley that **Bill No. 39 — *The Building Schools Faster Consequential Amendment Act, 2025/Loi de 2025 corrélative de la loi intitulée The Building Schools Faster Act*** be now read a second time.]

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

Noor Burki: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's again my pleasure and my honour to be entering into the debate on Bill No. 39, schools faster consequential amendment Act, 2025. Mr. Speaker, I said whatever it was in the previous bill as well, but I will be adding one thing for sure: that if we are looking for new schools, we have to make sure; we have to check what are the resources we have in other schools.

[15:00]

And this was one of the very heartbreaking things that happened in my life, that in Thom Collegiate school we were having a deaf and hearing program, which was one of the most important programs for those kids that were living closer to that area. Because of the shortage of resources, they moved it to Winston Knoll, very far. And the people that were local living there, they were always telling me that, "How we can take our children? How we can manage?" Those kind of things. So it was really hard for especially those children. They're special children; they need.

So we have to make sure that, whatever we do, we have to look into how this can impact as well. So I know when we are investing in one school, might be it will be draining resources

from others, but the school needs to make sure that they have to keep up in the way as the required amenities.

So, Mr. Speaker, I will just say to adjourn the debate on that one, but I will put forward some remarks on that, that if we do anything, we make sure we have to consult professionals in that area. Especially we have incredible people working in different school boards. We have an educational advisor as well to make sure we are not doing something that consequences are going to be worse.

So with that, I will be adjourning debate on Bill No. 39, schools faster consequential amendment Act, 2025. Thank you.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Speaker Goudy: — Carried.

Bill No. 40

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Daryl Harrison that **Bill No. 40 — *The Animal Protection Amendment Act, 2025*** be now read a second time.]

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Silverspring.

Hugh Gordon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On my feet today to provide some words with respect to Bill No. 40, *The Animal Protection Amendment Act, 2025*, a review of the amendment Act itself. You know, I think we can all agree *The Animal Protection Act, 2018* is an important piece of legislation that I think to a good degree recognizes what a lot of our producers and a lot of our animal protection officers already knew and were already doing perhaps for many, many years in advance.

But certainly the protection of animals in people's care, those that unfortunately may not be . . . It is important to have these amendments I think, Mr. Speaker, in order to address some gaps that may have existed, or at least to ensure that there aren't any gaps that remain. I think for the most part that this amendment Act addresses a number of those things.

And I was pleased to see, for example, an amendment, an updating of the definition of an animal protection officer to include members of the RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police], other police officers, designated officers, animal protection officers as seen fit by the chief officer, who is in charge of regulating the Act.

You know, as a police officer I unfortunately was called to a number of instances of animals that were in distress of various kinds. Some were beloved family pets, sadly. Some were deer and the like. And I know many of my colleagues in the RCMP had to also unfortunately take matters into their own hands and to deal with those situations as carefully and as humanely as possible — not always possible but for the most part possible. And certainly when you came across animals that were in distress, it was kind of a tough thing to do. And you know when

you're a police officer, you get the call, you're responsible for that.

So I think what I also appreciate from the amendment Act here, Mr. Speaker, is that nothing is happening here apparently in a vacuum, that there is some thought that is put into the conduct of animal protection officers and, you know, handling complaints by the chief officer about animal protection officers and animal welfare inspectors, ensuring there's a code of conduct for them. I think that's a good way to go, Mr. Speaker. And it's also good to see that animal welfare inspectors will be asked to educate the public and also producers and livestock operators, to ensure not just compliance but also to educate on proper dealing with animals and handling of animals and the proper care of those animals.

Some of these items here are also looking to streamline some things, which bring it up to date in the 21st century a bit with respect to, you know, getting a warrant over the phone in order to deal with animals that are in distress. Also having vets putting down animals without asking animal protection officers in advance, and have some legal immunities in doing so.

Some thought was put into putting down animals, for example, Mr. Speaker. It's not just an automatic conclusion after a certain period of time, like five days for example, that an animal should be put down. There are some standards, processes put in there. Some thought is being put into these processes, and I think that speaks well to the intent of the Act, of *The Animal Protection Act*. I think it helps provide some clarity for all parties involved.

Also some thought's been put into how these animals are handled and dealt with, if they've been seized, the costs that are involved with that, the recuperation of costs. There's an appeal process looks like it's going to be a part of this. Perhaps some compensation, depending when an animal has been dispensed with — I mean sold for example — that there is some cost potential recovery with that.

So I think all these things here . . . I would also add on too I guess the bill speaks to administrative agreements with other levels of government so the agency can delegate powers to them. And I think that might also assist I think in a number of instances in providing some flexibility in administering the Act.

So I think with all those points, Mr. Speaker, I think there's really not much in Bill No. 40 I think the members on this side would take exception to. I look forward to hearing further debate from some of my colleagues on this matter. And with that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 40.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Deputy Speaker B. McLeod: — Carried.

Bill No. 41

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Alana Ross that **Bill No. 41** — *The Heritage*

Recognition (From Many Peoples, Strength) Act/Loi sur la reconnaissance du patrimoine (Nos origines multiples, notre force) be now read a second time.]

Deputy Speaker B. McLeod: — I recognize the member from Regina Wascana Plains.

Brent Blakley: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. On my feet this afternoon to enter debate on Bill No. 41, the heritage recognition Act or “from many peoples, strength.” Mr. Deputy Speaker, everyone I think in this Assembly can agree and recognize the important role that the many cultural groups in Saskatchewan play in this province. It's the duty of the government to support all people of the province as we live in religious and culturally diverse communities.

The view of Saskatchewan from the air, Mr. Deputy Speaker, because of the farm land, is like a patchwork quilt. And Saskatchewan really is like a big patchwork quilt with all the varying cultural communities contributing a small square to that quilt. That's the fabric of Saskatchewan and its different communities. That cultural diversity is what makes this such a great place to live.

In the last month or so and also prior to that, in my new role as the shadow minister of Parks, Culture and Sport, I've had the pleasure of attending numerous cultural events in the city and throughout the province. It's an honour for me to share in those celebrations that these many cultural groups put on. It's so important for these groups to celebrate and to be recognized, to continue their cultural practices.

I was at an event yesterday, the Persian New Year celebration. It was so nice to see the smiles on the children's faces and on the adults' too, just being able to connect with their community in a meaningful way. I also recently visited the Qu'Appelle Valley Friendship Centre in Fort Qu'Appelle, Mr. Deputy Speaker, where we discussed the importance of young people of the community connecting with the ways of their Indigenous culture.

It's important for all of these cultural communities to know that their contributions to this province are recognized and valued, and that they can continue to celebrate in a way that's meaningful to them.

I know that my colleagues are looking forward to entering the debate as this bill moves forward. Mr. Speaker, I move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 41, the heritage recognition Act.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Deputy Speaker B. McLeod: — Carried.

Bill No. 43

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Eric Schmalz that **Bill No. 43** — *The Municipalities Modernization and Red Tape Reduction Act* be now read a second time.]

Deputy Speaker B. McLeod: — I recognize the member from Regina Northeast.

Jacqueline Roy: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It is an honour to get on my feet today to speak to Bill No. 43, *An Act to amend The Cities Act, The Municipalities Act and The Northern Municipalities Act*.

This has been canvassed a lot by several of my colleagues. But I would like to emphasize the importance of consultation with SUMA [Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association] obviously going forward. And I am sure our shadow minister will be doing that as well. And with that, I am prepared to adjourn debate on Bill No. 43.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Deputy Speaker B. McLeod: — Carried.

Bill No. 44

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Tim McLeod that **Bill No. 44** — *The Co-operatives Act, 2025/Loi de 2025 sur les coopératives* be now read a second time.]

Deputy Speaker B. McLeod: — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Jordan McPhail: — Cumberland.

Deputy Speaker B. McLeod: — Ah, I recognize the member from Cumberland.

Jordan McPhail: — The good folks of the northeast constituency of Cumberland will be happy to know that their MLA is now rising to enter a few comments on Bill No. 44, *The Co-operatives Act*, and *The Co-operatives Consequential Amendments Act*.

I have to say that, growing up in northern Saskatchewan, it was quite typically the local co-ops that you would see laying down investment in northern communities. I think of places that I even got to serve as a SaskTel tech throughout northern Saskatchewan, places like Pinehouse, one of the best burgers and onion rings that you can find. That is in the Athabasca constituency. The Minahik Cafe was a place that I would attend quite a few times when we were busy working on the SaskTel infrastructure there in northern Saskatchewan.

And it's the principles that I think the co-operatives were founded on and what you see reflected throughout Saskatchewan, not only in small towns but in rural Saskatchewan as well. Lots of times one of the only fuel providers in the smaller towns will be your local Co-op. Some of the grocery stores that you'll have as well is the local Co-op. And you know, even some of the competition that we had up in northern Saskatchewan with Access Communications, again a community co-op. I think that the co-ops are a great way to partner between community members,

volunteers, people that want to see that investment in their community and working with corporations to bring that investment to their community.

I do want to mention that in the bill here that the directors no longer have to be at least 25 per cent Canadian residents. I think in places like La Ronge, this is a really interesting thing. We have our Lake Country Co-op in our area, and we see a lot of folks that have started new businesses, entrepreneurs from across Saskatchewan and from across the globe. We have a very strong Filipino entrepreneurial spirit in our home community, and I know a lot of these folks would bring really good business-minded beliefs and practices to the boards of these organizations.

And I'll say this point very, very clearly: that I think that when we look at the diversity of our boards and the many different things that people can bring from all different walks of business and across not only our nation but our world, that that should be something that is embraced.

And I think that with that, I will now move to adjourn the debate on Bill No. 44.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Deputy Speaker B. McLeod: — Carried.

Bill No. 45

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Tim McLeod that **Bill No. 45** — *The Co-operatives Consequential Amendments Act, 2025* be now read a second time.]

Deputy Speaker B. McLeod: — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

Jordan McPhail: — Well thank you again, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Just to tie in a little bit further into what I was saying there, with the directors no longer having to be at least 25 per cent Canadian residents, I think that this is a really important piece to hammer home, that there are many different views and values that we have in the business world across Saskatchewan.

And I think that any organization, whether it be organizations that we've set on the past or the organizations that we decide to run here, I'll be very clear that bringing diverse voices to those decisions are important at all levels of an organization. Diversity is strength.

And with that, I will move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 45.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Deputy Speaker B. McLeod: — Carried.

Bill No. 47

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Tim McLeod that **Bill No. 47** — *The Response to Illicit Drugs Act* be now read a second time.]

Deputy Speaker B. McLeod: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon University-Sutherland.

[15:15]

Tajinder Grewal: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I am pleased to rise to enter my remarks on Bill No. 47, *The Response to Illicit Drugs Act*. This Act says that any public employee who commits drug crimes, or who committed them in the three years before they took the job, can be fired with no notice. They cannot sue for wrongful termination or breach of contract. This also applies to anyone receiving a government grant.

When I was going through this bill, I found that this bill is really saying, tough on crime. It is good to be tough on crime, but I will also add that we also must be tough on the root cause of the crime. We all know that the drug crisis in Saskatchewan, it's getting worse and worse. The real question is, why is it getting worse and worse? Why people are taking drugs?

I'm not a psychologist or a social worker, but I'm a scientist. I did a master's and Ph.D. [Doctor of Philosophy] in plant sciences, more specifically in plant pathology, which is the study of plant diseases. As a plant pathologist, we are trained to, or educated to, control the plant diseases. At the same time we are trained that to control a plant disease we need to understand the root cause of the disease. You cannot control the disease based on the symptoms if you don't know the root cause of the disease. In the case of plant diseases the root cause, first the pathogen, what kind of host it needs, and epidemiology, what kind of environment it needs.

I think the same approach applies to any disease in humans. So this is a kind of crisis. And we do know that the root cause for the drug crisis is poverty, homelessness, mental health, and addictions. Just in Saskatoon we have more than 2,000 homeless people. It used to be 500 four years ago; now it's more than 2,000. And my colleague and member from Saskatoon Centre, she raised this question many times in this House about mental health and addiction. We are losing people almost every day to mental health and addictions. So we know the root cause of this drug crisis. So until and unless we will solve these problems, it's hard to control this drug crisis problem.

So in summary I will say that we need to be tough on crime. We also need to be tough on the root cause of the crime. So with that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I adjourn the debate on Bill No. 47, *The Response to Illicit Drugs Act*. Thank you.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Deputy Speaker B. McLeod: — Carried.

Bill No. 48

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Lori Carr that **Bill No. 48** — *The Compassionate Intervention Act* be now read a second time.]

Deputy Speaker B. McLeod: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Fairview.

Vicki Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's my honour to rise and enter into debate today on Bill No. 48, *The Compassionate Intervention Act*.

We certainly know that the drug crisis in our province is out of control, and there have been many references to that, including in my colleague's last speech here. We need to make sure that we are tackling this crisis, that we are putting in appropriate interventions to tackle this crisis and identifying what the barriers are to accessing treatments and interventions and making sure that those are remedied, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

In many conversations I hear concerns about this crisis. I hear concerns from my constituents, who have a right to have safety and a peaceful living environment in their communities, to feel safe in their homes and their parks. You know, I hear about this from folks who have family members who are accessing addictions treatment, who are attempting to access addictions treatment. And then of course I hear from folks who are stakeholders, who represent organizations across our province. And I had the opportunity to serve as our shadow minister for Mental Health and Addictions for a while as well.

So I know that this variety of perspectives from those who are providing treatment, to those who are in community, to those who are studying treatment, means that there are a diverse set of viewpoints on how best to go about this, Mr. Speaker. So I'll say sort of what I think and what our team thinks about the best way forward, acknowledging that these are big, big problems, big issues that exist that are complex, and that there is no one action that's going to be able to solve them as well, Mr. Speaker.

What I can say is that when we hear that the wait time for treatment is 46 weeks in duration, that is incredibly alarming. I think the general public doesn't know that. Generally people think that when they are trying to access treatment, they will have access to it, just like any other form of health care. They think that if, you know, if I need it, it's going to be available. And in the birthplace of medicare, that's how we should think, Mr. Speaker.

We should have access to health care when and where we need it. Unfortunately, when they go to access that care, they realize that there are wait times and that's because there are simply not enough services available for those who are trying to get treatment in the first place.

So we have this supply-and-demand problem that exists right now. So the first question I have whenever we talk about somebody being told that they need to seek treatment is, where are those spots going to come from? Because the spaces simply don't exist right now for those who are seeking voluntary treatment. So when you talk about involuntary treatment, the first question people ask is, where are people going to go?

Now talking about all of these different issues that exist, there are many conversations with folks that I want to try to summarize a little bit — knowing that, you know, I'm what stands between this and the House being adjourned. Mr. Speaker, I want to be respectful of people's time, but I do have some things I want to say.

In particular, one of the concerns that I hear from those who are on the front lines is just an extreme amount of frustration with the services that are available right now and the fact that there are not appropriate places for folks to go when they are in crisis situations, when they are living in addictions. That we simply have a lot of gaps within our system.

And you know, you hear from police officers who are also trying to figure out what the best intervention is. Also identifying that, you know, being in a jail cell is not the most appropriate place for somebody to detox. We have folks who want to get those who are living in addictions into detox. Then once they're there, they can't get into treatment. You know, they're waiting the 46 weeks for treatment. And so much can happen in 46 hours when you're living in active addictions, Mr. Speaker.

We've also heard from family members of those who are struggling with addiction about how — and I know many folks will relate to this in this House as well — how hard it is to watch someone you love struggle with addictions, to try to figure out how to help, how to engage. Often in many of these cases the bridges with family have been burnt long ago. There isn't a good solution in place for where people need to be. And we hear about the explosion of homelessness as a result of that too, Mr. Speaker. All of these issues are intertwined.

And when we see, in my home city of Saskatoon, homelessness quadrupling in three years, there's a significant problem here, Mr. Speaker. And we cannot simply say, "Oh, it's bad all over Canada" and put our head in the sand. It's irresponsible and it's inappropriate. So to say things have gotten worse is an understatement, Mr. Speaker, with the amount of folks who we see overdosing, with the amount of folks that we see struggling with active addictions, the amount of folks we see living on the street, all of these issues.

So with all of these things in mind, we have presented our approach to how to fight the addictions crisis. And it's a five-point — five pillars, five-point — plan that we introduced in October, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to fix the provincial addictions crisis and work to save lives. And it's based on the evidence. We support evidence-based addictions treatment on this side of the House. We're still waiting for evidence on the recovery-oriented-whatever system that they're presenting over there, Mr. Speaker. That system, we'd like to see the evidence on it. So a recovery-oriented system of care, Mr. Speaker, we're still waiting for the evidence on that.

So here's the plan that we presented, Mr. Speaker, and I'll spoil the end to say that involuntary treatment should only be used as a last resort.

So, Mr. Speaker, the first point is to expand access to voluntary in-patient treatment by increasing funding for harm reduction and in-patient treatment beds, both off- and on-reserve; to increase in-patient treatment detox services with more

stabilization units and ensure seamless transitions from detox to long-term in-patient treatment care; support sober living by expanding and funding sober living homes that provide wraparound services in a safe, supportive environment; to build a strategic workforce plan to recruit, train, and retain addictions and mental health professionals with incentives for service providers to work in underserved and remote communities; and to ensure that involuntary treatment is reserved for the small minority of individuals whose addictions pose a serious threat to themselves or the public, and only as a last resort.

We know that recovery is a journey, Mr. Speaker. Not everyone's journeys look the same. And I urge the government to take this seriously, to think about the ways that they can engage and the ways they are called to engage as servants of this province. And with that, I would move to adjourn debate on this bill for today, Mr. Speaker.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Deputy Speaker B. McLeod: — Carried. I recognize the Deputy Government House Leader.

Hon. Lori Carr: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I move that this House do now adjourn.

Deputy Speaker B. McLeod: — The member has moved that this House be now adjourned. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Deputy Speaker B. McLeod: — Carried. This House now stands adjourned until tomorrow at 1:30.

[The Assembly adjourned at 15:27.]

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