



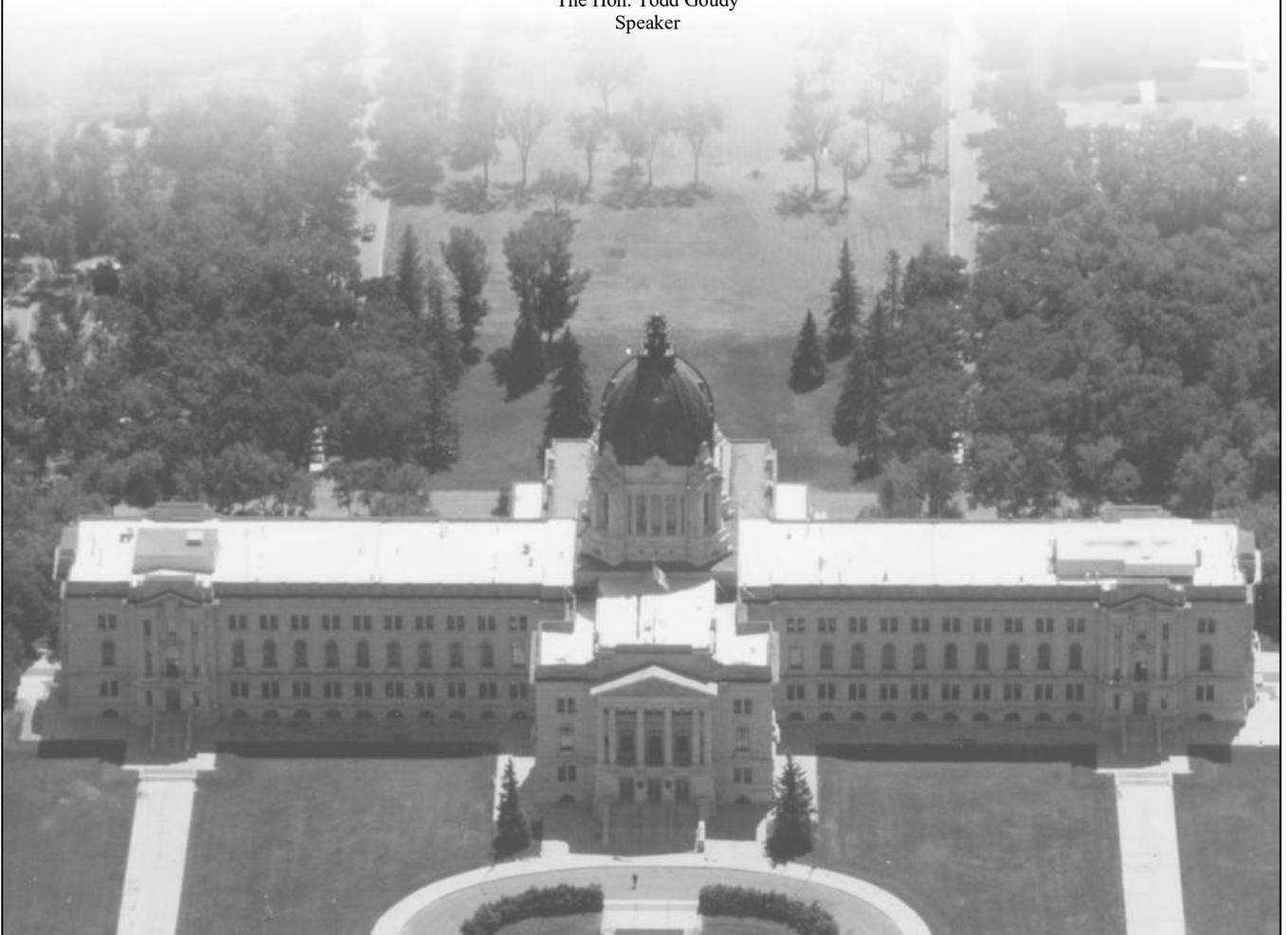
SECOND SESSION — THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE

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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Teed, Nathaniel — Saskatoon Meewasin (NDP)
Thorsteinson, James — Cut Knife-Turtleford (SP)
Warrington, Darcy — Saskatoon Stonebridge (NDP)
Weedmark, Kevin — Moosomin-Montmartre (SP)
Weger, Hon. Michael — Weyburn-Bengough (SP)
Wilson, Hon. Sean — Canora-Pelly (SP)
Wotherspoon, Trent — Regina Mount Royal (NDP)
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[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Minister of Trade and Export.

Hon. Warren Kaeding: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask leave for an extended introduction.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Hon. Warren Kaeding: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Seated in your gallery today, it is my pleasure to welcome His Excellency José Alfonso Blanco Conde, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Dominican Republic to Canada. Ambassador Blanco was appointed to his post in December of 2024 and presented his letters of credence to the Governor General of Canada in March of 2025.

Ambassador Blanco is a respected career diplomat with more than two decades of international service. He began his diplomatic career as First Secretary at the embassy of the Dominican Republic in the United States, working on economic affairs, trade, and congressional liaison matters, including participation in the US-DR-CAFTA [United States-Dominican Republic-Central America Free Trade Agreement] negotiations.

He later served as the Permanent Mission of the Dominican Republic to the United Nations in New York, rising through diplomatic ranks and representing his country in several UN [United Nations] bodies, including the General Assemblies of Second, Fourth, and Fifth Committees as well as the UN Economic and Social Council. From 2020 to 2025, he served as the Dominican Republic's permanent representative to the United Nations, playing a key role in multilateral negotiations and international co-operation.

Mr. Speaker, we had a wide-ranging conversation that included everything from critical minerals to food products to tourism to rum. We are very pleased to welcome Ambassador Blanco to Saskatchewan and look forward to strengthening the ties of friendship and co-operation between Saskatchewan and the Dominican Republic.

Mr. Speaker, I'd also like to recognize Michael Kram, Member of Parliament for Regina-Wascana, who indicated this is his first time being introduced in the legislature. Mr. Speaker, he has served in this role since 2019. Mr. Kram was born and raised in Regina, studied at the University of Regina, and prior to entering public life he worked in the information technology sector. And he continues to be very active in supporting community initiatives and advocating for Regina and Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask all members in joining me in

welcoming Ambassador Blanco and MP [Member of Parliament] Kram to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Vicki Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join in with the minister opposite and on behalf of the official opposition welcome Ambassador Blanco and MP Michael Kram to their Legislative Assembly.

Of course we want to thank the ambassador for joining us here today, thank him as well for what sounds like quite a distinguished career, and thank him for all of his service. I had the opportunity to visit the Dominican Republic a few years back in Punta Cana and was very appreciative of the hospitality that my partner and I were shown by your beautiful country, as well as familiarity with the national drink, the Mamajuana.

And so I want to thank you for what was a wonderful time for us, hope that you're being shown the same hospitality in your trip to Canada here, and thank you for the work that you do on behalf of your nation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Michael Weger: — Mr. Speaker, to you and through you, it is my honour to introduce two guests seated in the west gallery today.

First we have Derek Csada, who is currently serving as a sergeant in his 23rd year with the Regina city police. So I'll thank him for his service, Mr. Speaker.

And then alongside him is his son Morgan Csada, an 18-year-old grade 12 student at Winston Knoll Collegiate in Regina. Morgan is an avid historian with a strong interest in politics and policing — two of my favourite subjects, Mr. Speaker — and he enjoys learning about the past and engaging in conversations about current issues. Morgan is also passionate about advocating for individuals like himself, using his own experiences to support others with autism. And he is always working to be a positive voice for change and support to achieve inclusion and awareness.

I would ask all members to join me in welcoming Derek and Morgan to their Legislative Assembly.

Speaker Goudy: — Well I want to join with the members and welcome Ambassador José here as well. We got to talking about some things that maybe weren't all that diplomatic and about trade relations. But I sure enjoyed our conversations. He's a baseball player who I'm hoping will, on his next visit, come and maybe throw the opening pitch at one of our baseball games.

And you know, it's just nice to see the personal side of life and just realize that, you know, our nations and provinces, we have so much in common. And the mutual benefit of our relationships is what it's all about. And we appreciate you taking your time to come to our province in not the warmest part of the year. But certainly I had a great time getting to know you.

And Michael Kram, you got a good host there. He's a good guy too. I'm not sure if he plays baseball . . . fastball. Fastball's a thing in Saskatchewan the rest of the world doesn't know about. But again, thank you for coming and visiting us here. You're always welcome back. And we appreciate our relationship between your country and our province. So bless you.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Nathaniel Teed: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to be on my feet today to present a petition to the Legislative Assembly calling for the repeal of Bill 137.

Mr. Speaker, the undersigned residents of the province of Saskatchewan wish to bring to your attention the following: queer and trans youth are at higher risk of homelessness, self-harm, and suicide when denied access to safe and inclusive learning environments; that Bill 137 directs educators to non-consensually out two-spirit, trans, and nonbinary students under the age of 16 to their parents; and that Bill 137 is in direct contravention of *The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code* that this government brought in, the Charter of Rights and Freedoms as it relates to gender identity and expression.

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

Mr. Speaker, the undersigned residents reside in Regina and Balgonie. I do so present.

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

Noor Burki: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We the undersigned residents of the province of Saskatchewan wish to bring to your attention the following: that inflation is the highest it's been in more than three decades; that according to Angus Reid, 84 per cent of Saskatchewan people are feeling stressed about money, the highest such rates of financial insecurity in Canada; that half of the Saskatchewan residents who are living paycheque to paycheque before the transportation and food costs skyrocketed in 2022; that the Sask Party government power, PST [provincial sales tax], and tax hikes make life more expensive. While other provinces acted, the Sask Party government ignored the position caused by the gas price relief plan.

I will read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan to call on the Government of Saskatchewan to meaningfully address the affordability crisis in Saskatchewan.

The signatories of this petition reside in Prince Albert, St. Louis, and Aberdeen. I do so present.

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the member from Regina Walsh Acres.

Jared Clarke: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition calling on the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan to fix the funding crisis in the disability service sector and for community-based organizations.

The undersigned residents wish to bring to our attention the following: the disability service sector faces a funding crisis that weakens CBO [community-based organization] workforce stability and ability to provide essential services due to the underfunding of transportation, meals, technology, and maintenance; that direct-support professionals working for CBOs in the disability sector make significantly less and have far fewer benefits doing similar work in health care within homes for people experiencing disabilities that are directly operated by the Government of Saskatchewan.

I'll read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Government of Saskatchewan to commit to a three-year funding plan that strengthens CBO capacity and stabilizes the sector, while simultaneously collaborating with CBOs on a job analysis for the disability service sector, as well as a full review of the operational funding standards to ensure adequate funding for areas including but not limited to transportation, maintenance, technology, food, insurance and audit.

The signatories today on the petition reside in Saskatoon. I do so present.

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

Brent Blakley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in the Assembly today to present a petition calling for adequate and equitable rates for the Saskatchewan assured income disability program. These residents of the province of Saskatchewan wish to bring attention to the following: that current SAID [Saskatchewan assured income for disability] rates mean that individuals who rely on the program live in what is referred to as deep poverty, defined as less than 75 per cent of the poverty line; the Saskatchewan government engages in clawback policies that have been found to be discriminatory and further disadvantage people living with disability; that SAID disincentivizes employment by having a very low employment exemption of \$7,500 per year; that Saskatchewan people with disabilities struggle to make ends meet under historical inflationary pressures.

The prayer reads of follows:

We call on the Government of Saskatchewan to immediately increase SAID rates to account for inflation and the cost of living; respect the constitutional rights of persons with disability in Saskatchewan by halting discriminatory practices and aligning policies with the Charter of Rights and Freedoms; index the SAID basic amount to inflation going forward; and provide targeted

relief to those in deepest poverty, such as single individuals paying market rent.

Mr. Speaker, the signatories today reside in Moose Jaw. I do so present.

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

Bhajan Brar: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise here today to present a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan to implement rent control now.

We, the undersigned residents of the province of Saskatchewan, wish to bring to your 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; that with rent control, residents can budget more effectively, potentially putting them in a position to save for a downpayment on their first home; that provinces such as BC [British Columbia], Manitoba, Ontario, and Prince Edward Island have already implemented rent control measures to protect tenants and maintain housing affordability.

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

This petition has been signed by the residents of Regina. I do so present. Thank you.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the member from White City-Qu'Appelle.

Hopes and Dreams Gala Supports North Central Family Centre

Brad Crassweller: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This past Friday I had the honour of attending the second annual Hopes and Dreams Gala at the Conexus Arts Centre in support of the North Central Family Centre. Mr. Speaker, it was a fantastic evening of good company and great entertainment for an important cause. This year's theme, Growing Strong Where We Belong, reflected the deep roots, collective strength, and bright future of the North Central neighbourhood here in Regina.

The evening was opened with a performance by the Mother Teresa Middle School Buffalo Boys drum group, which set a proud tone for the rest of the evening. And for one of the young speakers, Joe Klyne, who shared his story about how NCFC [North Central Family Centre] played a key role in believing in him and building into him. And because of that, he's currently in his third year at First Nations University in social work. Congratulations, Joe.

Novalee Fox also shared some humour and some of her story as an Indigenous content creator from Ochapowace First Nation. Following a delicious dinner, the audience was treated to a performance by Teagan Littlechief of White Bear First Nation for not one, but two 45-minute sets of powerful music.

[13:45]

Thank you to the North Central Family Centre for putting on an excellent evening. Thank you to the Mother Teresa Buffalo Boys drum group and Teagan Littlechief for your performances that kept the energy incredibly high. Thank you to Evan Bray for being our MC [master of ceremonies] for the evening. And thank you to everyone who attended for supporting such an important cause that is truly making a difference in our city and in young people's lives. Thank you.

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

Two-Spirit Awareness Day Recognizes Indigenous Voices

Nathaniel Teed: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. This coming Friday is Two-Spirit Awareness Day. In Canada we place 2S for two-spirit in front of 2SLGBTQ [two-spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and/or questioning] to centre Indigenous voices and recognize that Indigenous understandings of gender and sexuality long predate colonial terms such as gay, lesbian, or transgender. Two-spirit people were held in high esteem and held special roles in their communities.

It is also a commitment to reconciliation and acknowledgement that two-spirit people are a distinct and important community within the broader queer and trans community. The term "two-spirit" was adopted in 1990 and is used by Indigenous people whose identities may encompass gender, sexuality, cultural roles, and spiritual responsibilities within their Nations.

Mr. Speaker, last Wednesday the member from Saskatoon Fairview and I had the opportunity to attend the third annual two-spirit powwow in Saskatoon. Two youth ambassadors were appointed, chiefs were present, and community members gathered in celebration. Reflecting on how diverse gender and sexual identities in Indigenous cultures were nearly erased with colonialism made the event especially meaningful.

Two-spirit, queer, and transgender people still face significant barriers when accessing health care. During this 2SLGBTQ Health Awareness Week, we call on the government to ensure health services remain accessible, HIV/AIDS [human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immune deficiency syndrome] preventative supports are readily available, and gender-affirming care continues to be protected in Saskatchewan. Thank you so much, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the member from Humboldt-Watrous.

Making Farms Safer Today and into the Future

Racquel Hilbert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize Agricultural Safety Week, taking place from March 15th to the 21st. This week serves as the important reminder of

safety in agriculture and our shared responsibility in protecting those who work tirelessly producing food.

Agriculture is an essential part of our economy and a way of life for many in this province, but it comes with many risks. From working long hours on heavy machinery to handling large and sometimes unpredictable livestock in circumstances that are far from ideal, producers are exposed to variables that are outside of their control. Mr. Speaker, farm safety isn't just a priority for this week; it's a commitment every day.

By investing in proper training, protective equipment, and mental health supports like that offered by SaskAgMatters, who hire nine agricultural-based therapists, we can help prevent injuries and save lives. We remain committed to making farms safer today and for generations to come.

I'd like to extend my gratitude to the Ag Health and Safety Network of the University of Saskatchewan, the Canadian Centre for Rural and Agricultural Health, and the Canadian agricultural safety society for their continued dedication to this cause. Their work plays a key role in protecting producers and agricultural workers.

To our producers, I want to reiterate: your safety matters on and off the field. Thank you. Let's continue working together to make agriculture safer for everyone, not just this week, but every day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Conference Celebrates Saskatchewan's Beef Industry

Vicki Mowat: — Mr. Speaker, I had the privilege of attending the Saskatchewan Beef Industry Conference from January 20th to 22nd of this year. It brought incredible energy to the Saskatoon Inn as producers, researchers, and industry partners came together to learn, connect, and celebrate our province's thriving beef sector.

From the opening of the lively trade show reception, the conference had a welcoming tone that encouraged collaboration and fresh ideas. I took part in sessions that kept the momentum going with an inspiring look at trade and market opportunities and updates. I was happy to be able to connect with a group of young female ag students from the USask [University of Saskatchewan] Beef Team while engaging in discussions about keeping their herds healthy, including practical strategies to boost disease resilience.

The day continued on with updates on barley research, Canada Beef's year in review, and innovative tools like virtual fencing that highlight how technology is helping producers work smarter, not harder. The conference showcased inspiring new ideas and technologies shaping a bright future for Saskatchewan's beef industry.

There were lively discussions around the struggles that Saskatchewan producers face. Our producers are the heartbeat of our province and are some of the most resilient and innovative citizens we have.

I ask all members to join me in congratulating the Saskatchewan Cattle Association, Sask Feeders, the beef industry, and to thank the hard-working producers across our province.

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the member from Moosomin-Montmartre.

Saskatchewan Wheelchair Paralympian Wins Gold

Kevin Weedmark: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I want to recognize an extraordinary achievement by a remarkable individual from southeast Saskatchewan. Gil Dash from Kipling helped make history as a member of Team Canada's wheelchair curling team, which captured gold at the 2026 Paralympics.

Competing on the world stage against the very best athletes in the world, Team Canada demonstrated incredible skill, focus, and determination to bring home the top prize for our country. And anyone who watched the gold medal game against China Saturday morning, Mr. Speaker, knows that they kept it interesting until the very last rock.

For the people of Kipling and communities across the area, seeing one of our own on the podium with a gold medal is a moment of tremendous pride. And the town of Kipling now plans to honour Gil with a sign in his honour.

This victory is the latest chapter in Gil's impressive international career. Before reaching the pinnacle of Paralympic sport, he represented Canada with distinction at the World Wheelchair Curling Championships a couple of times, where he won both silver and bronze. Those accomplishments speak not only to his talent but also to years of dedication that are required to compete at the highest level.

Mr. Speaker, athletes like Gil Dash inspire all of us. Through perseverance, teamwork, and resilience, he has shown what's possible when someone pursues excellence and represents their community with pride. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Gil Dash on his incredible achievement and thank him for making Saskatchewan and Canada proud. Thank you.

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

Timing is Critical for Treatment of Substance Abuse

Betty Nippi-Albright: — Mr. Speaker, we are in a substance use crisis, whether it's drugs or alcohol. While we have seen skyrocketing drug poisonings in this province, there has been a slow response by this government. Mr. Speaker, when someone reaches out for help, they're fighting for their life. That small window when someone asks for help can disappear in hours, not weeks. And in every community in Saskatchewan, people who are ready to heal are being told to wait six weeks or longer for a voluntary treatment bed.

These are not numbers on a chart, Mr. Speaker. These are parents, youth, seniors, neighbours — people who have finally said, "I'm ready." And instead of meeting that moment with urgency, this government places them in limbo. Families sit by the phone. Front-line workers do everything they can to keep someone alive long enough to reach treatment. The cost is

measured in funerals, in children growing up without parents, in empty chairs at the kitchen table.

Mr. Speaker, delays, delayed treatment, is treatment denied. People deserve real progress and a government that responds with urgency. Miigwech, Mr. Speaker.

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

Canola Breeding Centre Will Contribute to Economic Growth

James Thorsteinson: — Well thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's another great day in Saskatchewan. Today BASF Ag Solutions announced a \$27 million investment in the expansion and transformation of its canola breeding centre in Saskatoon. Construction is set to begin this spring and continue through to the end of 2027.

Mr. Speaker, this will advance BASF's position as a global leader in canola advancement and will greatly contribute to the economic growth of Saskatchewan. BASF already employs over 625 people across their three production facilities, including in Saskatoon and Regina. A key component of the facility's expansion is the development of new infrastructure to support precision-controlled environment growth systems and high-throughput automation pipelines.

Mr. Speaker, this is good news for Saskatchewan and a sign that our Premier's work on reducing canola tariffs is giving investors renewed confidence, something that just wouldn't be the case if the NDP [New Democratic Party] opposition had their way. Our trade offices would be shuttered and our international engagement would be effectively neutered, something the opposition actively campaigned on. That's just another reason why nobody takes the NDP opposition seriously.

Mr. Speaker, thank you to BASF for continuing to invest in the canola industry here in Saskatchewan and for their continued advancement on agriculture technology.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Affordability

Vicki Mowat: — Mr. Speaker, people in Saskatchewan are feeling greater financial anxiety than anywhere else in Canada. Four in ten are borrowing money for food. Power rates are going up when this Premier said they wouldn't. So are the rates for car insurance. Now gas prices are soaring — a buck sixty in Regina, a buck sixty-three in Saskatoon, and reports that it's nearing \$2 per litre in the North.

To the Premier: how exactly are Saskatchewan people supposed to pay for all this?

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Scott Moe: — Mr. Speaker, the member opposite is

correct. Fuel prices are going up across Canada and around the world due to conflict that we see in the Middle East in the Strait of Hormuz, Mr. Speaker. Heard they're up over \$2 actually in British Columbia as we speak, climbing over \$1.50 here in Saskatchewan as well.

Mr. Speaker, we're hopeful that the end of that conflict is soon, Mr. Speaker — not only just for the price of gasoline, energy, fertilizer, other products that are coming through that strait — but we are hopeful for just the general rights of humanity, as there's many people that are dying in that conflict as well, Mr. Speaker.

But it does provoke a question, Mr. Speaker, where we see the members opposite stand up one day, ask for one thing; stand up the next day, ask for something quite the opposite. Last week we saw, Mr. Speaker, their big bold power plan with their out-of-province consultant that is advising them, Mr. Speaker. On page 8 of that power plan, the commitment to put the output-based pricing system back on people of Saskatchewan's power bills, Mr. Speaker. That is putting the carbon tax back on the power bills of Saskatchewan people, Mr. Speaker.

Maybe if they tried to find an in-province consultant, they might come up with some better policy initiatives, Mr. Speaker, that can be debated on the floor of this Assembly.

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

Vicki Mowat: — Mr. Speaker, the Premier needs to check the facts because that is absolutely not the case. We have consistently stood up for affordability and everyday people on this side of the House. The Premier is taking in more revenue due to sky-high oil prices because of the conflict in the Middle East. He's making a buck while Saskatchewan people are getting hammered at the pumps. You see posts online of people paying \$100 to fill their gas tank in their car, Mr. Speaker. They need these vehicles to go to work, to pick up their kids, and so much more.

Will the Premier take the money that he's making off the war in the Middle East and cut the gas tax temporarily today?

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Scott Moe: — Mr. Speaker, the facts are on page 8 of their out-of-province consulting document that they have: the NDP will put the carbon tax back on electricity bills for Saskatchewan people. Thankfully, today we are the only carbon-tax-free place, province in the nation of Canada, Mr. Speaker.

And what we're seeing here is a pattern, a pattern by the NDP, Mr. Speaker. A pattern when it comes to one question, opposite question the next day, Mr. Speaker. But also a pattern with respect to the individual we discussed yesterday, Mr. Speaker, who has also had a statement of claim in Alberta against this individual. And I quote from that statement:

He was using his public platform to incite hatred and contempt against his political opponent and to further cause her to be further shunned and socially isolated.

Mr. Speaker, in this province, in this province under the previous NDP leaders, even Cam Broten made the right decision when he

fired his campaign manager and four candidates for personal statements. Not party statements — personal statements, Mr. Speaker.

What we see today by the NDP and their leader is an endorsement of these hateful statements that were made not against a policy, but against . . .

Speaker Goudy: — Sorry. I'm going to ask that we listen to the questions and connect our responses to the questions in question period, please.

I recognize the Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

Vicki Mowat: — Mr. Speaker, 4 in 10 people are borrowing money so that they can put food on the table, and the Premier will reach for any distraction to avoid answering the question of how he's going to make life more affordable for those people.

[14:00]

Now I have no idea who the Premier's listening to when he says he thinks life here is affordable in Saskatchewan. His wealthy donors perhaps. Maybe it's the SHA [Saskatchewan Health Authority] board that he's paying thousands of dollars a year to run our health care system into the ground. It certainly isn't Saskatchewan people, Mr. Speaker.

Will the Premier rise, look at the camera over my shoulder, and tell Saskatchewan drivers directly why he won't give them a break?

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Scott Moe: — Mr. Speaker, I'd like to address two points in that question. The first is that Saskatchewan has the second-lowest utility bundle in the nation of Canada and remains the most affordable place to live in Canada, Mr. Speaker.

The second point was on health care, Mr. Speaker, where again we saw a sharp contrast, of what's happening in Saskatchewan versus the NDP's view on this. We had the Battlefords Healthcare Heroes award awarded to Dr. Patricia Campbell, and she had this to say:

I would say to anybody young that was thinking about getting involved in health care, do it. You won't regret it. It's a wonderful career.

Contrast that with the Health critic, the opposition Health critic, just last week who said on the floor of this Assembly, “. . . when a young person comes to me and says, should I go into health care? I say, absolutely not.”

Mr. Speaker, that's the NDP Health critic, not encouraging people to go into health care in this province. That's the second plank of their health care platform, the first being they found an American consultant to advise them on that.

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

SaskPower Rates

Aleana Young: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Let's review the facts. The Premier told us that when he stood in this Assembly on December 4th and said he wouldn't be raising power bills, he didn't know. Now, Mr. Speaker, I'll take the Premier at his word.

So what we know then is, assuming, Mr. Speaker, that the SaskPower board did approve this rate hike on November 20th, that the CIC [Crown Investments Corporation] minister kept the Premier in the dark for a minimum of two weeks on a \$136 million power bill hike on Saskatchewan people. Now there's a lot going on at SaskPower, Mr. Speaker: historic losses, generational decisions, let alone that \$136 million power hike.

So my question to the Premier is this: are you confident that you know what that minister is up to, and does he have your full confidence in the decisions he's making?

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Minister of CIC.

Hon. Jeremy Harrison: — Well, I am very happy to talk about what SaskPower is up to, Mr. Speaker, including yesterday where SaskPower was an integral partner with Bell Canada in making at \$12 billion announcement of a brand new data centre here in this province. Mr. Speaker, the largest data centre in the country, and one of the largest single private sector investments in the history of Canada, Mr. Speaker.

SaskPower has been an integral partner with Bell and also with SaskTel and SaskEnergy, who also were integral partners, Mr. Speaker, in making this happen.

And the reason why this is important, Mr. Speaker, this is going to make a genuine difference in the lives of thousands of people who are going to have an opportunity both in construction and the long-term job opportunities it's going to create to build their life, build their career, and build their future right here in our Saskatchewan.

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

Aleana Young: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Again, to the facts. This government's plan, that minister's plan will double power rates on families, farms, small businesses, and yes, even data centres right here in Saskatchewan.

And we ran the numbers, Mr. Speaker. We took his numbers. We ran it with no carbon tax, no clean electricity regulations — his numbers and his policy — and it was still the most expensive outcome for Saskatchewan.

The page 8 he's talking about, that's on his own plan, Mr. Speaker. Members opposite, you should check it out. Informed decisions are important, Mr. Speaker, especially on something as fundamental as electricity to our economy.

Let's take the politics out of it, Mr. Speaker. We need to get it right. So now that he knows the facts — we've done his work for him — will the minister scrap his 100 per cent hike on families, farms, and small businesses today?

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Minister of CIC.

Hon. Jeremy Harrison: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can tell you exactly what we found out from their Quebec consultant is their rock-solid, unequivocal commitment to putting the carbon tax on page 8 of their own plan back onto power bills, Mr. Speaker. That's something which we took off, which they criticized, Mr. Speaker, when we took the carbon tax off of power bills here in this province.

They have unequivocally committed and shown that, in their Quebec consultant's report, they're going to put that carbon tax back on, Mr. Speaker. They're going to adhere to the clean electricity regulations put in place by Justin Trudeau and Steven Guilbeault. They're going to shut down our thermal generation assets, putting 1,400 people out of work, devastating three communities, Mr. Speaker. And in addition to that, Mr. Speaker, they're going to double power rates in five years.

Speaker Goudy: — Just again, I'm going to say that answers should be connected to the questions. And questions should be good questions too that deal with government business. So there's a lot of . . . Anyway.

I recognize the member from Saskatoon Eastview.

Construction of New High School

Matt Love: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last week 20 of my colleagues and I on this side of the House were in White City. We were talking to people about the desperate need for a new high school. White City and Emerald Park are the largest communities in the province with no high school. There are more than 5,000 people that live in that area.

The residents, the mayor, and the school division have all been demanding a new high school for years. Why has the Premier ignored those calls?

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Everett Hindley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm happy to speak about the progress when it comes to capital projects in this province, Mr. Speaker. With respect to White City, the member for that community, White City-Qu'Appelle, and I have met with the community. We did that earlier this spring, late spring, the past summer, Mr. Speaker, to meet with them directly about their request.

And with respect to education capital needs, Mr. Speaker, this is a growing province — which is a wonderful challenge to have for us in this province — building schools right across this province, serving communities large and small in all four corners of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

We take all these decisions very seriously, the requests that come forward as part of our capital plan advanced to us by school divisions, Mr. Speaker. And we're funding many of these projects across the province, and we'll be happy to be funding more for years to come. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Matt Love: — Mr. Speaker, you just heard it straight from the minister. Meetings with no action. But let me be clear: this team will get that school built.

That Sask Party government has had 20 years, and this Premier has racked up \$40 billion in debt. And still we have crumbling schools or, in the case of White City, no school at all. Now clearly the member for White City-Qu'Appelle either can't convince the Premier to build a high school for White City, or he hasn't even tried.

Will someone over there please explain to this Premier why it's long past time to build a high school for White City and Emerald Park today?

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Everett Hindley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not sure where to begin on this one, but I'll say this, Mr. Speaker. We have a number of priorities around this province, Mr. Speaker. And they seem to have a lot of answers over there, the members that don't get to ask any questions, Mr. Speaker. We have made a significant number of investments, capital investments.

And we can't take the opposition seriously because they promise absolutely everything to everyone, Mr. Speaker. And the member for Eastview, he's doing it again here, Mr. Speaker.

Here's what this government has done: \$2.8 billion in capital projects in the education sector since 2007, Mr. Speaker; 74 brand new schools. And, Mr. Speaker, I'm going to run out of time. But there are many brand new schools across this province plus another 25-ish major renovation projects, minor capital preventative maintenance and renewal funding going to schools right across this province, Mr. Speaker. This is a capital record that this government is very proud of, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the member from Regina Walsh Acres.

Construction of New Yorkton Hospital

Jared Clarke: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now the Premier's nothing-new-to-see-here health plan released last week contained a shocking revelation on page 24. It describes the long-needed new hospital in Yorkton as being pre-designed. But wait a second, Mr. Speaker. Designs were actually done for the hospital 14 years ago. They even held town halls to show off the designs to the local community. So what happened? Did the government lose the plans?

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Minister of SaskBuilds.

Hon. Sean Wilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This once again is why the people of Saskatchewan cannot take the NDP seriously. This government has promised the people of Yorkton a new hospital, and that's exactly what they're going to get, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we are making sure that we are delivering for the people of Yorkton, and we are working with them every step of the way. Mr. Speaker, when our government commits to building a health care facility, we follow through, and Yorkton hospital

will be no exception. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[Interjections]

Speaker Goudy: — I would like to call the members to order, please.

I recognize the member from Regina Walsh Acres.

Jared Clarke: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Political game after political game while patient care suffers.

Now that minister told us two weeks ago on March 5th that the desperately needed new hospital in Yorkton was in the pre-design phase. Now, Mr. Speaker, maybe I'm being too hard on these guys, but pre-design kind of sounds made up. It kind of sounds like they're trying to do something or make it seem like they're doing something without actually doing anything. So can . . .

Speaker Goudy: — Yeah, I'm going to rule that out of order. Please either reframe the question or move on to another.

Jared Clarke: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So can the minister tell the people of Yorkton what exactly does pre-designed mean? And after 14 years where they had a plan, a full plan, why are we now back to a pre-design for the Yorkton hospital?

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Minister of SaskBuilds and Procurement.

Hon. Sean Wilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member opposite thinks that the early conceptual drawings are the same thing . . .

[Interjections]

Speaker Goudy: — Member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre, do you want to take that one back? Please apologize and withdraw for that one.

Meara Conway: — What am I apologizing for, Mr. Speaker?

Speaker Goudy: — Well do you want to tell the whole Assembly what I heard you say? Just talking out of turn, disruption. Please.

Meara Conway: — Just clarifying. Apologize and withdraw.

Speaker Goudy: — Thanks.

The Minister of SaskBuilds and Procurement.

Hon. Sean Wilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. They think the early conceptual drawings are the same thing as an actual designed hospital. The critic said in the release that they don't know what pre-design means. Well let me explain. Pre-design determines the facility's needs, which includes the types of medical units and number of beds required in those units. It also includes pre-engineering, geotech assessments, and procurement options planning.

Mr. Speaker, this clearly shows that when the NDP say how they

would deliver a hospital in Yorkton, they actually have no idea of what they're talking about. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Support for Treaty Rights

Leroy Laliberte: — Mr. Speaker, a delegation of chiefs from across Treaty 6 recently made their way to Buckingham Palace to meet with the King. They went to invite the King to the upcoming celebrations for the 150th anniversary of the Treaty 6 signing. And the chiefs also told the King that the idea of separatism in Alberta and Saskatchewan puts treaty rights at risk.

This government has refused to call out separatism in this province, Mr. Speaker, so I'll ask again today. Will the Sask Party government finally stand up for the treaty rights and denounce the separatists in this province?

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Minister of Government Relations.

Hon. Eric Schmalz: — Mr. Speaker, I can tell you unequivocally that we are proud Canadians on this side of the House, Mr. Speaker. We will continue to support our Indigenous stakeholders, including those that are going to be held in an event this summer with the Treaty 6 signing, the 150-year event of that signing, Mr. Speaker. We are happy to be supportive of those individuals, Mr. Speaker, including those in the North.

Mr. Speaker, what's happening outside . . . There is a framework around petitions and things like that that happen outside of this House, Mr. Speaker. Right here in this province, Mr. Speaker, this government is concerned with staying in the country. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Leroy Laliberte: — Mr. Speaker, the treaties are the foundation of Canada in Saskatchewan. There's 74 First Nations in this province that need to be respected, Mr. Speaker. They were signed between the Crown and the First Nations, as long as the sun shines, the grass grows, and the rivers flow. Separatists trying to break up the country — and this is what we've seen all over the province and other provinces — want to put these treaties through the shredder.

[14:15]

In Alberta they're organizing a referendum, and in Saskatchewan those are organizing to push for separatism here too, Mr. Speaker. This is not okay.

So I'll ask again, Mr. Speaker. Will the Premier stand up and say that he respects these treaty rights? And one of the things that I want to know for sure, Mr. Speaker, is why won't he stand up and denounce these separatist groups?

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Scott Moe: — I'm pleased to answer the member from Athabasca's question and to engage with him in his constituency on numerous occasions as well, Mr. Speaker. Certainly we

respect the treaty rights, Mr. Speaker, that not only Treaty 6 have, but all of the other treaty declarations in this province and across Canada.

Mr. Speaker, we've been very unequivocal with respect to where this party is. It's one of the founding principles of this party is that we support a strong Saskatchewan, a province of Saskatchewan in a united nation of Canada. Mr. Speaker, we've been very unequivocal with respect to that.

I do want to make a note on the Treaty 6 150 celebration. Mr. Speaker, we had some very early meetings on that — the member from Arm River, myself, now the Minister of SaskBuilds — with a number of chiefs at the powwow in Saskatoon a number of months ago, Mr. Speaker, on how we can engage respectfully as a Government of Saskatchewan in supporting the Treaty 6 leaders in the celebration, the 150 celebration this summer, Mr. Speaker. And that's the government's role in those discussions. It's to support those chiefs, those communities as we approach that 150 mark.

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

Ensuring Community Safety

Hugh Gordon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on Friday a taxi driver in North Battleford was killed at the start of his shift, shot three times. He never even started the meter. The driver was described as a hard-working man. He was always eager to help others.

This Sask Party government has been in charge for 20-some years, and we lead the nation in violent crime. People are afraid. Why does Saskatchewan lead the nation in violent crimes like these?

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

Hon. Michael Weger: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And my heart goes out to the family of the taxi driver involved in that incident and his friends and his co-workers, Mr. Speaker. And I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, as the Minister of Community Safety, I take community safety very serious in this province. And we're doing everything we can to ensure that our residents feel safe and secure in their homes and in their place of work.

And what we're doing, Mr. Speaker, is we're adding officers. We're adding 100 new municipal police officers through the safer communities and neighbourhoods initiative. We've hired 71 of those to date, Mr. Speaker. We've funded municipal police services with 160 municipal policing positions. We're hiring Saskatchewan marshals throughout the province, and we have 26 hired to date. Mr. Speaker, we will continue to take community safety very seriously.

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon University-Sutherland.

Tajinder Grewal: — Mr. Speaker, the man who was killed came to this province to build a better life. Too many newcomers feel like they don't see a future in this province because of the lack of

opportunities and the concern about public safety. After nearly 20 years of this Sask Party government, people don't feel safe, and many newcomers are talking about moving off to other provinces. This is not how we build a strong and welcoming province.

What does the Sask Party government say to newcomers who are considering leaving Saskatchewan because they are worried for their own safety?

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

Hon. Michael Weger: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, our government appreciates everything that the newcomers bring to our province and bring to our cities and our communities throughout this province, Mr. Speaker. And that's why we're so committed to enhancing law enforcement across this province to ensure that they recognize they have a safe place to live, raise a family, and go to work, Mr. Speaker.

We continue to give police officers extra tools to do their job better, Mr. Speaker, and we make changes to legislation. And we've passed the safe public spaces Act, or the street weapons Act, to give those officers extra tools that they can use, Mr. Speaker. And again, just a continued commitment to making sure this province is safe. Thank you.

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

Hugh Gordon: — Mr. Speaker, the owner of the taxi company, Harris Korath, said, "Everybody's scared. Nobody wants to work." People are afraid to go to work. This is the state of Saskatchewan and public safety under this Sask Party government. People don't feel safe because of violence like this. And this is only one example.

Why is this government failing to ensure the safety for all Saskatchewan residents?

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

Hon. Michael Weger: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I've had the opportunity to interact with a lot of our law enforcement throughout the province. I've attended and participated in over 40 hours of ride-alongs with police in Prince Albert, Regina, Saskatoon, and in North Battleford, Mr. Speaker. And the purpose for those ride-alongs is to hear from the police officers on the front line, what can we do to help support you?

And one of those things, Mr. Speaker, is we need more bodies. We need to encourage people to become police officers. So when I talk to a young person and they talk to me about a career in law enforcement, I say, absolutely. You should consider it.

We have the depot in Regina here, a world-class facility where we train all of our RCMPs [Royal Canadian Mounted Police] across Canada, Mr. Speaker. And we've expanded our Saskatchewan Police College as well in 2026. We increased the positions up to 96, and that's a 50 per cent increase over the historical average.

And last thing, Mr. Speaker, we recently launched our national ad campaign where we are reaching across the country to recruit police officers to come to Saskatchewan, start a life, start a career, raise your family, and have a great life here in Saskatchewan.

Speaker Goudy: — Why is the member on her feet?

Kim Breckner: — A point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Goudy: — What's your point of order?

POINT OF ORDER

Kim Breckner: — During question period, the Premier misattributed a quote. He attributed it to the member from Regina Elphinstone. That quote was by a Saskatchewan health care worker. I invite the Premier to withdraw and apologize.

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Tim McLeod: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As a point of fact the Premier was quoting page 1802 of *Hansard*. That member did in fact say those words, and I would encourage you to review the record to confirm such.

Speaker Goudy: — So I will have to check the record on that one. And maybe not tomorrow but Thursday we'll get back to that, if that's all right with everyone.

Why is the member on her feet?

MOTIONS

Second Reading of Bill No. 612

Aleana Young: — Mr. Speaker, notwithstanding the government's agenda and what's published in *Orders of the Day*, I request leave to move the following motion:

That the Assembly immediately consider second reading of Bill No. 612, *The Lower Power Bills and Car Insurance Act*.

Speaker Goudy: — Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — No.

Some Hon. Members: — Yes.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

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 Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

Meara Conway: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a pleasure to be on my feet and enter in debate on *The Saskatchewan Internal Trade Promotion Act*, Bill No. 24.

Mr. Speaker, there's been much discussion about interprovincial trade barriers in the wake of the aggression, the concerning rhetoric, the really concerning moves we see from Trump in the United States — a long ally of Canada — suddenly introducing all kinds of trade barriers. It's really hard to follow what is coming. It's been very destabilizing for our Canadian businesses, for Canadian people.

And I think one of the things that has happened as a result of this is there has been a long-awaited discussion about how to become more self-reliant. And we know that there are so many economic benefits to looking really internally, be it here in Saskatchewan, for the things that we could be delivering here at home so that those valuable public dollars, for example, are staying right here in the province, not going to Alberta or to the United States to build up their GDP [gross domestic product].

And you know, I can recall when this all started happening, this really unprecedented and destabilizing time in our country, we saw a lot of good words coming from that Sask Party government about how they were going to emphasize local procurement, for example, how they were going to tackle this issue of interprovincial trade barriers, how they were going to take a look at their existing contracts and look at how do we build up our local economy.

And I recall, you know, in the health care context for example, Mr. Speaker, talking about LifeLabs. That's a company that was bought up by an American parent company. That's a service actually that we used to deliver publicly here in our health care system, paying good, mortgage-paying jobs to people here in Saskatchewan. And now we see not only those dollars going to profit margins to a for-profit company, Mr. Speaker — something that was not the case when we had that service provided here in the public sector — but also going now out of country, right.

And so we saw a lot of talk at that time about looking at local procurement, but we have seen very, very little action. So it's good to see a bill such as this come forward, where I think this is one of the first pieces of legislation really where we see some action on that side in terms of taking these tariffs really seriously. It's a little late. I would have liked to see us move much swifter on that front, Mr. Speaker. But certainly this is something that we need to be looking at.

So I know that the critic on this bill — I believe it's the member for Saskatoon Riversdale — is digging into these issues. She will have more questions of course at committee. She has been engaging in consultation with the sector. She's been very vocal on these tariffs, a fairly newly minted MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly]. And it was very impressive to see her just dive into these hard economic issues the way that she did and represent our team so thoughtfully and so credibly, Mr. Speaker.

So I'm happy to adjourn debate on this bill, knowing that the

consultation and any proposed changes are in the good hands of my colleagues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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 Nutana.

Erika Ritchie: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Happy to be on my feet on Bill No. 33, *The Credit Union Amendment Act, 2025*. And I understand that this is a bill looking to clarify some procedures around the process for terminating credit union memberships. And I know that the critic for this bill will be doing very good work to understand the amendments that have been put forward here and will ensure that they are meeting the purpose of this bill.

But while I'm on my feet I do want to take a moment to talk a little bit about credit unions and the important place that they play here in Saskatchewan, and also remember an important champion for co-operatives and credit unions. And that individual is Harold Chapman. Many on this side of the House will remember Harold. He lived to an incredibly ripe old age of 106, if I'm doing my math right. He was born in 1917 and passed away in 2023. I had the immense honour to be a friend of Harold's and get to know him sort of in that later stage of life.

And he was a firebrand and a real pioneer for the co-operative movement here in Saskatchewan. His efforts and passion drove change and inspired the formation and development of several co-operatives across the country. Harold's commitment to the co-operative principles are a testament to the legacy he leaves behind. And Harold was truly a class act through and through and will be greatly missed with his passing three years ago.

[14:30]

Credit unions originated here in Saskatchewan with the passing of *The Credit Union Act* in 1937, coming out of the Great Depression, the '30s, where people of this province were dealt a devastating blow to Saskatchewan's economy. Across the province, families and farms struggled to survive the financial hardships brought on by years of drought and crop failures. And denied support from the banks when they needed it most, Saskatchewan communities turned to each other to find a better solution.

And inspired by co-operatives in other provinces and also here in Saskatchewan, including the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool and the Co-op Refinery, citizens brought the credit union model forward to ease Saskatchewan's economic woes. The movement quickly gained traction, and *The Credit Union Act* was passed in 1937.

Today credit unions continue to protect economic welfare of Saskatchewan people. They are co-operatives that are owned and accountable to their members, and they improve the lives of their members and all those who live and work within the communities they serve as a cornerstone for everything they do.

I can say that I am a very proud member of the Affinity Credit Union in Saskatoon that provides me with a full range of financial services. And I really value being a member of a co-operative, knowing that when I invest in my credit union, it is turning around and investing in my community in so many ways. And we all benefit from that.

So as I say, I understand that these amendments are administrative mainly in nature and that our critic will do the good work to ensure that they're up to snuff. And with that, I'll 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. 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 Saskatoon University-Sutherland.

Tajinder Grewal: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present my remarks on Bill No. 38, *The Building Schools Faster Act*. So this Act applies only to new schools, and we do need new schools. I'm from Saskatoon, and Saskatoon is growing fast, Mr. Speaker. And there are many neighbourhoods in Saskatoon, doesn't have any school.

Last Monday we were door knocking in Brighton area in Saskatoon. A new school was proposed 10 years ago. Yes, Mr. Speaker, Sask Party government proposed a new school in Brighton neighbourhood 10 years ago, and nothing happened so far here. The member from Willowgrove is heckling something. It's part of his constituency. They proposed this school but still it's not there.

So this area, Brighton, has many, many young families, and they are sending their kids to many other schools. And those schools are overcrowded, Mr. Speaker, and they're using their gyms, their libraries for classrooms. And it certainly affects the quality of education, Mr. Speaker.

And one, this bill doesn't reflect on the maintenance and repair of the current schools. And we have heard stories the last month or two that in Saskatoon more than one school has leaking rooftops, and they have to close the school for a day or two, sometimes for a week. So we need to build the new schools, but we also need to take care of the current schools because that's very important.

And one thing I notice from this bill, the Sask Party government offloading their responsibilities to the municipalities. Education is a provincial jurisdiction. It's not the responsibility of the municipalities.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I will say that we need to build new schools but also take care of the current schools. And I move to adjourn the debate on Bill No. 38, *The Building Schools Faster Act*. 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 Saskatoon University-Sutherland.

Tajinder Grewal: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise again to present my remarks on Bill No. 39, *The Building Schools Faster Consequential Amendment Act, 2025*. This is a sister bill to the Bill No. 38. My remarks are similar here.

During the question period today, the member from Saskatoon Eastview was saying there is no school in White City. So there are many new neighbourhoods which need a school. And with that, Mr. Speaker, I move to adjourn the debate on Bill No. 38. 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 Regina Rochdale.

Joan Pratchler: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise to speak to Bill No. 40, *The Animal Protection Amendment Act, 2025*.

This Act is designed to increase transparency, public accountability, and consistency in enforcing animal protection standards. Key changes include creating positions for animal

welfare inspectors to educate the public and livestock industry members on proper care, granting the authority to obtain telewarrants and to relieve animal distress, and establishing a code of conduct for animal protection officers and inspectors.

It's important in our province that we protect animals as per international standards. We need to allow the guidelines per global standards as well, which is important to international trade. We want to ensure that we address any critical gaps in enforcement to better reach public accountability standards.

We need to reflect higher standards in animal welfare, and I see there's some admin changes that may well do this. We will be watching the regulations to make sure that that happens. And with that, Mr. Speaker, I adjourn debate on this bill.

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. 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.]

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

Sally Houser: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Delighted to rise today to speak to and enter into debate on Bill No. 41, *The Heritage Recognition (From Many Peoples, Strength) Act*.

I've listened to a number of my colleagues who have gotten to rise and speak on this very positive Act here at the legislature. You know, the function of the bill is to make it easier for the government to be able to declare any day or week or month as a heritage month, or essentially as a celebration of any culture which we have within Saskatchewan here.

I think it's excellent that it doesn't preclude any months or days or weeks that have been declared previously, as there's many groups that advocated so strongly for those to be declared previously, such as the Sikh Heritage Month.

And, Mr. Speaker, as you and some of my colleagues here know, I previously worked at the Canadian High Commission in London, England many, many moons ago. And for part of that time I worked in the immigration section, chiefly when they were first setting up the provincial nominee programs, including the Saskatchewan provincial nominee program.

And it was the greatest delight of my job there, was being able to speak to so many people who were looking to move to Canada and to make Canada their home and the excitement that they felt for them and their children and their families. And you know, to be able to see that diaspora within the borders here in Saskatchewan across the board, not just in our urban centres but

in really every corner of this province, makes me tremendously proud of that diversity that we have here within Saskatchewan.

And so, Mr. Speaker, you know, very pleased to see this moving forward. I think it's an excellent way that we, across the aisles and within this legislature, can really live through legislation the motto of "from many peoples, strength," Mr. Speaker. And with that, I move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 41, *The Heritage Recognition (From Many Peoples, Strength) Act*.

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. 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.]

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

Darcy Warrington: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to be on my feet to discuss and bring into this Chamber the debate on Bill No. 43, *The Municipalities Modernization and Red Tape Reduction Act*.

As discussed earlier, this Act has various topics of conversation that it intends to cover and address, such as dangerous animals, unprovoked attacks, and owners still liable for those attacks, previous attacks. There was not required damages necessarily.

There's updates on moving from a hamlet becoming a village and a town becoming a city. We're hoping for that sort of growth in this province. We're not necessarily seeing it, but we definitely encourage those sorts of things to be changed so that we can make that growth happen.

Unpaid bylaw fines. I've heard this a lot in Saskatoon. Municipalities can certainly take in a lot of additional revenue if there's, for example, unpaid parking tickets. Hundreds of thousands of dollars — if not millions — for cities like Saskatoon and Regina that go unchecked. Adding those to property taxes seems like a reasonable idea.

The appeals process updates whether it's, you know, a discrepancy between a municipality and a private citizen, but also ethics additions for municipalities. And we encourage those sorts of suggestions in this legislation to also be applied by the government as well. It's a wish that we have.

That being said, I will just say this in closing: there's a lot of regulations that the Sask Party calls red tape reduction. There's a centralization, in our opinion, of power in the minister's office. This is a pattern that we want to change, and we're going to be talking to our stakeholders to see how they feel about all of these different talking points. If the government really wanted to improve running municipalities they'd stop, as they are in the city

of Prince Albert, downloading millions and millions of dollars and increasing their property taxes.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 43.

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. 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.]

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

Darcy Warrington: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a privilege again to be on my feet to discuss bill numbers 44 and 45, *The Co-operatives Act, 2025* and *The Co-operatives Consequential Amendments Act*.

I think my colleagues are cheering me on for not wearing my fully green suit today. They told me that it's a little too cartoony for the Chamber. Mind you, I see some other members here with . . . I might have to take their advice and wear those.

But anyhow, that all being said, it truly is a pleasure to be on my feet to discuss *The Co-operatives Act*. It does things like allows co-ops to more easily sell preferred shares to non-members to raise capital. Directors no longer have to be at least 25 per cent Canadian residents.

I will say that co-operatives are near and dear to my heart. In my home of Marengo, Saskatchewan, in the early 2000s when the Sask Wheat Pool was closing down shop, we had a real dilemma on our hands in Marengo. A lot of the surrounding farmers were concerned that they were going to have to haul their grain all the way to Oyen, Alberta, or to Kindersley.

At that time, not many people had super-Bs to . . . not as many people had super-Bs to transport their grain, so they were moving it in 3 tonnes and in smaller quantities. So there was a real concern. And six farmers in the area banded together to sort of encourage the purchase of that elevator. And then they successfully ran that elevator as Meridian Grain for a number of years, to the point that private enterprise approached them and said, "You've done a great job of growing this business here. Can we purchase this?"

[14:45]

And everyone in the town that had shares and that was serving on a board to operate this elevator, they were able to vote. And as the amendment talks about, there is situations where these co-operatives maybe have served their purpose, and it allowed the people of the area to continue to haul their grain.

So we agree that keeping the dollars in Saskatchewan and getting the community invested in enterprises is a valuable talking point, as discussed within this bill. Providence Grain now runs the terminal there, but if not for co-operatives and the spirit of co-operatives there could have been tragic results in my hometown of Marengo, Saskatchewan.

With all that being said, Mr. Speaker, I move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 43.

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. 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.]

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

Darcy Warrington: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to be on my feet again to add into debate on Bill No. 45.

I wish to correct the record. At the end of the last adjourned debate I said I was adjourning for 43. I meant 44.

But a lot of the consequential amendments Act . . . What I discussed in my earlier statement can stand. So with that, I move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 45. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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. 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.]

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

Darcy Warrington: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm on my feet today to speak to Bill No. 47, *The Response to Illicit Drugs Act*. I think all of us in this Assembly can agree that illicit drugs of many kinds in our society are a scourge and are wreaking havoc on our communities, on our families, and our friends — and that we all in here have a duty to do much, much more than is currently being done.

This bill in particular, Mr. Speaker, has a number of items here. I guess in that respect some of the items here are allowing

government, in the case of where there is any employee who commits a drug crime or was committed in the last three years before they took a job or employment with the government, can be fired with no notice or severance. They cannot sue for wrongful termination.

This also includes and is extended to individuals who have received a government grant or anyone that has entered into an agreement with the government or the Crown, provides the minister the power to set drug crime rules for any grant that they give out, provided some system, process with respect to civil procedures.

For those individuals who have committed a drug-related crime that injures someone by their use, exposure to drugs, and allowing the government an opportunity to recover costs in a number of areas such as health benefits, expenses borne under *The Coroners Act* or *The Residential Services Act* or any other prescribed cost set by those in authority, the government doesn't need to justify or identify individuals or prove the cause of the injury. They don't need . . . They could also seize any remaining profits afterwards.

And in the case of multiple defendants, if it can't be proven which one caused a specific injury, giving the courts essentially leeway and some flexibility to determine the balance of probabilities and apportionment of those injuries and finding those individuals liable accordingly — and also be able to rely on drug stats generally, specifically, to quantify the injury — of those costs.

Now, Mr. Speaker, in a former career not too long ago I was one of those law enforcement officers who was assigned to various units throughout the province — in North Battleford, Saskatoon in particular — where we did work throughout this province to go and catch drug dealers of various kinds. Individuals that are at different levels of, I guess you can call it, the hierarchy in the criminal organizations that they participated in. Everything from dial-a-dopers, street-level drug dealers, to people who were actually the brains of the operation, so to speak, the head of the snake as we would call it in law enforcement.

I participated in a number of projects throughout the province as well, tasked with not just bringing those individuals to justice and charging them and seeing those charges through court to getting successful convictions, but also to essentially take away the motivation that those individuals engaged in that drug trafficking activity to begin with. So at the heart of it all, Mr. Speaker, is, you know, people deal drugs because (a) there's a market for it, sadly, and (b) because there is a profit motive attached to it. So I think in the spirit of Bill 47, I think that is commendable to recognize that.

Taking away those profits from drug dealers I think is an important part of the process. But I can't help but think, Mr. Speaker, that, you know . . . Because the bill makes reference in particular to four particular sections of the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act*, individuals who have been found guilty or convicted of sections 5, 6, 7, and 7.1 of that Act.

Now those are all serious offences, Mr. Speaker. They are drug trafficking, producing, transportation, importation, and production of those drugs. Those are all very, very serious

offences. And I could tell you from my own personal experience, Mr. Speaker, having been involved in those investigations, there was always a proceeds-of-crime component attached to those investigations.

And why is that, Mr. Speaker? Well it's because in those instances it's not enough just to arrest the bad guy, so to speak, seize the drugs or the weapons and what have you, and take those off the street to save some lives. But it also needed to go further. It needed to also ensure that the motive behind those offences was eliminated. And that was seizing assets. And I can tell you and I can assure this Assembly there are provisions within the Criminal Code that deal with this quite amply.

And I don't recall ever an investigation, particularly under sections 5, 6, 7, and 7.1 of the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act*, that didn't include some proceeds part of the investigation. In fact, Mr. Speaker, it was an incredibly important part of that investigation. And it required a certain amount of special expertise in order to do that, of which on occasion I did assist in doing just that, seizing those proceeds of crime and ensuring that those drug dealers were deprived of those profits, so to speak, Mr. Speaker.

What's also of particular note, Mr. Speaker, under the sentencing provisions of the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act*, and in particular under proceeds of crime, are particularly punitive measures that can be taken in those instances. So an individual is arrested, charged, convicted under those sections in the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act*. Their assets are seized. And that could be a house. It could be a car. It could be proceeds sitting in a bank account. I've seen some really interesting proceeds — very fancy bikes, some very fancy Christmas ornaments. But all of them have value.

And what's interesting is in the Criminal Code, under sentencing provisions, under proceeds of crime, it is particularly punitive. And it's also particularly interesting because when . . . As an investigator, an investigative body in Canada, sometimes those proceeds cannot be seized. Either they've been dispensed, they can't be traced, they can't be seized anymore, but they have a value yet.

Well the Criminal Code allows for that, Mr. Speaker. And upon sentencing, the absence of those assets having been forfeited to the Crown can be reflected in the sentencing provisions. And let me tell you, they're particularly punitive.

That said, Mr. Speaker, I'd be very interested to see in committee how this bill can address any of the gaps that might be there in federal legislation. On the face of it, on a prima facie case, I don't see that. That doesn't mean to say there can't be a good cogent argument for the provisions that are placed in Bill 47. Certainly there are other items attached to Bill 47, I think we can agree. I think individuals who have engaged in these very serious crimes under sections 5, 6, 7, 7.1 of the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act*, very serious.

And I think it demands reflection on the part of government and agencies that its employees don't engage in those behaviours. I think that's common sense. And I don't see anything quite frankly, Mr. Speaker, that anyone on this side of the Assembly will disagree with the spirit and the intent of the bill.

But to be clear, as a former police officer, I think it's also very important that we don't pass bills and laws in this province on a performative basis. We actually want them to do the job that the government — whoever that is — seeks as a goal and to enforce.

I also though can't help but wonder, Mr. Speaker. The name of the bill is *The Response to Illicit Drugs Act*. It cannot just be a one-sided approach, cannot have . . . just pass this bill and expect the bad guys to stop dealing drugs, producing drugs, importing drugs, trafficking drugs. There's already very punitive measures in the Criminal Code. There's already punitive measures in the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act*.

And I can tell you, these people, it's not their first rodeo, right. They've become quite smart about how to hide assets, getting a nominee to adopt those assets in their place. That doesn't mean to say it's not impossible to trace it.

I do question, and I'll be very interested to hear what the government has to say in committee about how this is going to be enforced and what measures and processes will kick into place in order to enforce Bill 47. In those instances where the law under federal legislation has failed or there's a gap there, I'll be all ears. I think all of us would be interested to know what that might be.

But the bad guys are going to keep doing bad stuff, and I think we're all adult enough to know they're going to continue on regardless of whether Bill 47 is enacted in law or not. In the face of very punitive measures under the Criminal Code and under the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act*, they're going to continue to engage in this because it continues to be lucrative.

That does not mean to say we cannot do all that we can to stop that. I think that we would all agree. But I also can't help but think, Mr. Speaker, that probably the best response to illicit drugs is to take away the demand for illicit drugs. And how do you do that? Treatment, prevention, education. Right? We have to be coming at this from all sides.

And clearly this is a government that — in spite of all of its promises — has failed to deliver on the treatment side. It's failed to deliver on treatment beds, treatment facilities, counselling. Mental health services play a big role in this. Homelessness plays a big role in this. Socio-economic factors play a big role in this, Mr. Speaker.

We cannot just pass Bill 47 and say, "Look at that. What a great job we did. Those bad guys might get sued one day." I can guarantee you this: regardless of the government's intent, the bad guys are allowed to use their proceeds of crime to fund their high-paid lawyers, and I would imagine that would apply in Bill 47 as well. But if we want to have a serious response to illicit drugs, take away the demand. Take it away. We have to do much, much more on that side of the equation, Mr. Speaker.

But again, as I said before, I think in debate for the compassionate care Act the week before last, I don't believe in taking any tools out of the tool box. But the tools that are there, we all have an obligation to make sure that they work accordingly. We cannot be passing laws performatively in that regard. Way too many lives, way too many lives are in the balance.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I will conclude my remarks and I will

move to adjourn debate on Bill 47.

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. 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.]

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

[15:00]

April ChiefCalf: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today in the Legislative Assembly to enter into debate on Bill 48, *The Compassionate Intervention Act*. I realize it is not just a privilege but also a responsibility to be here today speaking to such an important piece of legislation that could have a profound impact on people in our province.

And I've been thinking a lot about this bill since we adjourned the session last fall. And I'd like to note that several people over that period of time have shared their perspectives on this proposed legislation with me, and I hope to do them justice in this debate today. As well I have my own experiences, concerns, and observations, and I really do appreciate the opportunity to get these on record.

To begin, Mr. Speaker, I would like to note, I would like to emphasize again that those of us on this side of the Legislative Assembly are very much aware that the drug crisis in our province is overwhelming and that too many people are struggling to get help, too many people are dying, and too many family members are suffering because of the situation. And this is a situation that has been growing over a prolonged period of time.

I know that many organizations, many families, many individuals struggling with substance use, as well as justice and health care providers have all been calling on the government for support and for action on the drug crisis. And again this is a situation that has been growing for a significant period of time.

Now looking at this bill, my initial take is that it is too little, too late, and it really does not have the capacity to address the full crisis. To summarize, Bill 48 sets out a legal process for determining if someone needs forced intervention to go into drug treatment. And the bill will lead to the establishment of a branch with members who make the assessment and decision based on the individual's risk to harm themselves or others, among other factors. The bill will lead to the establishment of treatment centres as well as create a timeline for the process.

But I will say, Mr. Speaker, that in reading through this bill I did have more questions than answers. I found the language to be somewhat vague, and I found a number of key issues are

overlooked in the bill. And I want to echo the concerns of my colleagues, including my colleague from Saskatoon Silverspring, who expressed, when he debated this bill two weeks ago, that this is a piece of legislation that we need to get right. Too many people can die if we get it wrong.

There have been also too many examples on a human rights level, too many examples of people in our society being forced into doing things. So as a former professor, a former instructor teaching women's and gender studies classes, Indigenous studies classes, I would just like to note, you know, we have had women who have been forcibly sterilized, women who have been forcibly held in asylums for the wrong reasons.

And if we think about who we see struggling with substance use in our province today, there's a significant number of Indigenous peoples in that category. And this isn't because they're more prone to substance use. This is because of the legacy of things past and present that are happening in our society. You know, forcing people to be confined to reserves, and they can't leave their community without a pass from the Indian Agent, right. Forcing children into residential schools. Taking children away from their families in the Sixties Scoop. This has created a tremendous amount of trauma for Indigenous peoples.

And we're trying very much to enter into a period of reconciliation and to get things right when it comes to human rights. And what I see in this province is, I feel we are sliding backwards. We saw that with Bill 137. And I really worry that this bill is another example of sliding backwards when it comes to human rights.

Now some issues that I believe need to be addressed — not just through this legislation but through government policy and government action that could be of more benefit to those struggling with addictions — include housing, right. People need a house. A house is everything. A place to live is everything. You can't have good health without a place to live. You can't have a job without a place to live, right. All these things often come down to housing.

More supports for people coping with mental health issues such as trauma. You know, I recently spoke to somebody who operates a shelter in Saskatoon, and they told me that a lot of the people that they're helping in that shelter actually have acquired brain injuries or other disabilities that they've never been properly diagnosed or gotten the support for.

We need more resources for people struggling with poverty, Mr. Speaker. We see so many people struggling to pay rent, struggling to put food on the table. This leads to a lot of stress. No wonder people are turning to substances to cope with this stress.

And we also need more services for those who do wish to go into recovery. And I will say, I have taken a friend to an addictions counsellor. A friend who said, "I've hit rock bottom. Today is the day. I need help right now." I took them to a counsellor in La Ronge, and they were told minimum six weeks to wait, okay. So we need to focus on that as well.

Mr. Speaker, I sat in this Legislative Assembly last fall, and I heard the Premier say that there are people in our province who

are just not able to make decisions about their own health and their own health care, and they need someone to make decisions for them. But I wonder if he realizes how contradictory this position is when you consider that in 2019 the Sask Party government chose to stop direct payment of rent to landlords for people who were on social income support.

And their argument is, they wanted them to have more autonomy and more dignity. And now they're going to take that away from people, many of whom have ended up on the street and are coping with that situation using substances because they've become unhoused because of this 2019 policy of cancelling direct payment of rent. And I hear it over and over and over again from organizations that work with these folks.

Another concern I have, Mr. Speaker, is with what happens to people when they are released from recovery. Because if they have no place to live, if they are still struggling in poverty, and if their issues and trauma have not been resolved, they are likely to go back to using substances again.

And this happened to a family member of mine. We're still waiting for more information on this. But what we do know is, there was an overdose after a period of recovery. And this is the most dangerous time for people because their bodies do not have the same immunity to the substance that they were using. And when they use, the risk of overdose is even greater.

And in the case of my relative, it was about two weeks before she was found. And what that tells me is that she had no support. Nobody was following up on her when she came out of recovery, right. Those supports need to be in place if we are going to implement this legislation. There needs to be adequate support for people, or they are at risk of overdose and death. And that situation is no better than where we are at right now.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I want to touch on the issue of evidence because I worry that there has not been enough research, enough evidence underpinning this bill. We can't just go on anecdotal information. And if we do, let's look at a conference that I attended last fall, the fifth annual Reaching Home Homelessness Conference. I attended this conference along with my colleague for Regina Wascana Plains, and the Minister for Mental Health and Addictions was also present for a portion of this event.

And I know my colleague and I were particularly moved by the words of Guy Felicella, who spoke about his experiences of pain, of trauma, of struggling with houselessness and addictions in Vancouver. And he noted repeatedly that harm reduction kept him alive until he was ready to recover. And every time he went into recovery when he was not ready, he relapsed when he came out. And he noted that nobody has died at a safe injection site, because the resources are there to keep people alive. We need to keep people alive until they are ready to go into recovery.

I really worry that forcing people into recovery without adequate follow-up supports is not the answer. And while this bill proposes to address the needs really of a small number of people, this is a huge crisis. This is a huge problem in our province. So how is the government proposing to address the large number of people who do wish to go into treatment but are on a wait-list for a bed?

And with that, Mr. Speaker, I wish to adjourn debate on Bill 48.

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. I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Tim McLeod: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To facilitate the work of committees, I move that this Assembly do now adjourn.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Speaker Goudy: — Carried. We will adjourn until tomorrow at 1:30 in the afternoon.

[The Assembly adjourned at 15:11.]

GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

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