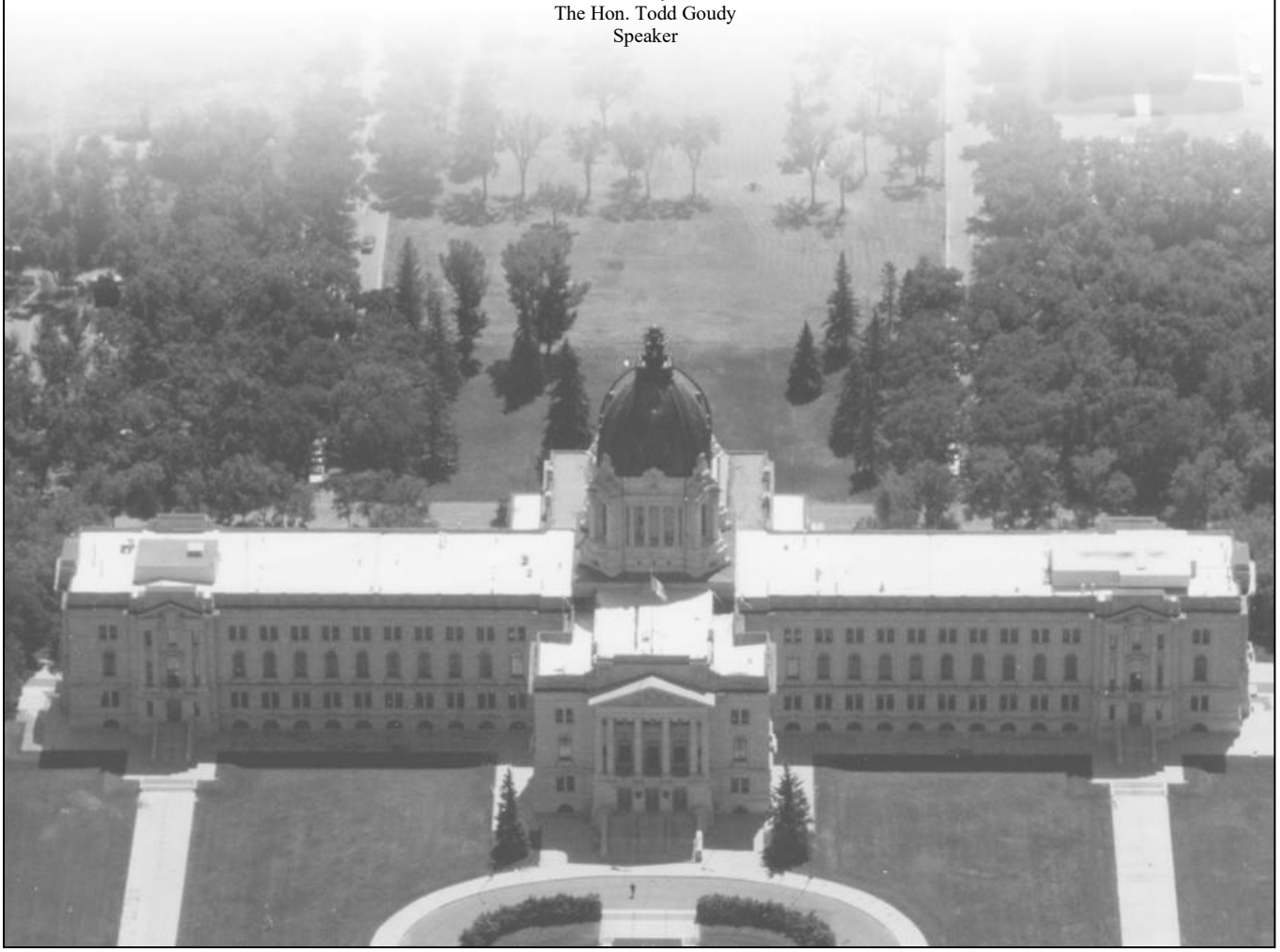
THIRD SESSION — THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE

of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

DEBATES AND PROCEEDINGS

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The Hon. Todd Goudy
Speaker



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN
3rd 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

Beaudry, Hon. Chris — Kelvington-Wadena (SP)
Beck, Carla — Regina Lakeview (NDP)
Blakley, Brent — Regina Wascana Plains (NDP)
Brar, Bhajan — Regina Pasqua (NDP)
Breckner, Kim — Saskatoon Riversdale (NDP)
Bromm, Terri — Carrot River Valley (SP)
Burki, Noor — Regina Coronation Park (NDP)
Carr, Hon. Lori — Estevan-Big Muddy (SP)
Chan, David — Yorkton (SP)
Cheveldayoff, Hon. Ken — Saskatoon Willowgrove (SP)
ChiefCalf, April — Saskatoon Westview (NDP)
Clarke, Jared — Regina Walsh Acres (NDP)
Cockrill, Hon. Jeremy — The Battlefords (SP)
Conway, Meara — Regina Elphinstone-Centre (NDP)
Crassweller, Brad — White City-Qu'Appelle (SP)
Gartner, Hon. Kim — Kindersley-Biggar (SP)
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Goudy, Hon. Todd — Melfort (SP)
Grewal, Tajinder — Saskatoon University-Sutherland (NDP)
Harrison, Daryl — Cannington (SP)
Harrison, Hon. Jeremy — Meadow Lake (SP)
Hilbert, Racquel — Humboldt-Watrous (SP)
Hindley, Hon. Everett — Swift Current (SP)
Housser, Sally — Regina University (NDP)
Jenson, Hon. Terry — Warman (SP)
Jorgenson, Keith — Saskatoon Churchill-Wildwood (NDP)
Kaeding, Hon. Warren — Melville-Saltcoats (SP)
Kasun, Kevin — Prince Albert Carlton (SP)
Keisig, Travis — Last Mountain-Touchwood (SP)
Kropf, Barret — Dakota-Arm River (SP)
Laliberte, Leroy — Athabasca (NDP)
Love, Matt — Saskatoon Eastview (NDP)
Marit, Hon. David — Wood River (SP)
Martens, Hon. Jamie — Martensville-Blairmore (SP)
McBean, Don — Saskatoon Chief Mistawasis (NDP)
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Moe, Hon. Scott — Rosthern-Shellbrook (SP)
Mowat, Vicki — Saskatoon Fairview (NDP)
Nippi-Albright, Betty — Saskatoon Centre (Ind)
Patterson, Megan — Moose Jaw Wakamow (SP)
Pratchler, Joan — Regina Rochdale (NDP)
Reiter, Hon. Jim — Rosetown-Delisle (SP)
Ritchie, Erika — Saskatoon Nutana (NDP)
Ross, Hon. Alana — Prince Albert Northcote (SP)
Rowden, Hon. Darlene — Batoche (SP)
Roy, Jacqueline — Regina Northeast (NDP)
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Senger, Brittney — Saskatoon Southeast (NDP)
Steele, Doug — Cypress Hills (SP)
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)
Young, Aleana — Regina South Albert (NDP)
Young, Colleen — Lloydminster (SP)

Standings
Government Caucus: Saskatchewan Party (SP) — 34; Opposition Caucus: New Democratic Party (NDP) — 26; Independent (Ind) — 1

Clerks-at-the-Table
Clerk — Iris Lang
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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 Development.

Hon. Warren Kaeding: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I could ask leave for an extended introduction. I have three introductions.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Speaker Goudy: — Carried.

Hon. Warren Kaeding: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, seated in your gallery, I am honoured to introduce to the Assembly Aleksandra Kucy-Kropiwnicka, the consul general of Poland in Vancouver, who is here on her official visit to Saskatchewan. And Aleksandra is a career diplomat who has served as Poland's consul general in Vancouver since 2023. And since joining Poland's Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2006, she has had a number of senior positions in public and cultural diplomacy and diaspora engagement. And she has also served Poland's diplomatic missions in Zagreb and Ottawa, gaining extensive consular and bilateral relations experience.

And over the past five years, exports to Poland have increased by an astounding 3,491 per cent, Mr. Speaker, primarily driven by our potash exports. And her visit to our province certainly highlights the very important relationship between Saskatchewan and Poland, particularly in agriculture, energy, mining, and research and development sectors.

And during her time here she'll be meeting with, I know, a number of ministers and Crown corporations. I've already had the pleasure of sitting down together and discussing many areas of mutual interest. And I wish her well during the rest of her itinerary, and I do want to publicly state as well, our condolences and support for her country as they certainly suffer from the losses from this weekend's tragedy, Mr. Speaker.

So, Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in extending a very warm Saskatchewan welcome to the consul general, as we continue building strong, productive relationships between our province and Poland.

Now, Mr. Speaker, as well I have two schools here today. So I'll start with the Grayson School: 15 students seated in the west gallery there, a split grade 4, 5, and 6 class with their teacher Laurel Erhardt who I know is working very well with our young students there in Grayson. And the parent chaperone today is Jaime Campbell. Thank you.

And so as well, my old alma mater, the Churchbridge high school is here today: 18 grade 9 students in the west gallery with their teacher Joel Blair. And Joel is certainly no stranger to the Assembly here. He has brought students here before. He's a great math teacher, certainly history and governance, very involved in coaching at many levels, and as well, Mr. Speaker, graduate of the Saskatchewan Teachers' Institute. And Tehra Lauer is their chaperone. I believe she's member relations at the Churchbridge Credit Union.

So I would certainly like to welcome our consul general as well as our schools here to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Kim Breckner: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to join with the member opposite in welcoming the consul general of Poland, Aleksandra Kuzy-Kropiwnicka to the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan. There are many in Saskatchewan with ties to Polish heritage, including myself. My great-great-grandmother came over from Poland.

So very happy to have you here and to continue our collaboration in trade on nuclear energy, the ties we're building in critical minerals, mining, and sustainable technology and agriculture.

I'd like to echo the condolences for the terrible tragedy that we saw on Saturday. And I ask all members to join me in welcoming this delegation to the Legislative Assembly.

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

Hon. Chris Beaudry: — Mr. Speaker, I request leave for an extended introduction.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Hon. Chris Beaudry: — Mr. Speaker, I would like to introduce members of the Saskatchewan mining board of directors who are joining us today in your gallery, Mr. Speaker. With us today is Liam Mooney, senior vice president and chief legal officer of Cameco; Andrew Gajadhar, chief administrative officer, K+S Potash; Shannon Rhynold, vice-president, technical services, potash, Nutrien; Lawrence Berthelet, vice-president of operations, Mosaic company; Colin Braithwaite, VP [vice-president], safety, health, environment and regulatory, Orano Canada; Guy Hiltz, senior manager, safety and risk, Westmoreland Mining. And also in the west gallery, Mr. Speaker, Jennifer May, government relations, Cameco.

Now and last but not least, Mr. Speaker, is Pam Schwann, president of the SMA [Saskatchewan Mining Association], who unfortunately will be retiring soon, which is a huge loss not only to the SMA but to the province of Saskatchewan as well. Thank you for everything you've done, Pam. I had the opportunity to meet with them this morning to discuss policy and growth in the province, Mr. Speaker. The SMA does amazing work, and I hope that everyone in the Chamber could give them a warm welcome. Thank you.

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

Sally Housser: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm delighted to join with the minister opposite in welcoming these fine representatives of the Saskatchewan Mining Association to our legislature. To Pam, Liam, Andrew, Shannon, Lawrence, Colin, Guy, and Jennifer: the tremendous advocacy you do is very much a reflection of the pride and excitement that the people of Saskatchewan feel in our world-class mining industry.

A particular shout-out to echo the minister's statements and a thank you to Pam Schwann for the incredible work that you have done as an advocate for this industry — not only in getting young people involved in careers in mining, but really promoting the need for that trade enabling infrastructure that is going to take our industry for generations into the future. But I know she will continue that advocacy with her new role in the board of directors of the Port of Vancouver. So I would like all members to join me in welcoming these fine advocates to this, their legislature.

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the member from Yorkton.

David Chan: — I ask leave for an extended introduction.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

David Chan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the west gallery I'm pleased to welcome Virginia Battiste, her husband Don, and friend Wanda Thorpe of the Parkland For Life Council to the legislature today. The Parkland For Life Council brings together Christians from several denominations across Yorkton and the Parkland region who share a commitment to the dignity and value of human life.

Virginia leads this organization. She's a retired hospital chaplain with a master's degree in theological studies. Her service has included supporting people through grief and bereavement, and training pastoral care volunteers to offer support to those approaching end of life. Through their radio program, *For Life*, as well as other community outreach initiatives, the council encourages thoughtful conversations about life, faith, and caring for others.

So you can't tell, Mr. Speaker, but Virginia has more than 80 years of life under her belt and she's still going strong. But I thank them for their commitment to our communities and ask all members to join me in welcoming them to their Legislative Assembly.

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Leroy Laliberte: — Mahsi, okimâw nâpêw. I would like, to you and through you, would like to introduce some friends of mine that are seated in the east gallery. I have Shalene Keepness who is a local Métis artist here in Regina, and she is joined by her husband Rynold. Shalene Keepness is a member of SEIU-West [Service Employees International Union-West]. Joined with them is Graham Mitchell who is also a member of SEIU-West, and we have Marilynne MacFarlane who is the president of the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour, Mr. Speaker.

They're here to witness the bill that I will be presenting today, Mr. Speaker. So I'll welcome all members to welcome these folks to their Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the member from Dakota-Arm River.

Barret Kropf: — Mr. Speaker, to you and through you, I'd like to introduce Isaac Mollison who is up in your gallery up there. He is a second-year U of R [University of Regina] student studying philosophy, economics, and politics, and he spent some time last summer working at the Regina Symphony because he is a renowned cello player. So maybe next year at the budget talk, maybe we can get you in here playing that cello during the debate as well. But, Mr. Speaker, a great student that's looking forward to making an impact in his age group. He studies, like I said, at the U of R, and I just want to ask all the members to welcome him to his legislature.

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

Darcy Warrington: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek leave for an extended introduction.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Darcy Warrington: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, it's a pleasure to be on my feet to introduce Dr. Darrin Oehlerking and his wife, Wendy. Darrin is the Associate Dean of Student Affairs at the University of Saskatchewan for the College of Arts and Science, and Wendy is in university relations at the U of S [University of Saskatchewan] as well.

I have so many things I'd like to say, but I'd also like to point out that their son Chas, who is not with us today, is a baseball player down in Minot. He used to play against our leader's nephew Carter Beck, so that must mean he's a pretty great baseball player. Also a heck of a trumpet player; my wife taught their son trumpet as well.

Darrin is an amazing advocate, Mr. Speaker, for music in our province. He's been here since roughly 2010. At that time I was just teaching classroom at North Park Wilson and a friend of mine encouraged me to join the Saskatchewan Band Association, so that's when my time started in knowing Darrin. And there couldn't be someone who is more involved in the education of not only students in our province, but the teachers who teach those students. I can't imagine how many people have learned from you over the years that are going to be making this next generation our most talented musical generation ever.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to welcome Darrin and Wendy to this, their Legislative Assembly.

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

Nicole Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, I'd like to introduce Emily Reaume, who's seated in your gallery this afternoon. Emily was a former employee of our caucus office. She left us a few years ago to pursue legal studies. She is now finishing her last year of law school at the University of Saskatchewan College of Law, here back home this week as the college and the university students are on break this week, to watch proceedings. We're very happy to have her join us and very happy to hear that after her legal studies are completed, she'll be moving back to Regina to do her articles. I ask all members to join me in welcoming Emily to her Legislative Assembly.

Speaker Goudy: — I'd also like to welcome our consul general here, Aleksandra. We had a great time to visit. I threw all sorts of questions to her, she being a history professor at the university there. She did a great job explaining all things from the past. But just one point: that 55,000 people in Saskatchewan, Saskatchewan citizens, have Polish roots. We appreciate all that Poland has been a part of in establishing our province for what it is, and we appreciate our relationship that we have with you. So welcome here today.

Also I have some friends from Melfort who moved away. But once you're from Melfort, you're always from Melfort. So Barry Nordstrom and his son here, they've been taking a tour around the building. Isaac and also a friend, Jonathon Kasongo, are here. So welcome to this, your Legislative Assembly.

Also I just . . . Sorry, one last thing: Isaac Mollison, good buddy of Jeff Sterzuk. And that's how the connection was made here, to have you here today. So thanks for lunch, and I appreciate the youth's excitement about the whole political process. So as we are going through question period, let's remember that there are some young minds here that are looking forward to getting into politics. So welcome to this, your Legislative Assembly.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

[13:45]

Noor Burki: — It's okay. Regina Coronation Park. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I ask to present petition to the 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 the 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 families; that without rent control, landlords can implement unchecked rent hikes, making housing increasingly unaffordable and unstable; that with the rent control, residents can budget more effectively, potentially put them in a position to save for a down payment of their first dream house; that the provinces such as British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario, Prince Edward Island, all of them, they have 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 to call on the Government of Saskatchewan to adopt fair and effective rent control legislation.

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

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

University of Saskatchewan Music Educator Builds a Lasting Legacy

Darcy Warrington: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Darrin Oehlerking from the University of Saskatchewan. He currently serves as associate dean of student affairs for the College of Arts and Science.

Dr. Oehlerking, with his trumpet and baton, has influenced the music scene in this province and country for decades. Previously he was the president of both the Saskatchewan and Canadian band associations and has helped broaden the current arts curriculum for band. He has also been a guest conductor, conference presenter, adjudicator, and clinician across North America and Europe.

Darrin's work within the wind instrument community is so admirable. He is the editor of the 2025 book, *Winds of the North*, a survey of the Canadian wind band tradition, a music education resource dedicated to Canadian wind band history.

Under Dr. Oehlerking's former direction, U of S wind orchestra has performed across the province, Canada, California, North Dakota, and Europe. Along with wind orchestral giants such as Drs. Kaplan, Eckroth, and Gillis, Darrin has left a lasting legacy for music educators in performance at the U of S that will only grow through his continued advocacy. His impact on teachers and students, young and young-at-heart musicians, is felt every day within the band community, and his positive influence will resonate for decades more.

To the members of the legislature and people of this province, please join me in thanking Dr. Darrin Oehlerking for making Saskatchewan a truly harmonious place.

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

Regina Thunder Win the Canadian Bowl

Brad Crassweller: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to congratulate the Regina Thunder on winning the Canadian Bowl. The Thunder's campaign for the title started on August 9th when they won their season opener 56 to 1 in Edmonton. They went on to go 7 and 1 in the regular season before meeting the Saskatoon Hilltops in the Prairie football conference championship, winning 44-19. Then they defeated the OFC [Ontario Football Conference] champion, Sioux Cougars, 44-15 to secure their spot in the Canadian Bowl against the BCFC [British Columbia Football Conference] champions, the Westshore Rebels.

Early in the fourth quarter, Westshore tied the game at 21 before Head Coach Scott MacAulay's Thunder started rolling. Running back Peter Boersch had an electric performance, running for 281 yards on 39 carries and a 33-yard rushing touchdown to retake the lead in the fourth, rightly earning him the Offensive Player of the Game.

Then a clutch interception by linebacker Owen Effa, followed by two rushing touchdowns from quarterback Jayden Zelionka and running back Mathew Morris, clinched the 42-21 for the Thunder and their second-ever Canadian Bowl title. Thunder's defensive tackle Manny Fotiou was named Defensive Player of the Game following his eight tackles which helped to shut down the Rebels' offence.

Mr. Speaker, I'd ask all members to join me in congratulating the Thunder on winning their second Canadian Bowl title, and congratulating all players, coaches, and staff on their excellent season. Thank you.

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

Comprehension and Compassion Explained

Joan Pratchler: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to talk about two words: "comprehension" and "compassion."

Reading assessments test for comprehension. The lowest level is the literal level — just the facts. The highest is critical thinking, you know, for real life and connecting the dots. Compassion is mercy beyond expectations.

An early grade 6 passage, test passage, would be:

> Viruses spread in a variety of ways. Often there are no co-morbidities. There are co-morbidities of infections, two or more at the same time. Some incurable infections, like HIV [human immunodeficiency virus], are caused by blood-borne transmission from a scratch or a contaminated instrument. Co-morbid infections cost $1.5 million a person; a clean syringe, 17 cents — a 17-cent investment versus $1.5 million or more.

Comprehension is just literally the facts. Application is an obvious cost-benefit analysis. When people present to an ER [emergency room], guaranteed, health care workers use clean paraphernalia every time. Because when someone is suffering, it's morally wrong to make it worse.

Comprehension, compassion. Two more words. Members opposite can connect the dots. So yes, I do applaud the Premier for counting every one of my words about a government which could've, should've, didn't, can't. And now I will add "won't."

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

Sukanen Ship Pioneer Village & Museum Keeps History Alive

Megan Patterson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Sukanen Ship Pioneer Village & Museum is a very special place just south of Moose Jaw, but it is much more than just a museum. It's a place where Saskatchewan's history is kept alive.

Every visit is a chance to learn about the people who came before us. Families can walk through historic buildings, see old farm equipment, and experience what life was like for pioneers who built our province. At the heart of the village is the remarkable story of Finnish-born sailor Tom Sukanen. His dream of building a ship on the prairies reminds us that determination, hope, and hard work can leave a lasting legacy.

The museum exists because of dedicated volunteers, staff, board members, and supporters. They give their time, resources, and energy to preserve our history. Their work helps future generations understand where we came from and what shaped our communities.

To everyone who has helped make the Sukanen village what it is today: thank you. I encourage everyone to visit, to learn about, and to support this wonderful piece of Saskatchewan's heritage.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Retail Sector Numbers Contradict Government Slogan

Aleana Young: — Why thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have an update for the Sask Party government and its new favourite slogan — strong, steady growth. Because I guess it wasn't growth that was working for everyone, Mr. Speaker. And it certainly doesn't describe what's happening in our retail sector. Because according to the latest StatsCan release, retail sales for January to August 2026 had the weakest growth in Canada, 10th out of 10 compared with the same period last year, 9th out of 10.

Now, Mr. Speaker, these are dollar figures, not inflation-adjusted sales. And a little econ 101, Mr. Speaker, since it's been a minute since we got to do Sask Party math. Higher sales in dollars does not necessarily equal more goods sold.

People aren't selling more, but they certainly are paying more. Much of the increase reflects what families pay at the till rather than a growth in purchases. Retail businesses across our province, they employ Saskatchewan people and they also depend on families having money left to spend. They deserve better, Mr. Speaker, than another government slogan. And 10th over two years and 9th in one is not strong, steady growth.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the Premier can keep muttering those words over and over, but Saskatchewan's economy deserves a government that faces the facts.

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the member from Cypress Hills.

Government Promotes Investment in Helium

Doug Steele: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Saskatchewan is home to one of the world's most promising helium industries. And our government is working to make sure that opportunity reaches its full potential. Budget 2026 brings in an important change to the federal tax treatment of helium. Ottawa is providing greater

certainty in improving the economics of investing in Saskatchewan in the helium sector.

Mr. Speaker, this did not happen by accident. Last April the Minister of Energy and his team travelled to Ottawa, alongside Saskatchewan industry representatives, to make the case for helium, the sector, and the changes needed to unlock the potential. They listened to the industry, brought their concerns directly to the federal decision makers, and worked together towards a solution. That's what responsible leadership looks like.

Our government believes in working with industry, not shutting it out. When the government listens, builds relationships, and works alongside people creating jobs, investing in our province, really progress is possible.

This is another example of Saskatchewan standing up for its industries, attracting investment, and building a strong, steady Saskatchewan. Thank you.

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the member from Cannington.

Indications of a Strong, Steady Economy

Daryl Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's another great day in Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues and I have spoken about the great investments happening here in the province. New infrastructure for the future is being built, new mines and hospitals are opening, and critical mineral industries are booming.

These investments are helping drive a competitive labour market. Stats Canada's latest labour force numbers show that the labour force market in Saskatchewan remains strong and steady. Since October of last year, a net 5,900 new jobs were added to the economy. Manufacturing and construction have driven this exceptional growth, with over 25,000 jobs added in the private sector. Health care and social assistance saw growth of 5 per cent, or 5,200 jobs.

Youth employment is up. Employment in Regina and Saskatoon is up. And our GDP [gross domestic product] continues to grow at a faster pace than the rest of Canada. Last year our provincial GDP grew by over 3 per cent, compared to the national rate of 1.9 per cent. In August the value of manufacturing sales grew by over 32 per cent.

Mr. Speaker, people are continuing to choose Saskatchewan. Our population is growing, investment is growing, and our exports are growing. In an uncertain world, there is only one answer: strong, steady Saskatchewan.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Head Offices of SaskTel and Saskatchewan Government Insurance

Carla Beck: — A news release went out today, a news release that stated that SaskTel and SGI [Saskatchewan Government Insurance] are considering merging into one office because this government has failed to maintain either office. Mr. Speaker, this move is sure to set off alarm bells for people in this province who believe that this government is taking yet another run at our Crown corporations.

So for the record, will the Premier commit that this move will not result in a single layoff or the sale of either Crown?

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

Hon. Jeremy Harrison: — Well we see again, Mr. Speaker, why nobody takes the Leader of the Opposition seriously. The NDP [New Democratic Party] have been making the same claim now for 19 years, Mr. Speaker. No Crowns have been privatized and none will be privatized, Mr. Speaker.

In fact we have both buildings that are coming to the end of their lifespan, Mr. Speaker. They were designed for 50-year life expectancies. The SGI building, as was laid out very clearly this morning by the CEO [chief executive officer] of the company, Mr. Speaker, has challenges. And we are looking to make sure that our Crowns are healthy, strong going forward, Mr. Speaker, that our workforce is downtown at work. And we're looking at this option as being the best one to move forward with.

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

Data Centre and SaskPower Rates

Carla Beck: — Mr. Speaker, that minister just suggested that no Crowns have been privatized under their watch. This is the same minister who, earlier this year, stood on the floor of this Assembly and hiked power rates for Saskatchewan families, despite the fact that just weeks before they had promised that they weren't even considering a rate hike. They have another hike planned, Mr. Speaker, for next year that will cost Saskatchewan people millions of dollars.

Now last week this minister also told the media that his hyperscale AI [artificial intelligence] data centre would actually reduce power bills for Saskatchewan people. I'm skeptical to say the least. But I'll ask the minister to put our money where his mouth is. Will he commit to scrapping next year's planned power rate hike?

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Premier.

[14:00]

Hon. Scott Moe: — Mr. Speaker, I'm happy to announce . . . And I hope that this would be taken into consideration by the members opposite with their consideration of supporting the largest and best investment in Canadian history, being the data centre outside of Regina, Saskatchewan, for the reason that it is going to strengthen our Crowns.

Not just SaskPower by being a significant customer moving forward, Mr. Speaker, but also going to strengthen our SaskTel utility Crown by allowing SaskTel to be the exclusive agent for AI products in the province of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. This is on top of the 3,000 ongoing jobs, on top of the fact that Bell is moving their AI head office to our capital city of Regina, Saskatchewan, part of those 3,000 jobs, Mr. Speaker.

This is an investment by a Canadian company, Mr. Speaker, in Regina, Saskatchewan, in our nation of Canada, that will be subject to Canadian law, going to provide data sovereignty, going to provide 3,000 jobs, going to move a head office to our capital city of Regina. Good for SaskPower, Mr. Speaker, utilizing the power that they produce as a significant customer, and good for SaskTel by strengthening our Crown corporations in this province.

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

Carla Beck: — Mr. Speaker, I heard no commitment to scrap that planned rate hike, just more costs for everyday Saskatchewan people. Mr. Speaker, in reality, hyperscale AI data centres cause power bills to spike. In the United States, people in that country alone pay an additional $7 billion to power these data centres. Some people near those data centres have seen their power bills increase by 200 per cent or more.

Mr. Speaker, why does this minister think that his AI data centre will be the only one on the planet to reduce power costs?

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Scott Moe: — Mr. Speaker, this isn't the United States of America. This is Saskatchewan. And, Mr. Speaker, there is a portion of the initial power that will be provided from SaskPower, a significant customer that will be paying for that power. It's going to strengthen SaskPower's position. As I said, also going to strengthen SaskTel's position, Mr. Speaker, as being the exclusive agent in the province for AI fabric products in this great province of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

This is a significant investment — in fact the largest investment in Canadian history — going to result in data sovereignty, going to result in stronger Crowns, going to result in 3,000 jobs here in our capital city, Mr. Speaker, 100 of them which are going to come from the formation of Bell's AI head office, Mr. Speaker, located right here in Regina, Saskatchewan.

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

Aleana Young: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. You heard it here first. The Premier of Saskatchewan — I'm glad he knows what province it is — he can't commit to not hiking bills on the families and businesses he is supposed to serve.

And it's no wonder. Maybe his minister hasn't told him yet that he's going to be hiking bills again in four months. Because this is the same minister who claimed it was going to drive rates down, but again on Friday waffled with himself when he said . . . when he was asked to back off this second rate hike and cut struggling small businesses a break.

This is the same minister who tried to sneak a rate hike past the people of this province, including that Premier, just last year, Mr. Speaker. Why is the Premier allowing his minister to jack up power rates on small businesses and families and farms across Saskatchewan?

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Minister of CIC.

Hon. Jeremy Harrison: — Well I can tell you this, Mr. Speaker. We are very proud of our energy security strategy in this province which has allowed us to attract $100 billion of new investment to this province, Mr. Speaker. And I would counterpoint that with their position on their AI-written power plan. Mr. Speaker, they won't even say the word anymore. They haven't even referenced their plan in three months. And I can tell you why, Mr. Speaker. Because their plan is an absolute catastrophe that would double the cost of power, Mr. Speaker . . .

[Interjections]

Speaker Goudy: — Order, please.

Hon. Jeremy Harrison: — This was a party opposite, Mr. Speaker, that had at the centrepiece of their plan to import LNG [liquefied natural gas] from the United States and British Columbia, Mr. Speaker. Their plan was a complete catastrophe. They refused to even acknowledge that they had this plan in the first place, Mr. Speaker. We, on the other hand, are very proud of our plan which is attracting $100 billion of investment: two new uranium mines, a new copper mine, a new potash mine, and the largest investment in Canadian history.

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

Aleana Young: — Mr. Speaker, it is always so delicious to know how rent-free we live in that minister's mind. Did you know if you say the words "Grid and Growth" three times, Mr. Speaker, he emerges, weeping under his breath. Because this is the same minister who thought he could spend $26 billion of public money on his coal plan and nobody would notice. The same minister who thought he could drive SaskPower into record debt and historic losses and no one would notice. The same minister who, day after day, stands in this Assembly and refuses to answer basic questions.

People in this province, Mr. Speaker — they're not stupid and they deserve some respect. Why does this minister think he's above paying the people of this province some respect and giving them some answers?

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Minister of CIC.

Hon. Jeremy Harrison: — Well, like I said, Mr. Speaker, we are very, very proud of our energy security strategy, Mr. Speaker, which is going to and has enabled there to be record investment into this province.

Whether it be two new uranium mines, whether it be a new potash mine, whether it be a new copper mine, and whether it be the largest single private sector investment in the history of the country, Mr. Speaker, that Bell Canada is making into this province to strengthen our national AI data and compute capacity, relocating 100 head office jobs and creating 3,000 new jobs for this province, Mr. Speaker.

All of which, all of which has been opposed by these members opposite who would put these thousands of people out of work, shut down these investments, Mr. Speaker, and create incredible difficulty for our province.

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Churchill-Wildwood.

Provision of Health Care

Keith Jorgenson: — Mr. Speaker, this entitled and out-of-touch government is laser-focused on ramming through the data centre just outside Regina. But they're failing seniors yet again.

Today we're joined by yet another family that's being failed by this government, Mr. Speaker. Mark Shyluk's 88-year-old father, who's in the early stages of Alzheimer's, spent nearly five days — five days, Mr. Speaker — in a hospital hallway in Saskatoon following an injury. Five days spent in a hallway without the care that he needed, Mr. Speaker.

Will the minister agree to meet with Mark to hear his concerns after question period?

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Jeremy Cockrill: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member opposite for the question. Welcome, Mark, to this, his legislature. I myself have had family members dealing with Alzheimer's. It can be very difficult. I'd be happy to meet with Mark after proceedings today.

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Churchill-Wildwood.

Keith Jorgenson: — Mr. Speaker, we hear from family after family after family whose loved ones are being failed by that minister, are being failed by that Premier. This minister likes to brag about his ambitious plans, his successful plans. But do you know how we can tell that they're not working, Mr. Speaker? Do you know how we can tell? Because an 88-year-old man spent five days in a hallway with limited access to a washroom and no access to a call bell.

And he says his plan's working. This is not the dignified care that older adults deserve in this province. Why should the people of Saskatoon and Saskatchewan have any faith that this minister is going to prevent this from happening over and over again?

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Jeremy Cockrill: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, Mr. Speaker, I can say it's the expectation of this government, and I think really all of us in Saskatchewan, that we as patients and our family members receive the right care at the right time and as close to home, Mr. Speaker. That is what the patients-first health care plan is all about, Mr. Speaker.

That's why we're taking action in so many of these areas, Mr. Speaker. That's why having large investments like the AI data centre just outside of Bell and new potash mines and new uranium mines are so important — because it helps government make the significant investments that we are, Mr. Speaker.

Over the last four or five years, Mr. Speaker, 281 more acute care beds opened, Mr. Speaker, 235 of those in Saskatoon, Mr. Speaker. This speaks directly to how we can take a strong, steady economy and put it back into the investments that mean the most for our families each and every day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Churchill-Wildwood.

Keith Jorgenson: — Mr. Speaker, you know what the people of Saskatchewan expect? That minister to bring a plan for health care to this Chamber that actually works. That's what they expect.

So this is what Mark had to say. This is a quote from him:

> My dad was in the middle of chaos. There was constant movement of people, medical equipment, stretchers, cleaning supplies, and visiting family members. There was no peace for patients. He did not deserve this. No one deserves this.

Mr. Speaker, I could not possibly agree more. What does the minister have to say to Mark about the care that his father received? Is this the care that he deserved?

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Jeremy Cockrill: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I look forward to speaking with Mark after the proceedings today to learn more about the situation.

Mr. Speaker, again, this is why the government is making significant investments, not only in the 281 additional acute care beds that have been opened over the last four or five years. This is why we have an urgent care centre in the west side of Saskatoon finish substantial construction, completion, and will be opening early in 2027, Mr. Speaker. This is why we're making investments both in primary care and in long-term care to provide that whole spectrum of services available to Saskatchewan patients. This is what it means when we're trying to provide the right care at the right time and as close to home, Mr. Speaker, as possible.

It sounds like Mr. Shyluk's father didn't receive the care that would reach that expectation, Mr. Speaker, and again I look forward to speaking with Mark after question period today.

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

Rent Control Measures

Matt Love: — Mr. Speaker, earlier today my colleague, the shadow minister for Social Services, was joined by Monika Kinner, a resident of Saskatoon Eastview whom I have the honour of representing here in this Assembly.

Now Monika is unable to work due to a serious fall that took place at home after her landlord refused to install a railing on her stairs, and that has made her finances very tight. But her landlord just informed her that her rent is going up by $700 a month, and if she can't pay it, she's gone.

Now this shouldn't happen in Saskatchewan, but it is happening, Mr. Speaker. Will the minister protect other vulnerable people from being taken advantage of just like Monika? Will he commit

to rent control today?

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Jim Reiter: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was concerned to read the NDP news release this morning about Monika. And the member opposite references, this is the line from the news release: "Monika Kinner says she suffered a serious fall on the stairs of her rental property after her landlord refused to install a proper railing," Mr. Speaker. There's the option for Monika to appeal to the Office of Residential Tenancies when properties aren't being kept up to building code and appropriate measure of repair, Mr. Speaker.

As far as the answer on rent control, Mr. Speaker, it has been proven time and again that rent control — while the best of intentions and may work for a very short period of time, Mr. Speaker — what it does is it dries up investment, and in the long run leads to less availability of rental properties on the market, Mr. Speaker. We have a number of programs, for example the secondary suite incentive, we believe are working very well, Mr. Speaker. And we will not be introducing rent control. We will do what's right for the Saskatchewan economy.

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

Matt Love: — Mr. Speaker, I've been here a few years and I've heard some out-of-touch things from that side during my time in this Assembly. But suggesting that $700 a month increase is anything less than devastating, well that truly takes the cake.

You know, Mr. Speaker, people like Monika, they don't have a $20,000 prepaid debit card to pay the bills. Now other provinces have brought in rent control. Other provinces are protecting their residents. But this Sask Party government, they won't do it. Instead they make an argument based on studies that have been debunked over and over again.

Why is that minister leaving renters out in the cold here in Saskatchewan?

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Jim Reiter: — Mr. Speaker, if the member would like to talk about other provinces, let's do that, Mr. Speaker. Actually each of the top 20 cities with the highest rents in Canada, Mr. Speaker, where are they? They're in jurisdictions that have rent control. Mr. Speaker, if you look at the latest news from Rentals.ca, the cheapest rental in the country, average rent, is in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker — $1,478.

[14:15]

Let's look at, thankfully, previously NDP BC, Mr. Speaker, average rental, $2,407. Or NDP Manitoba, which has rent control . . .

[Interjections]

Speaker Goudy: — You can have time to ask questions in debate, but let's listen to the minister.

Hon. Jim Reiter: — Mr. Speaker, Manitoba which has rents, average rents, higher than Saskatchewan — $1,648. Mr. Speaker, we have the lowest rent. Are we concerned? Absolutely. That's why we have programs, like I said, Mr. Speaker, the secondary suite incentive, which we believe are working, helping to keep the price of rent down in Saskatchewan.

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Observation of Truth and Reconciliation Day

Leroy Laliberte: — Mr. Speaker, September 30th is the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Many other provinces and the federal government recognize this day as a public holiday, but Saskatchewan does not. We have thousands of residential school survivors here in Saskatchewan. And everyone should be able to take part in the ceremonies and the events that take place each year.

Mr. Speaker, it is time. Will the Sask Party government finally do the right thing and make the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation a statutory holiday in our province?

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

Hon. Eric Schmalz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As will continue going forward, Mr. Speaker, September 30th will be proclaimed the day for truth and reconciliation in Saskatchewan as we have done for many years.

Mr. Speaker, a statutory holiday does not necessarily mean action, Mr. Speaker. You look at next door in Manitoba. Mr. Speaker, that is not a jurisdiction that recognizes Remembrance Day as a holiday, Mr. Speaker. However that does not diminish the action of Manitobans in coming out and honouring our veterans.

Mr. Speaker, the same can be said for those in Saskatchewan when it comes to Truth and Reconciliation Day, Mr. Speaker. We will continue to take real action on reconciliation, Mr. Speaker. That will continue to be this government's move forward. Thank you.

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

Child Poverty and Supports for Low-Income Families

Kim Breckner: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Food Banks Canada recently released their annual report. It showed that Saskatchewan had the highest proportion of child food bank users, yet this government is still charging PST [provincial sales tax] on children's clothes and groceries.

Saskatchewan is a rich province. We could eliminate child poverty if we truly cared. What does this Sask Party government say to families living in poverty today because of this government's choices?

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Minister of Social Services.

Hon. Terry Jenson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is an issue

that this government takes extremely seriously when it comes to food and affordability in general, Mr. Speaker. Our focus is on making life more affordable for all Saskatchewan residents.

And that's why in 2025, Mr. Speaker, we introduced *The Saskatchewan Affordability Act*. We committed to increasing the Saskatchewan low-income tax credit by 20 per cent over four years. That puts more money back into the pockets of low-income Saskatchewanians — approximately 300,000 households, Mr. Speaker.

We know there's more work to do, and we're committed to doing that work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker,

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

Kim Breckner: — Mr. Speaker, this government signed up to the federal government's national school food program and committed to increase the percentage of students who have access to school meals by 10 per cent.

This still leaves hundreds of students without access to reliable school nutrition. We know that childhood hunger is a big problem in Saskatchewan, but we also have the resources to do big things.

When will this minister do something big for Saskatchewan students and establish a timeline and measurable targets to ensure that every Saskatchewan student has access to good, nutritious food?

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Everett Hindley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member opposite is correct. The Saskatchewan government has signed on to the national school food program, a $15.8 million three-year agreement with the federal government. In the '26-27 year, Saskatchewan students will benefit from $12 million in school food and nutrition programs, Mr. Speaker.

In addition to that, Mr. Speaker, there has been a long-standing provincial school food program here in this province for the past 30-plus years, Mr. Speaker, that is supporting school divisions and communities right across this province.

Mr. Speaker, we'll continue to engage with our school division partners. And as we know, there are other organizations and community-based organizations, philanthropists who are involved in this issue as well, Mr. Speaker. And between those organizations and the provincial government and the national government as well, work is being done to help address some of these issues facing families across this province, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supports for Indigenous Birth Support Workers

Betty Nippi-Albright: — Mr. Speaker, first of all, I just want to say I appreciate the minister meeting with the Indigenous birth support workers last week.

While a recent meeting with SHA [Saskatchewan Health Authority] addressed concerns about secure storage, workers continue to operate from a fax room conducting handovers without privacy, completing handovers beyond their scheduled 12-hour shifts, and using personal time to obtain program supplies.

Will the minister ensure the Indigenous birth support workers receive a written action plan from SHA by November 30th, outlining how and when these concerns will be resolved?

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Jeremy Cockrill: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member opposite for joining us, myself and the Indigenous birth support workers from Jim Pattison Children's Hospital in a meeting here just last week, Mr. Speaker. As I understand that meeting that was previously scheduled and did occur last Thursday, some progress was made on several fronts, Mr. Speaker.

Again I think there's still some more work to do, and I know I've spoken directly with our vice-president for Saskatoon, Mr. John Ash, as well as some of his team in some options on how we can better support Indigenous birth support workers that are doing really fantastic work. That was highlighted by both myself and the member opposite in question period last week, Mr. Speaker.

We'll continue meeting with those Indigenous birth support workers, trying to find resolutions to their issues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Betty Nippi-Albright: — Mr. Speaker, only one issue was addressed at that meeting. They were able to get a key for their storage.

Mr. Speaker, a joint job evaluation was completed in 2025 and determined that the Indigenous birth support workers were entitled to higher compensation. We are now in 2026 and the Indigenous birth support workers still have not received their retroactive pay they earned through that completed process.

Will the minister ensure that the Indigenous birth support workers receive a written timeline from SHA by November 30th when that retroactive pay will be issued?

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Jeremy Cockrill: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the question from the member opposite, Mr. Speaker. It seems however though we're dealing with a little bit of different information when it comes to this joint job evaluation that occurred, Mr. Speaker. I'd be happy to speak with the member opposite afterwards and clarify a misunderstanding that might be there, Mr. Speaker.

Again as I said, we'll continue working with the Indigenous birth support workers at Jim Pattison Children's Hospital. Progress on some issues. There's still probably some more progress to make, Mr. Speaker.

Some of the issues identified by the member opposite last week are really more bargaining issues, and I encourage those Indigenous birth support workers to reach out to their union, SEIU West and have those discussions around how the progress of bargaining takes place, Mr. Speaker.

Again these workers do incredible work at Jim Pattison Children's Hospital supporting Indigenous families from really all over the province that come and give birth at Jim Pattison Children's Hospital, and we'll continue working with them to find resolutions to their issues.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 637 — *The Saskatchewan Employment (National Day for Truth and Reconciliation) Amendment Act*

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Leroy Laliberte: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill 637, *The Saskatchewan Employment (National Day for Truth and Reconciliation) Amendment Act* be now introduced and read for the first time.

Speaker Goudy: — It has been moved by the member from Athabasca that Bill No. 637, *The Saskatchewan Employment (National Day for Truth and Reconciliation) Amendment Act* be now introduced and read the first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Speaker Goudy: — Carried.

Deputy Clerk: — First reading of this bill.

Speaker Goudy: — When shall this bill be read a second time?

Leroy Laliberte: — At the next sitting of the Assembly, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Goudy: — Next sitting.

Bill No. 73 — *The Medical Assistance in Dying Additional Safeguards Act*

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Jeremy Cockrill: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I now move that Bill No. 73, *The Medical Assistance in Dying Additional Safeguards Act* be now introduced and read for a first time.

Speaker Goudy: — It has been moved by the Minister of Health that Bill No. 73, *The Medical Assistance in Dying Additional Safeguards Act* be now introduced and read the first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Speaker Goudy: — Carried.

Deputy Clerk: — First reading of this bill.

Speaker Goudy: — When shall this bill be read a second time?

Hon. Jeremy Cockrill: — Next sitting of the Assembly, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Goudy: — Next sitting.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 61 — *The Mandatory Testing and Disclosure (Bodily Substances) Amendment Act, 2026*

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Tim McLeod: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased today to speak to Bill 61, *The Mandatory Testing and Disclosure (Bodily Substances) Amendment Act, 2026*.

This Act applies to individuals such as first responders and victims of crime who are exposed to another individual's bodily substance and may be at risk of HIV, hepatitis B, or hepatitis C infection.

An exposed individual can apply to the Court of King's Bench for a mandatory testing order of the source individual, and they may do so on an *ex parte* basis. This Act is based on uniform legislation from the Uniform Law Conference of Canada. Timely test results are critical to identify infection risks and help inform an exposed individual's treatment options. Police stakeholders have raised concerns with the existing Act, and these amendments address those concerns and make additional improvements.

Mr. Speaker, due to the nature of the work performed by first responders, unfortunately there are cases where a source individual may have passed away. These amendments clarify that a testing order may also apply to a deceased source individual. This helps close any unintended gaps in the Act and allows exposed individuals to still access a testing order.

Mr. Speaker, these amendments also help exposed individuals access timely orders and test results. The Act currently requires an exposed individual to seek a voluntary test from the source individual before they can make a court application. These amendments will remove that requirement, Mr. Speaker.

In most cases, voluntary testing is the preferred approach; however in certain cases, seeking a voluntary test adds significant delays when it is difficult to contact the source individual. The amendments prevent these types of delays. These amendments allow an application to be made without notice to the source individual where the health and well-being of the exposed individual is at risk. Once again, this approach helps ensure timely orders and test results.

Finally the amendments update enforcement rules by allowing a testing order to clarify a peace officer's enforcement powers and by updating the Act's penalty provisions. The goal of these changes, Mr. Speaker, is not to penalize source individuals, but

rather to encourage compliance with the testing orders and importantly to protect first responders and victims of crime.

Mr. Speaker, while this bill helps improve access to timely testing under the Act, it is also important to respect the privacy interests of the source individual. The Act continues to protect those interests through several measures. First, all testing applications will continue to proceed through the Court of King's Bench. Second, all testing applications must be accompanied by a physician's report, including an assessment of the exposed individual's risk. Third, the Act prohibits the use or disclosure of the test results outside the purposes specifically identified within the Act.

Mr. Speaker, this Act provides an important tool for individuals such as police, firefighters, paramedics, correctional workers, or victims of crime who face significant health risks from exposure to a bodily substance. The proposed enhancements ensure these individuals can receive timely access to test results and make informed decisions respecting their own health and well-being.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I move second reading of Bill 61, *The Mandatory Testing and Disclosure (Bodily Substances) Amendment Act, 2026*.

Speaker Goudy: — It has been moved that Bill No. 61, *The Mandatory Testing and Disclosure (Bodily Substances) Amendment Act, 2026* be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Saskatoon Riversdale.

Kim Breckner: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to enter some remarks on Bill No. 61, *The Mandatory Testing and Disclosure (Bodily Substances) Amendment Act, 2026*.

[14:30]

This bill makes amendments to the legislation which legalized the mandatory testing and disclosure process, which was passed in 2006. These changes have been made at the request of police.

The original legislation allows a person such as a first responder to apply to the court for a testing order if they come into contact with a bodily substance of someone they believe that as a result of that contact, the applicant may become infected with a communicable disease. The amendment allows for a testing order to be applied for without contacting a source individual and asking them for voluntary testing, if they think the individual is a danger to them.

Three days is now the full notice period, not the minimum. Post-mortem testing orders can be enforced on deceased individuals. The amendment gives clear authority to the courts to grant a peace officer the power to enforce a testing order. And we see fines increased to 10,000 for an individual, 25,000 for a corporation, also with the availability of imprisonment for up to six months or fines and imprisonment.

What really bothers me, Mr. Speaker, is this Act, it recognizes the danger and the risks that our first responders encounter in doing their jobs in protecting us, and yet we know that things have gotten worse for them under the Sask Party government. I've actually talked to several first responders who have since left the profession because of low wages and the working conditions.

Nor does this Act do anything to get drugs off the streets or address our high rates of HIV, hepatitis, tuberculosis, other communicable diseases. We're consistently worst. We're second worst in Canada for HIV, for hepatitis B and C, and a number of other infectious diseases. We have been for a very long time under the Moe government. And when we bring forward solutions — like my colleague from Regina Rochdale did in her response to the Throne Speech — like clean needles to avoid these infections and save our health care systems literally millions of dollars, the Sask Party government mocks that submission.

It's not enough to just bring legislation and not address the root problems of our issues here in Saskatchewan. And to treat the people exposed to these dangers — our health care workers, our first responders — treat them properly for the level of danger and the conditions that they have to deal with.

And with that, Mr. Speaker, I move to adjourn debate on Bill 61, *The Mandatory Testing and Disclosure (Bodily Substances) Amendment Act, 2026*.

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. 62 — *The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2026*

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Tim McLeod: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to speak to the second reading of Bill No. 62, *The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2026*. This bill makes routine housekeeping amendments to multiple Acts as part of the government's ongoing commitment to review and update legislation.

The bill updates statutory references, including references to legislation that have been renamed or repealed. It also modernizes legislative language to reflect current drafting standards, removes obsolete provisions, and it corrects minor drafting issues. Although these amendments are housekeeping in nature and do not alter government policy, they serve an important purpose. Together these changes help keep Saskatchewan's legislation clear, accurate, and current so that it continues to operate as it was intended.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to move second reading of *The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2026*.

Speaker Goudy: — It has been moved that Bill No. 62, *The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2026* be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Saskatoon Riversdale.

Kim Breckner: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to enter a few remarks on Bill No. 62, *The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2026*. We see that this is primarily a housekeeping bill updating pronoun usage and job titles, modernizing language, including removing Latin jargon. As a lawyer, I'm always happy to see the removal and disuse

of Latin jargon going forward so that people can understand what they're reading because it's so important to have people involved in the legal process, the legislative process, and not have these barriers like Latin jargon, a relic from the past, still creating a barrier there. And also it removes references to repealed Acts.

Interestingly one of the last Acts updated is *The Provincial Sales Tax Act* of 2018, which was infamously the largest PST expansion in the history of Saskatchewan, and it's been a hardship on Saskatchewan people ever since. And might I submit that repealing the PST on kids' clothes and groceries might have been a better use of this government's time.

With that, I wish to adjourn debate on Bill No. 62, *The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2026*.

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. 63 — *The Municipal Employees' Pension Amendment Act, 2026*

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Jim Reiter: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to move second reading of Bill No. 63, *The Municipal Employees' Pension Amendment Act, 2026*.

The municipal employees' pension plan is a defined benefit pension plan that provides retirement benefits to eligible employees of over 700 participating employers, including school divisions and urban and rural municipalities, from across the province. The plan currently serves 1,700 active plan members and 8,000 pensioners. The aim of this defined benefit plan is to enhance member financial well-being by providing a predictable lifetime pension based on a formula that considers salary and years of service rather than investment returns alone.

As a result of practical governance, disciplined investment management, and a strong contribution framework, the plan maintains a strong funding status, reporting over 120 per cent going-concern funded ratio, meaning the plan has more than sufficient assets to meet its long-term pension obligations.

The legislative amendments proposed today will support effective pension plan administration and provide beneficiaries with greater choice in how they receive payments. As mentioned, the plan is currently in a strong-funded position. However accrual rates are currently fixed in legislation, unlike contribution rates which can be adjusted through regulation. This limits the plan's ability to respond to changing financial circumstances.

As the surplus threshold is approached, the municipal employees' pension plan commission may not be able to adjust accrual rates quickly enough to align with the plan's funding policy and direction. Moving accrual rates to the regulations will create consistency with the management of contribution rates and allow for timely adjustments when needed, helping to support prudent and responsive plan administration.

The amendments also address post-retirement death benefit options for named beneficiaries. Currently if a member has named one or more non-spousal beneficiaries, those beneficiaries must receive monthly pension payments until the end of the guarantee period. In contrast, a lump-sum payment option is available when benefits are paid to a spouse or an estate. The proposed change would provide named beneficiaries with the same flexibility as spousal beneficiaries by allowing them to choose the payment option that best meets their financial circumstances and preferences.

Together these amendments will better align plan-design decisions with funding policies and the commission's direction while supporting sound governance, administrative efficiency, and the long-term sustainability of the plan. I now move second reading of Bill No. 63, *The Municipal Employees' Pension Amendment Act, 2026*.

Speaker Goudy: — It has been moved that Bill No. 63, *The Municipal Employees' Pension Amendment Act, 2026* be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Saskatoon Riversdale.

Kim Breckner: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to enter remarks on Bill No. 63, *The Municipal Employees' Pension Amendment Act, 2026*.

Under this bill, a non-spousal beneficiary has the option to receive a lump sum instead of monthly payments just like the spouse does. And also calculations for the following are moved to regulations: accrual rates, immediate and deferred allowances, allowances for beneficiaries if a member dies early, early and postponed retirement allowances, and disability allowances.

This is interesting: keeping in the habit of the Sask Party moving things from legislation to regulations because this ultimately reduces accountability. The intent of this amendment Act is to make calculations faster and more responsive, but we've seen how this sort of behaviour just leads to more mess when there's not that legislative oversight.

We've talked to seniors on the doorstep who have been careful their whole lives with money, and now they have to go back to work because their pensions just can't cover the bills. That's why we've been calling for more cost-of-living relief, which we sincerely hope that this government will consider in their future legislative exercises.

With that I wish to adjourn debate on Bill No. 63, *The Municipal Employees' Pension Amendment Act, 2026*.

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. 64 — *The Revenue and Financial Services Amendment Act, 2026*

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Jim Reiter: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to move second reading of Bill No. 64, *The Revenue and Financial Services Amendment Act, 2026*. These amendments will improve fairness and consistency for taxpayers, clarify existing legislative authority, and strengthen the province's ability to address tax non-compliance.

The amendments reduce the general time limit for assessing provincial consumption tax from six years to four years. This will reduce confusion and the potential for perceived unfairness for taxpayers by aligning the assessment period with the existing four-year period for applying for a refund of tax paid in error. A six-year assessment period will remain where a business has collected tax from its customers but has not reported it. These funds are held in trust for the province and should never be retained by businesses for their own use.

The amendments also establish an unlimited audit period for fraud and misrepresentation, ensuring those who commit fraud cannot avoid their obligations if fraud is discovered after the four-year period. The amendments clarify the authority to reinstate penalties and interest that were previously waived or cancelled. This provides clear legislative authority to reconsider relief when circumstances warrant, supporting fair and consistent treatment of taxpayers.

Mr. Speaker, taxpayers have the right to appeal assessments they disagree with. However in some cases, the appeal process is used to delay payment of taxes owing, prolonging disputes and placing unnecessary demands on administrative resources. These amendments will clarify that filing an appeal does not suspend collection activities or relieve taxpayers of their payment obligations. They also provide the Board of Revenue Commissioners and courts with discretion to dismiss appeals where assessed amounts remain unpaid.

These changes will help discourage appeals brought primarily to delay payment, while maintaining taxpayers' rights to challenge assessments and allow individual circumstances to be considered. Appellants that are successful will receive a refund of amount paid including credit interest. Finally the amendments provide discretion when opposing penalties for failing to furnish required tax returns, allowing for a more proportionate response to non-compliance.

Mr. Speaker, I now move second reading of Bill No. 64, *The Revenue and Financial Services Amendment Act, 2026.*

Speaker Goudy: — It has been moved that Bill No. 64, *The Revenue and Financial Services Amendment Act, 2026* be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Saskatoon Riversdale.

Kim Breckner: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to enter remarks on the debate for Bill No. 64, *The Revenue and Financial Services Amendment Act, 2026*. We appreciate the clarifications about statutes of limitations that this amendment Act brings. As a lawyer there is nothing worse than an ambiguous or unclear limitations period. And we know that no one wants to get this letter from the tax folks.

We know that times are tough, so it's not surprising the Sask Party government's concerned with people not paying their taxes. This is why we want to see cost-of-living relief now, so that people aren't struggling so badly at tax time.

And just a reminder, Mr. Speaker, that we're coming up on four years now since the Saskatchewan revenue Act was introduced and nothing ever came of it. We had told them it was a bad idea, and they insisted it was vital for Saskatchewan's sovereignty, then just quietly dropped it. What we need is a government with a clear financial vision, and that's not what we're seeing from the Sask Party government.

With that I wish to move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 64, *The Revenue and Financial Services Amendment Act, 2026*.

[14:45]

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. 65— *The Protection From Human Trafficking Amendment Act, 2026*

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Tim McLeod: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to speak to the second reading of Bill 65, *The Protection From Human Trafficking Amendment Act, 2026*.

This bill is primarily focused on the important role that the hospitality sector can play in combatting human trafficking. Human trafficking is transient in nature. As a result hotels, motels, and vacation rentals are common locations for human trafficking activity, and ride-hailing platforms can be used to discreetly transport victims to avoid police detection.

This bill will create a new duty on these parties who are part of the hospitality sector to report to police when they suspect human trafficking on their premises or in their vehicles. We all have an important role to play. If you see something, say something. Every report can make a difference.

The Hotel Keepers Act will be consequentially amended to expand the record-keeping duties of hotel owners. This will codify policies that many hotels already currently follow, such as requiring identification when checking in. The bill will also create a clear pathway for law enforcement to access specified hotel records when undertaking a human trafficking investigation. This will include an expedited process for urgent situations.

The secondary purpose of this bill is to update provisions protecting victims from coerced debts. These changes will include a new obligation on creditors to notify debt collectors of a coerced debt, a new prohibition on insurers from taking coerced debts into account when making insurance decisions, and a clarification that creditors can still enforce security interests under the Act.

These changes reflect recent changes to Ontario's coerced-debts

protection that were introduced last spring, and they continue to build upon this government's prior legislative changes and significant investments to ensure a safer Saskatchewan for all residents.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to move second reading of *The Protection From Human Trafficking Amendment Act, 2026*.

Speaker Goudy: — It has been moved that Bill No. 65, *The Protection From Human Trafficking Amendment Act, 2026* be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Saskatoon Riversdale.

Kim Breckner: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to enter some remarks into the debate on Bill No. 65, *The Protection From Human Trafficking Amendment Act, 2026*. We see that this Act takes steps to address human trafficking in Saskatchewan. There's changes that address coerced debts and implementing a duty to report for specific people, such as employees of hotels and Airbnbs, drivers of taxis or other ride-share platforms.

Obviously human trafficking is an incredibly serious issue in Saskatchewan. We do exceed the national average, so of course more must be done. We will be reaching out to our stakeholders to make sure this bill hits the mark and is in the best interests of law enforcement and in particular of victims.

Although this bill places a legal obligation on drivers and hospitality workers to report any suspected trafficking, we should all study and be alert to the signs wherever we go. With that, Mr. Speaker, I wish to move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 65, *The Protection From Human Trafficking Amendment Act, 2026*.

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. 66 — *The Pooled Registered Pension Plans (Saskatchewan) Amendment Act, 2026*

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Tim McLeod: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to speak to the second reading of Bill 66, the pooled registered pension plans amendment Act, 2026. A pooled registered pension plan, or PRPP, is a type of pension plan that pools contributions from members of different employers together to achieve lower investment and administration costs.

In 2021 amendments to the federal *Income Tax Act* established tax rules permitting PRPPs and defined contribution pension plans to offer a variable payment life annuity, otherwise known as a VPLA, directly to their members. A VPLA is a retirement option that provides plan members with variable life payments from a separately maintained annuity fund established within that plan. Unlike a traditional annuity, these payments are not guaranteed. The amount of the payments may increase or decrease over time based on the fund's investment returns and the pool of mortality experience of the annuity holders.

This bill amends Saskatchewan's pooled registered pension plans Act to accommodate for VPLAs. Once corresponding amendments to the federal PRPP legislation are in force, Saskatchewan's PRPP members will be able to transfer funds from their PRPP accounts to purchase a VPLA from the annuity fund established within that PRPP. Members who elect this option will then receive lifetime variable payments from that fund.

Currently funds held in a member's PRPP account are protected from creditors. The amendments to this bill extend those protections to VPLAs to ensure that members who elect that retirement option continue to benefit from the same creditor protection that applies to the PRPP accounts.

Further amendments in this bill will allow variable life payments to be attached or seized for the purpose of enforcing a maintenance order as defined in *The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Act, 1997*.

This bill also makes amendments to the division of family property upon spousal breakdown. It will permit a member's variable life payments, or the present value in the variable life payments to which the member is entitled, to be divided if the court has made an order for the division of family property through *The Family Property Act*. This value can also be divided if the member and the member's spouse had entered into an inter-spousal contract under *The Family Property Act* to divide their family property.

The bill also includes further regulation-making authority and housekeeping amendments. Mr. Speaker, with that I am pleased to move second reading of Bill 66, *The Pooled Registered Pension Plans (Saskatchewan) Amendment Act, 2026*.

Speaker Goudy: — It has been moved that Bill No. 66, *The Pooled Registered Pension Plans (Saskatchewan) Amendment Act, 2026* be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Saskatoon Riversdale.

Kim Breckner: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to enter remarks on the debate for Bill No. 66, *The Pooled Registered Pension Plans (Saskatchewan) Amendment Act, 2026*. The member opposite has done a good job of highlighting the purpose and the outcomes of this Act, and I wish to avoid saying VPLA and PRPP several times again. He is a much better orator than I am, so I'll make my remarks brief.

We support greater financial flexibility in consumer protections. But what I want to highlight any time we talk about pension plans is our seniors, who are struggling with the cost of living. In particular there's many seniors I have spoken to that the most important thing for them is stability in their rent so that they can stay in their housing. That's why we've brought forward different protections for seniors and costs of living, such as rent control legislation.

And with that I move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 66, *The Pooled Registered Pension Plans (Saskatchewan) Amendment Act, 2026*.

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. 67 — *The Coroners Amendment Act, 2026*

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Tim McLeod: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to speak to the second reading of Bill 67, *The Coroners Amendment Act, 2026*. The Saskatchewan Coroners Service is responsible for investigating all sudden, unexpected, and unnatural deaths. The coroners service recently conducted a review of its operations to identify areas for improvement. These amendments are a result of that review.

Mr. Speaker, there have been many changes since *The Coroners Act* was first passed in 1999. Notably in 2023 the serious incident response team, or SIRT, was established as an independent, civilian-led unit responsible for investigating serious incidents involving police officers. This has resulted in duplicate functions between SIRT and the coroners service in cases involving deaths in police custody.

To address this situation these amendments remove the requirement for a mandatory coroner inquest for a death in police custody if the SIRT releases a public report that adequately informs the public on all the relevant factors of that death. This approach will allow the coroners service to more effectively use its resources to investigate other serious matters that require its attention.

The Chief Coroner can still choose to hold an inquest for death in police custody if an inquest is appropriate to further inform the public of the facts and circumstances in that death. The requirement to hold a mandatory inquest for deaths in correctional facilities is not impacted by these changes.

Mr. Speaker, the amendments also update juror rules for coroners' inquests to avoid delays where jurors are unable to complete an inquest. Notably these amendments allow the appointment for an alternate juror and allow an inquest to proceed with a minimum of three jurors.

Mr. Speaker, this bill contains further updates and clarifications in a variety of areas, including receiving evidence at inquests; reporting, investigating, and examination rules for unexpected deaths; the release and sharing of information respecting coroner investigations. Consideration of juror recommendations is also included.

I would like to thank the coroners service for the very important work that they carry out for this province. And with that, Mr. Speaker, I move second reading of Bill 67, *The Coroners Amendment Act, 2026*.

Speaker Goudy: — It has been moved that Bill No. 67, *The Coroners Amendment Act, 2026* be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Saskatoon Riversdale.

Kim Breckner: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to enter remarks into the debate on Bill No. 67, *The Coroners Amendment Act, 2026*.

There are a number of interesting changes brought forward by this amendment Act, and we'll be sure to consult with our stakeholders to ensure that they don't have any concerns regarding these changes.

I'd also like to take a moment to appreciate the work that coroners do. Unfortunately they are under a very high workload, particularly because they've had to investigate overdose deaths. And as we know, overdose deaths in Saskatchewan have skyrocketed under this Sask Party government, particularly in my riding. You can't go far within Pleasant Hill without running into somebody who has been directly impacted by an opioid death. And we've seen the reduction in assistance to those people either through low-cost housing options, shelter, and harm reduction.

I think this Act and the discussion today is a good reminder that when our province is sick, when we're seeing high levels of drug use and addiction, it has an effect of rippling out and affecting different people such as what we're seeing with the coroner who has so much work to do because of this

And so we need to ensure that the coroner is properly funded and that the inquest recommendations they brought forward are implemented. And with that, Mr. Speaker, I wish to move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 67, *The Coroners Amendment Act, 2026*.

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. 68 — *The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Amendment Act, 2026/Loi modificative de 2026 sur l'exécution des ordonnances alimentaires*

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Tim McLeod: — Thank you again, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to now speak to the second reading of *The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Amendment Act, 2026*.

The maintenance enforcement office was created in 1986 to help Saskatchewan residents with the management and enforcement of maintenance orders, which are primarily used to facilitate child and spousal support. Saskatchewan currently has over 7,000 active files, and so far over $33 million has been collected for children and families.

The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Act, 1997 sets out the enforcement mechanisms available to the director to help enforce delinquent support payments. Some of the existing enforcement mechanisms include seizing wages, bank accounts, RRSPs [registered retirement savings plan] and pension entitlements; suspending driver's licences and passports; and summoning the payer to court for questioning. The Act is regularly reviewed to ensure the maintenance enforcement office has the most effective

mechanisms in place to encourage regular and timely payments from payers and to assist with the collection of outstanding payments.

[15:00]

This bill modernizes the legislation to take into account relatively recent changes in Canada's financial landscape, such as tax-free savings accounts as one example, Mr. Speaker. The bill also takes into account any future similar investment tools created by the federal government that may be appropriate to attach to fulfill support payment arrears. Once these amendments are in place, they will allow for additional future income plans to be prescribed in the regulations to ensure the maintenance enforcement office can access them to resolve late child-support payments in a timely manner.

We are also laying the groundwork for potential future changes to the pooled registered pension plans, such as the adoption of variable-payment life annuities. To account for this the bill adds variable life payments to the definition of "pension entitlement" and "pension plan." Updating the definition will ensure any future payments from such annuities can be attached to satisfy outstanding support payments.

Finally, the bill will permit the director to impose and collect fees on delinquent accounts, including an annual default fee and a fee for NSF, or non-sufficient fund, payments. This will bring Saskatchewan in line with other Canadian jurisdictions that charge these fees on delinquent accounts. A related consequential amendment to the registered pension plan, retirement income, exemption plan Act will also amend the definition of "registered plan" in that Act to ensure consistency across multiple statutes.

Mr. Speaker, with that I am pleased to move second reading of *The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Amendment Act, 2026*.

Speaker Goudy: — It has been moved that Bill No. 68, *The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Amendment Act, 2026* be now read the second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Saskatoon Riversdale.

Kim Breckner: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to enter remarks into the debate on Bill No. 68, *The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Amendment Act, 2026*. It's good that this Act modernizes the enforcement of maintenance orders to reflect the various financial instruments that we have today and to better equip the ability for the enforcement of these maintenance orders.

What's interesting though is that this was promoted by the Sask Party government as a cost-of-living measure. And even though these measures are welcome, it's going to take more than this to deal with the high rates of child poverty that we have in this province, including the highest rates of children visiting food banks in Canada.

We don't oppose levying fees, and any step in improving access to support payments is welcomed, but we're not certain how much of a deterrence this will be on anyone failing to pay a maintenance order. Again what it comes down to, Mr. Speaker, is this is a good piece of legislation. It's good to modernize, but there's big things that need to be done in Saskatchewan to address cost of living, and we hope that the Sask Party government takes up some of our suggestions and legislates more cost-of-living relief.

With that, I wish to move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 68, *The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Amendment Act, 2026*.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Speaker Goudy: — Carried.

Bill No. 69 — *The Legal Profession Amendment Act, 2026*

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Tim McLeod: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to speak to the second reading of *The Legal Profession Amendment Act, 2026*. The Law Society of Saskatchewan is responsible for governing the legal profession in Saskatchewan. Through its rules it sets standards for the admission and professional conduct of lawyers, law firms, and limited licensees.

The Legal Profession Act, 1990 prohibits persons other than members from practising law in Saskatchewan. The Act includes certain exceptions to this prohibition, including for limited licensees, articling students, members of a police force appearing in Provincial Court, and persons prosecuting or defending an action in their own name or preparing documents for their own use.

In 2025 amendments to *The Legal Profession Act* were implemented to create a new category of regulated legal service providers who are not lawyers, namely limited licensees. These licensees are authorized by the Law Society to provide limited legal services.

Introduction of limited licensees expands the field of individuals who can provide legal services to Saskatchewan residents. In order to provide legal services, limited licensees are required to comply with criteria such as being registered, holding insurance, and adhering to a code of conduct. Limited licensees are also restricted from holding trust funds.

Mr. Speaker, this bill will amend the Act to also capture the activities of certain agents who provide routine legal services. As the common law in Saskatchewan has developed with respect to agents, it has created a gap in the regulatory authority of the Law Society to restrict agents from providing legal services and practising law.

The Law Society has a legislated duty to protect the public, and as such this lack of regulation is a matter of public interest. There are currently no restrictions in place for persons holding themselves out as agents. Persons holding themselves out as agents may appear on behalf of other individuals without any oversight with respect to their experience or education, without insurance, and without any restrictions on how they are receiving or holding money in trust.

Certain Acts explicitly permit agents to attend a hearing to provide assistance, allowing agents to appear with a party to a

matter was meant to capture one-off appearances. It was not intended to create a category of service providers who routinely provide legal services to the public.

Therefore these amendments make it clear that agents who are appearing routinely in courts and tribunals on behalf of clients for a fee are in fact providing legal services and should be licensed by the Law Society of Saskatchewan. As protection of the public is of the utmost concern with respect to paid agents, the Law Society will be able to provide oversight, accept complaints, and discipline these persons if required.

A consequential amendment to *The Summary Offences Procedure Act, 1990* will require that a person who provides services as an agent pursuant to that Act complies with the requirements of *The Legal Profession Act, 1990*.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to some housekeeping amendments, this bill also includes a new provision permitting the creation of a health intervention committee. This provision will allow the Law Society to take appropriate action where a member has health-related concerns or lacks the capacity to act.

Currently the only avenue available to restrict or limit the practice of a member in this situation is to pursue disciplinary proceedings. Certainly, Mr. Speaker, a health-related inability to practice is not akin to misconduct. This provision will bring *The Legal Profession Act* in line with the legislation regulating health professionals in Saskatchewan, which has a similar provision.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to move second reading of *The Legal Profession Amendment Act, 2026*.

Speaker Goudy: — It has been moved that Bill No. 69, *The Legal Profession Amendment Act, 2026* be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Saskatoon Riversdale.

Kim Breckner: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm quite interested in this amendment Act and the ability to convene a health intervention committee to order a member to be tested or order a facility conducting the test to submit a report or suspend or impose conditions on the member's licence where the Law Society suspects that a member is physically or mentally ill, emotionally unwell, or abusing substances.

In particular, because of the high rates of mental health and addictions issues that we see in the profession, statistics from the Canadian Bar Association state that nearly 58 per cent of Canadian legal professionals experience psychological distress compared to 40 per cent of the general population. Anxiety, nearly 36 per cent of the profession report anxiety compared to 13 per cent in the general workforce.

Nearly one in four legal professionals have had suicidal thoughts since starting their practice, compared to 2.4 per cent of the general working population. And two out of three lawyers who experienced suicidal ideation did not seek help. And while it's important that we're protecting the public from lawyers who are unfit to conduct their duties, I wonder where is the matching support for mental health and addiction services.

We've debated this in the Legislative Assembly before: the long wait times to get mental health support. It seems, talking to people who have tried to get access to psychological support, that it's nearly impossible to get in to see a psychiatrist. And there's a lot of stigma around mental health as well, especially for lawyers.

And so I wonder if it is only part and parcel of addressing the greater issue here, to just bring in the ability to suspend or impose conditions on members without bringing forward legislation or spending or policy to address the underlying mental health issues that this profession faces along with all of Saskatchewan. We know that people throughout this province are struggling, especially with the increased cost-of-living pressures.

I remember an episode of *The Crown* on Netflix — and this is going to sound kind of nerdy — but there's one episode where this gentleman, he's accused of having mental health issues. And he has to go see a doctor, and all of this is part of his child custody agreement. And he somehow breaks into the castle and is talking to the Queen, and he talks about his struggles finding work and just struggling to survive. And he says, "I'm not mentally ill; I'm just poor."

And the effect that poverty can have on our mental health, so I think it all goes hand in hand, right. The cost of living, having an affordable place to live, knowing that your rent isn't going to go up $700 next year, right — it's all part of addressing those mental health challenges. And so I just wanted to bring that up on the behalf of lawyers. Because we face more challenges than the general working population, I think that it's important to advocate for this profession when it comes to access to mental health support.

And with that, Mr. Speaker, I move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 69, *The Legal Profession Amendment Act, 2026*.

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. 70 — *The Legal Profession Consequential Amendment Act, 2026/Loi de 2026 corrélative de la loi intitulée The Legal Profession Amendment Act, 2026*

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Tim McLeod: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With my final turn today, I am pleased to speak to the second reading of *The Legal Profession Consequential Amendment Act, 2026*. This is a bilingual bill making consequential amendments to *The Small Claims Act*, 2006 to reflect amendments made to *The Legal Profession Act, 1990* and *The Summary Offences Procedure Act, 1990*.

The new provision will apply to agents who appear in small claims court and require that those agents comply with the requirements of *The Legal Profession Act, 1990*. As in the other two Acts, individuals will not be prohibited from assisting a friend or family member in small claims court. However where a person is routinely holding themself out as an agent,

compliance with the rules established by the Law Society of Saskatchewan will be required.

With that, I am pleased to move second reading of *The Legal Profession Consequential Amendment Act, 2026*.

Speaker Goudy: — It has been moved that Bill No. 70, *The Legal Profession Consequential Amendment Act, 2026* be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Saskatoon Riversdale.

Kim Breckner: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to enter into debate onto Bill No. 70, *The Legal Profession Consequential Amendment Act, 2026*.

I did make most of my comments about this bill on the related Bill No. 69 debate. I do just want to emphasize the importance of access to justice and the benefits of bringing in agents that can help in a limited scope, but also recognize the added importance of ensuring that we have the correct level of oversight, authority, and responsibility for such agents.

So I welcome the consequential amendments brought in by this Act, and I move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 70, *The Legal Profession Consequential Amendment Act, 2026*.

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: — It is carried.

[15:15]

Bill No. 71 — *The Personal Care Homes (Safer Homes for Seniors) Amendment Act, 2026*

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Minister of Seniors.

Hon. Lori Carr: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise today to move second reading on Bill No. 71, *The Personal Care Homes (Safer Homes for Seniors) Amendment Act, 2026*. This legislation proposes amendments to strengthen the Ministry of Health's compliance and enforcement powers for personal care homes across Saskatchewan.

Personal care homes are privately owned and operated facilities that provide accommodation, meals, and assistance with supervision of daily living and personal care. We have 237 licensed personal care homes, with more than 4,700 beds, Mr. Speaker. Our priority is to help ensure operators meet provincial requirements and provide residents with safe, appropriate care.

Under the current legislation, the Ministry of Health can suspend licences, appoint public administrators, or pursue prosecution, but these are not practical tools for everyday enforcement. Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan is introducing this legislation to provide the Ministry of Health with the authority to issue compliance orders and seek court-ordered compliance, provide the ministry with the authority to impose administrative penalties, and increase the existing penalties available upon summary conviction if someone commits an offence under the Act, such as operating without a licence.

Compliance orders would allow the ministry to direct licensees to take specific action or cease activities to meet legislative requirements. If a licensee fails to comply with the Act, its regulations, or a compliance order, the ministry could apply to the courts for an order requiring compliance.

The amendments would also allow the ministry to issue new administrative penalties. Administrative penalties would provide an additional tool to address non-compliance without relying solely on the prosecution through the courts: under the proposed amendments, administrative penalties of $5,000 with an additional fine of up to $1,000 per day for a continuing offence.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation would also increase fines if a personal care home operator commits an offence under the Act, such as operating without a licence. Under the proposed amendments, individuals could face fines of up to $10,000, plus up to $2,000 per day for a continuing offence.

The fines for corporations would increase from 5,000 to as much as 25,000, plus up to $5,000 per day for a continuing offence. These proposed changes will bring Saskatchewan in line with other jurisdictions that regulate similar-type environments, Mr. Speaker. These amendments would give the ministry a broader range of options to respond when requirements are not met.

These measures would not necessarily be applied in a fixed sequence. The ministry would be able to respond based on the circumstances and seriousness of non-compliance. I want to be clear that in serious cases such as resident abuse, immediate licence cancellation could still be warranted. The intent of these amendments is to encourage operators to follow the regulations, deter violations, and ensure deficiencies are addressed when identified.

Mr. Speaker, protecting residents and ensuring personal care homes meet provincial requirements is important for our government. These amendments would provide the ministry additional tools to strengthen oversight, address non-compliance, and help ensure residents receive safe, appropriate care. I encourage all members to support the continued consideration of *The Personal Care Homes (Safer Homes for Seniors) Amendment Act, 2026*.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to move second reading of Bill No. 71, *The Personal Care Homes (Safer Homes for Seniors) Amendment Act, 2026*. Thank you.

Speaker Goudy: — It has been moved that Bill No. 71, *The Personal Care Homes (Safer Homes for Seniors) Amendment Act, 2026* be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Saskatoon Riversdale.

Kim Breckner: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to enter into debate on Bill No. 71, *The Personal Care Homes (Safer Homes for Seniors) Amendment Act, 2026*. And so we've seen that this Act imposes fines for non-compliance and different types of enforcement mechanisms and such.

What I really want to talk about today is what it takes to really

make our seniors feel safer in their care homes, because every senior deserves to feel safe. That's why it's so upsetting that seniors in Saskatchewan Health Authority-administered long-term care centres are getting assaulted. Or that seniors are wandering out of care homes into the night and freezing to death. Or they're being left in hospital hallways, sometimes on the floor, for days and days on end not getting adequate care. We've also heard concerns about improper use of chemical restraints, Mr. Speaker.

And I think about my own grandma. You know, she's in her 90s now. She receives home care. She's a very vulnerable adult. And we can't always be there for our family members, so we want to know that the people that are taking care of them are doing a good job and that they are protected.

And I always believe the saying, if you want good people you have to pay them well. And we know that people working in these homes, because of the funding that they get from the Government of Saskatchewan, it's hard to retain good workers. It's hard to provide the benefits that are competitive with other sectors of the economy. It's hard to run these homes in a safe and proper manner when the funding just isn't commensurate with the needs.

And you know, I think we should look towards the future, because, I mean, not to make age jokes about the opposing caucus, but I think we all have, you know, a vested interest in ensuring our long-term care homes are up to snuff, Mr. Speaker — maybe not me so much, but for the people I love. And so I think, not to make light of a very serious issue, but I just say, whether it's you yourself in a few years or the people you love right now, we want the best people in these care homes. And we want to make sure that our loved ones are taken care of.

And while this is a great measure to start with, you know, we have to deal with those more, those core issues that are leading to some of the tragic circumstances that we're seeing for seniors in this province.

With that, I move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 71, *The Personal Care Homes (Safer Homes for Seniors) Amendment Act, 2026*.

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. 72 — *The Opioid Damages Amendment Act, 2026*

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Jeremy Cockrill: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand today to move second reading of Bill No. 72, *The Opioid Damages and Health Care Costs Recovery Act*.

Mr. Speaker, *The Opioid Damages and Health Care Costs Recovery Act* allows Saskatchewan to recover health care costs associated with opioid-related harms. The Act supports Saskatchewan's participation in the national opioid class action litigation led by British Columbia.

Mr. Speaker, opioid addiction has had a staggering impact across Saskatchewan and Canada. We have witnessed many people struggling with addiction or learned about those who have lost their lives. We all know about families being torn apart and communities suffering from the devastating toll. And that devastation does continue to this day.

The opioid crisis that struck our province has been severe and it has been costly. It has resulted in catastrophic harms to individuals, families, and communities. People struggling with addiction are our family members and our friends. They continue to need our support on their path to recovery. And as we know, more resources are needed to help with patients in recovery.

Just this fiscal year our provincial government has invested a record $674 million into mental health and addictions services right across the province. And $172 million of our budget is specifically directed towards addictions services.

Mr. Speaker, this amendment provides the Government of Canada with a direct cause of action against opioid manufacturers, wholesalers, and consultants. The Ministry of Health is requesting Saskatchewan move forward with the same proposed amendment to be consistent with actions taken nationally and by other participating provinces.

The proposed amendment is not expected to create any new additional cost to the province and it will not require any new program, service, or funding obligation.

Mr. Speaker, I am now pleased to move the second reading of Bill 72, *The Opioid Damages Amendment Act*.

Speaker Goudy: — It has been moved that Bill No. 72, *The Opioid Damages Amendment Act, 2026* be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Saskatoon Riversdale.

Kim Breckner: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to enter into debate on Bill No. 72, *The Opioid Damages Amendment Act, 2026*.

The opioid crisis has put enormous strain on the resources of the health care system and the province at large, and we support trying to offset that by going after the drug companies responsible. But we also want to see a better response from that government who is failing to address it.

We need to see access to mental health and addictions care when people need it, not weeks or months down the road. And, Mr. Speaker, this might be some surprise, but once you're dead you can't recover from addiction. So we also need to see proper harm reduction strategies in place so that we can keep these people alive long enough to get the support and help they need to eventually overcome their addiction. Because these are still people that have loved ones — their sons, their daughters, brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers. And so they deserve an appropriate harm reduction strategy from this government as well.

With that, I wish to move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 72, *The Opioid Damages Amendment Act, 2026*.

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. I move that the Assembly do now adjourn.

Speaker Goudy: — It has been 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. This Assembly stands adjourned until tomorrow at 10:00 a.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 15:26.]

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