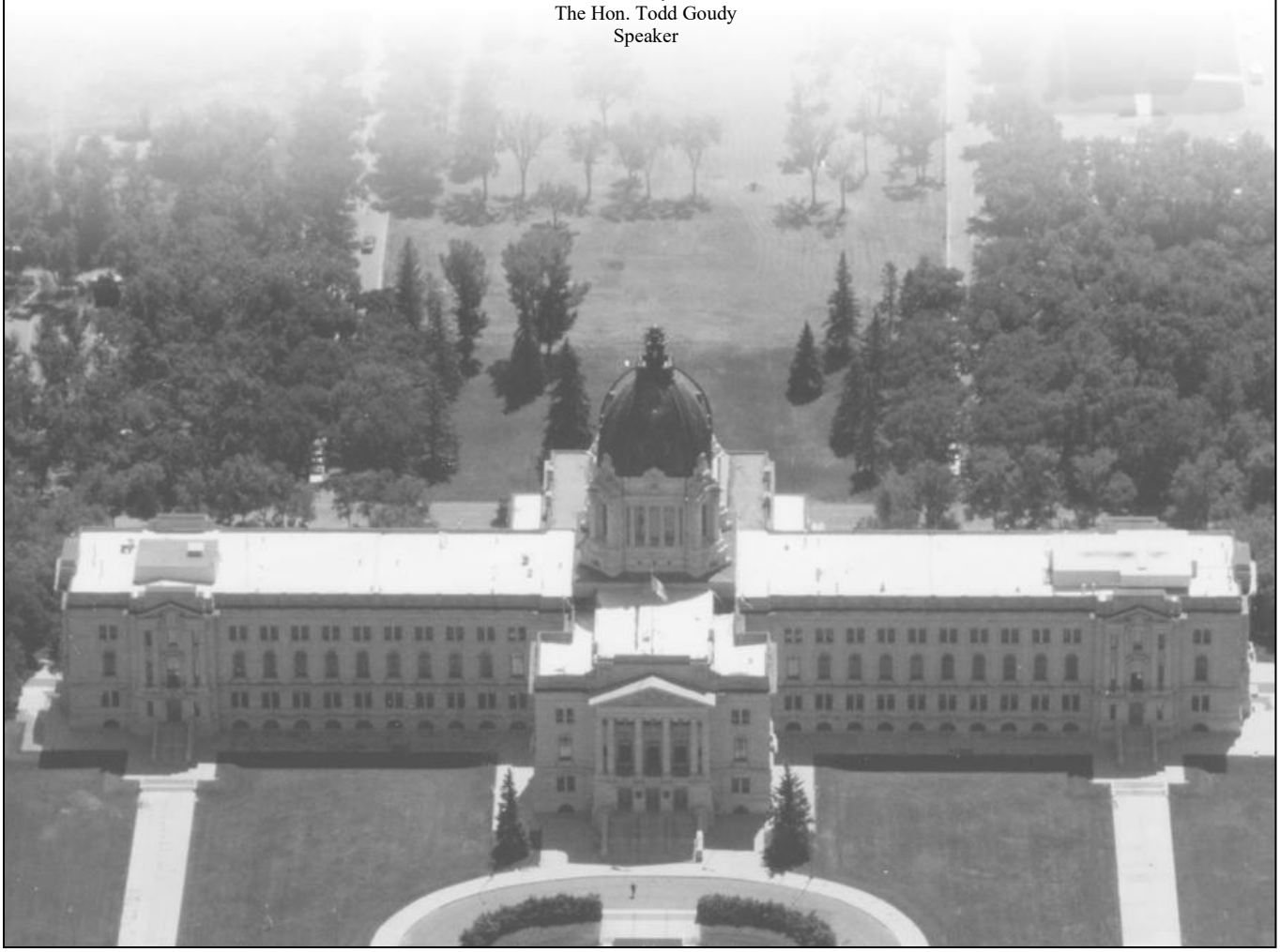
THIRD SESSION — THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE

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.

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

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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

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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 get leave for an extended introduction.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Hon. Warren Kaeding: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, seated in your gallery, I'm very honoured to introduce to the Assembly Her Excellency Geneviève Tuts, the Ambassador of the Delegation of the European Union to Canada who is here on an official visit to Saskatchewan.

Now Her Excellency brings extensive experience from several European Union institutions: the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs; has a very extensive legal profession; and a long-standing interest in European governance, international relations, energy policy, and institutional affairs, Mr. Speaker.

Her Excellency is also joined by two additional delegates: Francis Beausoleil, policy officer in the Political and Public Affairs Section of the Delegation of the European Union to Canada, where his responsibilities include parliamentary affairs, relations with provincial governments, public affairs, and broader European Union-Canada relations. And as well, Stefanie Rosskopf, a policy officer in the Trade and Economic Section of the Delegation of the European Union to Canada.

Saskatchewan has fostered a number of important relationships between various countries in the EU [European Union], and we're very excited to work with the Union as a whole, Mr. Speaker. Over the past five years, exports to the EU have increased by 135 per cent, from 1.6 billion in '21 to 3.7 billion in '25, with Saskatchewan being their largest agri-foods exporter in Canada. And a lot of the other trade comes from uranium, potash, and the agri-food sectors.

Her Excellency and her delegation will be and has been meeting with a number of ministers as well as Saskatchewan business leaders and some of our world-class post-secondary institutions. I and the Minister of Energy and Resources certainly had a meeting with Her Excellency in April of this year, and we'll be sitting down again tomorrow as well.

So I'm very thrilled to see her and her delegation are here in our province to see all that we have to offer. Mr. Speaker, I ask all members in extending a warm prairie welcome to the ambassador and her delegation as we continue building strong and reliable relationships between Saskatchewan and the EU.

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 Her Excellency and the EU delegation that we have here today.

I just want to take a moment to reflect on the long history of friendship and shared values between Saskatchewan, Canada, and the European Union. And I look forward to continuing that relationship and further deepening our ties, especially in trade.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, to you and through you, I wish on behalf of the opposition to join in welcoming this delegation to the Saskatchewan legislature.

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

Hon. Jeremy Harrison: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a real pleasure for me today to be able to introduce a school group. I don't often have the opportunity to do that. But today we have a group of law students. Rebekah Livingston's law class from the Regina Christian School are here. I had the chance to tour them around the building earlier today. I showed them the Premier's office, the cabinet room, and several other locations around the building as well.

And one particular student . . . I think most folks know in here it's in the dad contract that you have a responsibility to embarrass your teenage children. I think that's well known, Mr. Speaker. And this is my chance. So I have my 17-year-old son in the law class, Mr. Speaker, MacGregor Harrison, who is embarrassedly waving upstairs.

Mac is a gifted student. He's a gifted athlete. He just won his fourth consecutive Saskatchewan provincial championship at tae kwon do just a week and a bit ago. We'll be going to the national championships in Vancouver in the new year, Mr. Speaker. So I'd ask all members to join me in welcoming Ms. Livingston's grade 12 law class to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Matt Love: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll join with the minister opposite. Although I have no embarrassing stories for the students seated in the east gallery, I will give them a warm welcome to their Assembly on behalf of the Leader of the Opposition and the member from Lakeview. Honoured to welcome you here along with your teacher Ms. Livingston.

Looking forward to answering any questions you have about proceedings or how things operate in here. Following proceedings I'll meet you outside. We have some leftover Halloween candy to share, and I'm happy to take your questions. But at this time I welcome all members to join me in welcoming this class from Regina Christian School to their Assembly.

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

Travis Keisig: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, it is my pleasure to introduce seven grade 7 students from Muskowekwan School in my constituency, Mr. Speaker — give a wave. They are joined by their teacher Lorri Nanaquewitang and their bus driver Jim and the parent chaperone Elaine. I thank them for coming to the Assembly, Mr. Speaker, and look forward to some great questions from this class of outstanding young students, Mr. Speaker.

So please join me in welcoming Muskowekwan School to this, their Legislative Assembly.

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

Betty Nippi-Albright: — Request leave for an extended introduction.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Betty Nippi-Albright: — Mr. Speaker, I would like to join the member opposite in welcoming Lorri Nanaquewitang and her grade 7 students from Muskowekwan First Nation to their Legislative Assembly today.

[The member spoke for a time in Saulteaux.]

I just said, "Welcome for coming here and joining and watching how we work today."

But before I begin, I just want to acknowledge the students here. I now see where you guys are. I was going to say I needed you guys to give me a wave because sometimes . . . I have a visual disability so it's kind of hard to see where people are sitting in the gallery. But anyway, to the students, it is wonderful to have you here with us. I hope you enjoy your visit and learn about what this Chamber and the discussions and the decisions that get made take place here.

I especially want to say something to the students. When I was your age, I never imagined that one day I would be standing here as an MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly]. I never imagined I would have the opportunity to stand here and have a voice. That is why it's important to me that you're here today. Representation matters. Indigenous voices have always been present, but they have not always been listened to.

As a First Nations woman, mother, and a grandmother, it means a great deal to welcome you here today. My hope is that you leave here knowing that there is a place for you in leadership should you choose that path.

I would also like to thank Lorri. Thank you, Lorri, for creating this opportunity for these children. It's important that First Nation children come to the legislature to see themselves here, and to also inspire them to look at leadership roles. Thank you for also inviting me to meet with you guys after question period. And I look forward to your visit.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in welcoming Lorri Nanaquewitang and her grade 7 students from Muskowekwan First Nation School to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Megan Patterson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you I'd like to introduce a friend of mine who is seated in your gallery — Tracy Thiessen. Tracy was born and bred in Saskatchewan. She's a graduate from the U of R [University of Regina]. She is a social worker who specializes in veteran services. She works with veterans and does assessments, organizes treatment and rehabilitation for them, and vocational services to help them reintegrate into civil employment.

Please join me in thanking Tracy for her important work and welcome her to this, her Legislative Assembly.

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

Meara Conway: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to take a moment to welcome a young man seated up in the east gallery, Mr. Tim Wu. We just met this past weekend. Tim was here from Vancouver. You can see him up there wearing a UBC [University of British Columbia] sweatshirt. He attended our convention this weekend as an observer. I had an opportunity to meet Tim for the first time this weekend, and we had some great chats. Lots of affinities, politics, organizing.

Tim told me a kind of a funny story about being pulled kicking and screaming to a "Weird Al" Yankovic concert this past summer. Based on a karaoke rendition, he thought that concert was going to be super lame. And 30 seconds into the concert, I'm pleased to report he knew he was totally wrong. It's good to see that "Weird Al" — it was the gift of my generation to yours — is still a going concern. I actually had occasion to see him in 2015 at the Governors Ball in New York City with some girlfriends. It was a fabulous show. He's still got it, Mr. Speaker.

But anyway, I want to say on behalf of all members, welcome to Tim, here all the way from BC [British Columbia]. It was just a pleasure to get to know him. It was one of many pleasant surprises that happened over the course of this weekend at convention. We had a lot of young people out. So to you and through you, I'd ask all members to join me in welcoming Tim Wu to this, not his Legislative Assembly, but the Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Vicki Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan on hospital service disruption map. Since this government reannounced their patients-first plan last spring, there have been over 1,000 closures across Saskatchewan, and people don't even have access to this information in case of emergency.

These citizens wish to bring to our attention that Saskatchewan

hospitals are experiencing hundreds of disruptions in service, affecting patient care, and putting people's lives at risk; the residents of Saskatchewan deserve to know what care is available and when it is available in their community in real time; and municipalities should not be responsible for maintaining a provincial responsibility like reporting health care closures. We know that the SHA [Saskatchewan Health Authority] maintains a service disruption map and a comprehensive list of available services, but the government will not allow this information to be publicly accessed.

I'll read the prayer:

> We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan to call on the Government of Saskatchewan to immediately make public the full list and map of existing service disruptions.

The individuals who have signed this petition today reside in Kinistino. I do so present.

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

Erika Ritchie: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan calling for equity in education for students with disabilities.

The undersigned residents of the province wish to bring to your attention the following: that in 2023 the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission conducted a review of the policies, programs, and funding models to provide targeted supports for students living with dyslexia; that learning can be impaired by many things beyond dyslexia, including autism, ADHD [attention deficit hyperactivity disorder], FASD [fetal alcohol spectrum disorder], dysgraphia, dyscalculia, deafness and hard of hearing, blindness and visual impairment, mental health challenges, intellectual disabilities, physical disabilities, chronic medical conditions, and others; that according to PISA [Programme for International Student Assessment], Saskatchewan has some of the worst learning outcomes in the country; that access to education is a right under *The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code*; and an untold number of students across Saskatchewan are being denied access to their human right of an education.

[13:45]

Parents, teachers, and families across Saskatchewan have been calling for increased classroom supports to meet the growing demand of increasingly large and complex classrooms to ensure the success of all students regardless of abilities.

> We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the government to immediately work with the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission to conduct an in-depth review of our public education system, specifically around policies, programs, and funding models designed to support children living with disabilities in our public education system.

This petition is signed by residents of Delisle and Saskatoon. I do so present.

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

Brittney Senger: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present a petition calling on the Government of Saskatchewan to step up for Indigenous students in Saskatchewan.

The undersigned residents call on the Government of Saskatchewan to take immediate action to stand up for Indigenous children and all vulnerable students by advocating for the full restoration of funding previously supported by Jordan's principle.

Jordan's principle was established to ensure that First Nations children have equitable access to the services they need, including sports in schools. Federal funding cuts have led to the layoff of educational assistants from Saskatoon Public Schools, with more funding shortfalls expected. Instead of stepping up to fill this gap, the provincial budget reduces educational funding. This is alarming at a time when our schools are already stretched to the breaking point.

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

The undersigned residents reside in Moose Jaw and Regina. I do so present.

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

Aleana Young: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition to the Legislative Assembly calling for the funding of fertility care here in Saskatchewan.

Now this is an issue that impacts one in six people living in this province, Mr. Speaker. And it doesn't care about your socio-economic status. It doesn't care where you live. It doesn't care about your faith. It doesn't care about your gender. This is a health concern that impacts people across this province and can be one of the most heartbreaking issues people face when they're trying to start or grow a family.

Now for members in this Chamber who may not know, this is an issue near and dear to my heart and came to me when a close friend of mine went through this. And the health concerns, the financial costs with, you know, one cycle of IVF [in vitro fertilization] typically costing upwards of $15,000 before the $10,000 cost of drugs and associated treatments is included. The emotional toll as well as the financial toll became very clear to me, Mr. Speaker, with my friend having to leave her job, to be sick, to cry, to give herself injections in the bathroom of the courthouse. And I looked around, and I realized that Saskatchewan was one of the only provinces that provided no funding for this even though it is a health concern.

And while we've made steps towards this in the last election — the campaign promises there, for which I'm incredibly grateful — there's still a lot of work to do. Because that promise does nothing to help people access upfront funding who may not have the financial support to access fertility care if and when they need it, Mr. Speaker. Science should move us forward. We're a rich province, and we should be investing in people who want to grow their families here.

Now I read this petition, Mr. Speaker, and I make a point of reading it from the people across this province, not just members in Regina and Saskatoon, but people represented by members opposite.

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

> We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Government of Saskatchewan immediately move to cover the financial burden of fertility care up to and including two rounds of in vitro fertilization treatments for those Saskatchewan people struggling with infertility.

The people who signed this petition today, Mr. Speaker, reside in Yorkton and Canora. I do so present.

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

Jacqueline Roy: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan regarding birth control. Now, Mr. Speaker, we're one of two provinces that has not signed on to the federal deal, and this goes beyond just having the highest teen pregnancy rates in the country.

Birth control actually treats dozens of other conditions that women need help with that are completely unrelated to pregnancy. It can help as a first line of treatment for endometriosis, for PMOS [polyendocrine metabolic ovarian syndrome] and PCOS [polycystic ovary syndrome], for heavy bleeding, for extreme pain from a variety of conditions, for mental health problems, for help with anemia. In fact birth control can even reduce the risk of ovarian and endometrial cancer for certain women. In fact we know from several studies that birth control is not only good for women's health; it's good for the provincial economy.

And with that, I'll read the prayer:

> Those below respectfully request and call on the Government of Saskatchewan to immediately work with the federal government to adopt policy that covers no-cost prescription contraceptives for the health and welfare of all Saskatchewan residents.

It is signed by members of Regina, Saskatchewan below. I do so present, Mr. Speaker.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

World Kindness Day

Noor Burki: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on November 13 we celebrate World Kindness Day. It reminds us of all that kindness can do to make the world stand tall. It began in 1997 when people from around the world met in Tokyo, Japan to promote kindness. From that meeting the world kindness movement was born.

This special day reminds us that kindness matters — a kind word, a helping hand, and a friendly smile can make someone's day worthwhile. Kindness is easy to share: open a door, show you care, or help someone in need. A small act of kindness can grow into something great. More than 28 countries, including Canada, celebrate this day.

Kindness is good for our health, brings peace to our hearts, and helps build a better world for all. And the best part of kindness is it's free. It doesn't cost, yet the joy and the hope it brings can make our hearts sing.

Mr. Speaker, we can choose to be anything we want. So let us choose kindness and make the world a better place, one kind act at a time. Thank you.

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

Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Heritage Day

Travis Keisig: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am honoured to rise today and recognize the important contributions hunters, anglers, and trappers make to Saskatchewan.

Yesterday people across our province celebrated Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Heritage Day, also known as Camo Day. Hunting, fishing, and trapping are deeply rooted in Saskatchewan's history and have been important traditions for generations of families all across our province. These activities bring people together, foster a connection to our natural landscape, and reinforce the importance of respecting and conserving our wildlife.

It's encouraging to see younger generations developing an appreciation for the outdoors. Today's young hunters, anglers, and trappers are carrying these traditions forward while building a strong understanding of conservation and responsible wildlife management.

In 2009 *The Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Heritage Act* was passed by our government, formally recognizing the importance of these activities to Saskatchewan and the people who take part in them. The Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation also established Camo Day, which gives people an opportunity to show their support by wearing camouflage, sharing their outdoor experiences.

Mr. Speaker, this is about more than outdoor recreation. This is about preserving our heritage, supporting our communities, and passing on a commitment to conservation. By continuing to recognize these contributions, we can help ensure

Saskatchewan's outdoor traditions remain strong and steady. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Saskatoon Artist's Project Enriches Community

Erika Ritchie: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm fortunate to live in a community rich with many interesting artists, including Kathy Allen. Kathy is a theatre and visual artist in Nutana who is currently working on the project the *5000 Keys*: "Art you can hold in your hand. Made from the lost, the broken, the discarded. Infinite kingdoms to unlock. Value to be found in all things."

Kathy officially began her project in 2015. She had made a few keys from found and upcycled objects, but found that people didn't really understand the work. The keys she creates aren't functional. They are art, but people wanted them to be functional. So in response, Kathy decided to make 5,000 keys and vowed none would be functional jewellery.

Kathy has worked in many facets of the arts, from theatre and dance to visual art, and spent some time serving with the city of Saskatoon as an art and grants consultant. Art enriches our communities, our city, and our province. As a community member, Kathy has contributed by sharing her art, her knowledge, and volunteering, as well as advocating for the arts and other artists.

I look forward to seeing more of the keys that Kathy creates as she moves towards her goal of 5,000 keys.

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

Saskatchewan Firefighters Benefit from Training Opportunities

Racquel Hilbert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Continuous training makes our community safer. This October, three of the Watrous Fire Department members attended valuable training in Weyburn hosted by the Saskatchewan volunteer fire association.

Ongoing training is essential to ensuring that our firefighters have knowledge, skills, and confidence needed to respond safely and effectively when our communities need them most. Investing time in training helps us continue to build our skills, strengthen our team, and provide the best possible service to our communities.

Mr. Speaker, when many people are running away from danger, our heroes are running towards it.

Two of the firefighters participated in the self-contained breathing apparatus training, while another attended the pump operations training. To help our volunteers and first responders, the government doubled the non-refundable volunteer first-responder tax credit from 3,000 to 6,000 this year. These personal income tax credits are available to volunteer firefighters, volunteer search and rescue personnel, and volunteer emergency and medical first responders.

Over 4,000 volunteers in Saskatchewan claim these credits each year. Big thank you to the organizers and instructors in Weyburn for providing these learning opportunities to our members and their continued commitment to training and servicing our communities. Thank you.

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

Saskatchewan New Democratic Party Holds Annual Convention

Kim Breckner: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm excited to rise to talk about an event that took place here in Regina last weekend. It was a gathering of people serious about the future of Saskatchewan, people who came to debate the issues facing the province and be inspired by a vision for the future. I am speaking, of course, of the annual convention of the Saskatchewan NDP [New Democratic Party].

Mr. Speaker, it was a convention unlike any other, where delegates heard from health care leaders, workers, and people let down by this tired and out-of-touch government, who have found hope in our party and our leader.

And we heard an inspiring and powerful speech from the next premier of Saskatchewan, the member from Regina Lakeview who, I might add, received an overwhelming mandate from members. The only thing that got close to the same support was a vote of the members on a resolution that when this side of the House forms government, we will never, ever use luxury private jets for government business.

It was such a fantastic convention that I know the Minister for SaskBuilds is extremely upset he missed it. And he should be. It was a fantastic event, full of positivity and optimism. If there's one takeaway from this convention, Mr. Speaker, it's that change is coming to Saskatchewan, and it will be here soon.

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the member from Yorkton.

New Signs Beside the Yorkton War Memorial Honour Veterans

David Chan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last week the city of Yorkton, in partnership with the Yorkton Tribal Council and The Royal Canadian Legion General Alexander Ross Branch no. 77, added the new Veterans Way signs on Darlington Street arranged on either side of the Yorkton War Memorial.

[14:00]

Mr. Speaker, along with the veterans' banners that go up around our city every year, these signs will be a permanent and powerful reminder to residents of the brave men and women of Yorkton who have served our nation. I encourage everyone to take a moment, look up, and reflect on the sacrifices made by these individuals to keep our country strong and free.

Mr. Speaker, Yorkton is a community that is rightly proud of its military heritage. Many of our best and brightest answered the call of our nation, and many did not make it home. On behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan, thank you. Thank you to the

city of Yorkton, the Yorkton Tribal Council, The Royal Canadian Legion, and everyone involved in helping honour our veterans and keep the memory of their sacrifice alive.

Thank you to those who served and who continue to serve our province and our nation in the line of duty. Lest we forget.

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

Flight Watch Coordinator Supports Wildfire Fighting Operations

James Thorsteinson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Jessica Leeson, raised on a farm near Unity, has worked through six wildfire seasons and just finished her second season working with the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency as a flight watch coordinator with air operations. Mr. Speaker, Jessica admits this was never a career she ever considered for herself, as she originally thought of pursuing a career in law.

Jessica says growing up on a farm in west central Saskatchewan gave her an appreciation for the land, our natural resources, and the communities that depend on them. One of the lessons Jessica learned is that a fire situation can seem completely stable, and within minutes, changing weather, fire behaviour, or operational demands can create an entirely different and potentially dangerous environment. Jessica says there is no room for complacency in wildfire response.

In Jessica's role as a flight watch coordinator, she helps to support area wildfire operations when air tankers are requested. She keeps track of where the aircraft are, monitoring their progress, and staying prepared to respond. Working closely with aircraft maintenance personnel and provincial duty officers during operations, communication and accuracy are critical.

Mr. Speaker, we certainly appreciate Jessica and all of the team members at the SPSA [Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency] for keeping our communities safe during the most recent wildfire season. Please join me in thanking them for all that they do. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

QUESTION PERIOD

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

Future of Crown Corporations

Jordan McPhail: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. You know, on Friday I was proud to stand with the brothers and sisters and union family from Unifor, COPE [Canadian Office and Professional Employees Union] 397, United Steelworkers, and UFCW [United Food & Commercial Workers] to pledge that a government led by our side will never ever sell off Saskatchewan's incredible Crowns. We will protect the good-paying jobs that these Crowns provide.

All the workers we stood with are concerned because they know this government has moved to dismantle these Crowns piece by piece. And their plan to merge SGI [Saskatchewan Government Insurance] and SaskTel reeks like more of the same. These Crowns keep costs low for Saskatchewan people being hammered by the sky-high cost of living.

Why doesn't this government see the value of our Crowns?

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Minister of CIC.

Hon. Jeremy Harrison: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And we very much see the value in our Crown corporations here. It's a great pleasure to get to work with the employees and the leadership at our Crowns every single day, Mr. Speaker. And I want to thank them for their great work that they provide every single day on behalf of this province.

With regard to the members opposite, how many times can they cry wolf, Mr. Speaker? My goodness. They've been over there for 19 years claiming a privatization agenda literally every single week. It is absolutely not true, Mr. Speaker. SaskTel is not for sale, to the specific question.

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

Data Centre and Crown Utilities

Jordan McPhail: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. What I can't take seriously from that member is the response that he gave when he doesn't remember that his government got rid of SLGA [Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority], STC [Saskatchewan Transportation Company], sold off ISC [Information Services Corporation of Saskatchewan].

Mr. Speaker, the people we stood with Friday and thousands more see this government's fast-tracking of the hyperscale AI [artificial intelligence] data centre in Sherwood as a direct attack on SaskTel. This has been a master class from a government that is entitled and out of touch. And we know that everywhere these data centres are built, people's power bills go through the roof.

Will the minister give us a number? Just how much more are Saskatchewan people going to pay for this minister's data centre?

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Minister of CIC.

Hon. Jeremy Harrison: — Wow. Well, Mr. Speaker, the members opposite demonstrate every day why they are not taken seriously by anyone. They themselves even repeat that because they know it to be the case, Mr. Speaker.

The reality is that this is the largest single investment in the history of the country. And I would say, I mean, this is passing strange about the way this question was characterized, Mr. Speaker. Is that member suggesting that SaskTel should have borrowed $52 billion to build this data centre here in Regina? Yes or no?

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

Data Centre Approval Process

Jared Clarke: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like my colleague, I find the government's actions when it comes to this hyperscale Sherwood data centre to be abhorrent. No public consultation; no plan to power this thing except to pass a massive bill off to the

people of Saskatchewan. They couldn't even be bothered to do an environmental assessment on phase 1.

So a simple question to the Environment minister: why?

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Minister of the Environment.

Hon. Darlene Rowden: — Mr. Speaker, there is a robust regulatory system set out by federal, provincial, and municipal governments, and Bell Canada has committed to these systems. To keep Saskatchewan strong and steady, we will continue to have a stable, consistent regulatory system that will bring in more investment to our great province.

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

Jared Clarke: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. People in this province have legitimate concerns about the impact to water, air quality, the noise pollution, and the size of this thing. It's going to be bigger than 500 CFL [Canadian Football League] fields when all said and done.

And yet the minister, well she hid for more than 200 days after we called her out for not doing her job when it comes to the hyperscale AI data centre in Sherwood. In that time the construction site for the project was running day and night. So now it is way too late to do an environmental assessment. And she's still ducking any form of accountability.

So was it the Environment minister's decision to skip the environmental assessment? Or is the Minister for CIC making all the shots over there now?

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Minister of the Environment.

Hon. Darlene Rowden: — Mr. Speaker, we have a robust regulatory system in Saskatchewan. Bell Canada . . .

[Interjections]

Speaker Goudy: — Order, please.

Minister.

Hon. Darlene Rowden: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Bell Canada continues to co-operate with the Ministry of Environment on the regulatory system. By establishing data sovereignty, bringing more than 3,000 jobs to Saskatchewan and 52 billion invested, this project will keep Saskatchewan strong and steady.

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

Jared Clarke: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We've heard the minister up twice now, and she hasn't touched the question. Why has an environmental assessment not been completed on the AI data centre in Sherwood?

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Minister of CIC.

Hon. Jeremy Harrison: — You know what, Mr. Speaker? They should change their slogan to "stop everything from happening in Saskatchewan," Mr. Speaker, because they have opposed every single large-scale investment that has ever been made into this province. This is the party that has opposed pipelines, Mr. Speaker. This a party that has opposed investment into the . . .

[Interjections]

Speaker Goudy: — Order, please.

Hon. Jeremy Harrison: — This is the party, mister . . .

[Interjections]

Speaker Goudy: — Member from Regina South Albert.

Hon. Jeremy Harrison: — This is the party, Mr. Speaker, that has opposed every single large investment into this province in the last 20 years. Whether it be investment into the energy sector, whether it be new pipelines — which they stood on their feet and repeatedly voted against right in this Chamber, Mr. Speaker — whether it be value-added investment into the agriculture sector, and whether it be this massive investment by . . .

[Interjections]

Speaker Goudy: — You're asking for . . . to touch the question. He's answering and you're not listening . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Are you debating with . . . Like my goodness.

Minister.

Hon. Jeremy Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is the party opposite that has opposed every single large-scale . . .

[Interjections]

Speaker Goudy: — Minister.

Hon. Jeremy Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is the party opposite that has opposed every single large investment into this province in the last 20 years, whether that be into the energy sector or whether it be this largest investment in the history of Canada being made by Bell Canada right here in Regina, an investment that's going to create thousands of jobs. Literally over 1,200 people are on the work site today, Mr. Speaker, all of whom the NDP have committed to putting out of work at their very first opportunity. This is going to be a great . . .

Speaker Goudy: — I will say that we need to connect the answer to the question.

So I recognize the member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

Negotiations with Health Care Workers

Meara Conway: — Mr. Speaker, they need to know over there that standing up that minister instead of his colleagues is not the flex that they think it is. Mr. Speaker, this entitled and out-of-touch government is so focused on ramming through their hyperscale AI data centre that they are forgetting about the basics, like health care.

On Friday, the Saskatchewan Union of Nurses announced that their over 11,000 members will be holding a strike vote because of how bad things are in health care today. They have been bargaining for over two years and have encountered nothing but roadblocks.

The nurses have had enough. The people of Saskatchewan have had enough. What does this minister say to the nurses who are ready to walk off the job, Mr. Speaker, because of the mess that this minister has made of health care?

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Jeremy Cockrill: — Well, Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to remind all members of the House we have more nurses working in Saskatchewan than ever before. More than 20,000 nurses, more than 20,000 nurses now work in Saskatchewan, putting patients first every single day. That's nearly a 30 per cent increase since 2018, Mr. Speaker.

Member opposite is talking about strike votes and bargaining, Mr. Speaker. I can tell you that this government, through our bargaining agent SAHO [Saskatchewan Association of Health Organizations], is focused on getting to agreements that work for workers and for patients at all of our tables with our union partners, Mr. Speaker. We're committed to that work, and we'd ask all of our union partners to stay focused on that as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Meara Conway: — Well, Mr. Speaker, I'll give him this: he knows a lot about strike votes, and more and more every day it would seem.

Mr. Speaker, let's take stock of just how bad things are when it comes to this government and yes, the front-line health care workers and nurses who put patients first every single day. Ninety-nine per cent of CUPE [Canadian Union of Public Employees] front-line workers voted in favour of a strike vote. And now nurses will be holding a vote too.

The only people in our health care system who think that Sask Party government is doing a good job are their appointees, their exceedingly well-paid appointees over in the SHA executive suite.

Nearly half a decade and they still don't have a fair deal, Mr. Speaker. It's unacceptable. When will the minister listen to front-line health care workers, fix our broken system, and finally put patients first by recognizing the hard-working nurses of Saskatchewan and giving them a fair deal?

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Jeremy Cockrill: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have an opportunity to hear from front-line workers on a regular basis, Mr. Speaker, as I tour facilities and have meetings with constituents and various stakeholders here at the legislature as well as around the province.

Our nurses do an incredible job serving patients, Mr. Speaker. My family has experienced that. Likely all of our families have been able to experience the high level of care that Saskatchewan nurses provide every single day to patients, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the member opposite knows well that we don't bargain collective agreements here on the floor of this legislature. I'm happy to report, as I have stated previously, that we've been making progress at every single one of our health bargaining tables over the last several weeks and months, Mr. Speaker.

We look forward to getting to agreements that can be ratified by all those members, Mr. Speaker . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . They don't want to hear the answer, Mr. Speaker, but progress is being made at all of our bargaining tables. And again we look forward to getting to agreements that work for workers and work for patients. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Provision of Reproductive Health Care

Jacqueline Roy: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Speaking of progress being made, we are joined today by Aishmeen and her father, Sukhwinder. Now Aishmeen is a high school student with a bright future. She hopes to contribute to our province by becoming an oncologist.

[14:15]

Except there is one problem: she's living with an ovarian cyst that is causing her so much pain that she can't even attend school in person. In fact she had to stop her after-school health care job too because of it. These cysts can impact women for the rest of their lives without fast treatment.

Will the Health minister meet with her after question period?

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Jeremy Cockrill: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd be pleased to meet with Aishmeen after question period today.

We know that living with ovarian cancer is a challenging journey for many women in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. This is a government that has made commitments to more research, more funding, Mr. Speaker. I have more to say this week actually about how we support patients living with ovarian cancer.

But as I said earlier, Mr. Speaker, I'd be pleased to meet with Aishmeen after question period.

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

Jacqueline Roy: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are speaking here about ovarian cysts. And Aishmeen has been unable to receive the treatment to live completely pain-free because of a health care system that's extremely understaffed.

She wants to go to school. She wants to get that job in health care. But she can't attend class. She can't get treatment. What's worse: she currently has no surgery date.

She's been in and out of hospital with severe pain for months and months. So how long is this entitled and out-of-touch government going to make her wait in pain before she will finally get some type of treatment or response?

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Jeremy Cockrill: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't know the details about Aishmeen's case, but as I said in my previous answer I'd look forward to meeting with her after question period today, finding out some more information, understanding how we can help. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tajinder Grewal: — Mr. Speaker, Sukhwinder reached out to me for help after he tried everywhere else. He reached out to his MLA in Martensville-Blairmore. He reached out to the ministry. But still there is no plan for Aishmeen. She deserves so much better.

Will this minister ensure Aishmeen gets the care she needs so that she can return to school and continue working hard . . . her dream of getting a job in health care?

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Jeremy Cockrill: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. At the risk of repeating my last answer, again I don't know the specific details about this case at this time. I'd be happy to meet with this individual after question period, gather some more details and understand how we can help. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Access to Social Housing

Erika Ritchie: — Mr. Speaker, today we are joined by Amanda Hopkinson and her support worker Bailey. Amanda is a mother with five dependent children who is at risk of becoming homeless due to this government's inadequate policies. Under the ministry's current rules, she needs to find a five-bedroom home to qualify for the measly housing subsidy. That's just not possible.

Will this minister commit to meeting with Amanda and Bailey today so that her family and other families like hers never have to worry about finding a safe place to sleep?

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

Hon. Terry Jenson: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of course I would be more than happy to meet with Amanda and Bailey following proceedings today.

Mr. Speaker, this is why this is a government that's investing $86 million into social housing right across this province through our approximately 270 housing authorities right across Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, I'll learn a little bit more from Amanda and their situation, and you know, work with them through their housing authority to make sure that we are doing everything possible to assure that they have good, stable housing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Erika Ritchie: — Mr. Speaker, Amanda is doing her very best to keep her children housed, but she's forced to choose between being homeless and returning to the violent situation that caused her to choose supportive housing in the first place. This minister has ignored her calls for help time and time again.

Does this minister think it's fair to force a mother into an impossible situation when she's trying to keep her children safe?

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

Hon. Terry Jenson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And again I'll be more than happy to meet with Amanda and Bailey following proceedings this afternoon.

Mr. Speaker, when it comes to individuals who are fleeing interpersonal violence, this is why we have doubled the Saskatchewan housing benefit amount. Something we take extremely seriously, especially when it comes to seniors as well as individuals with young children, Mr. Speaker. We work with our housing authorities to identify needs in the community, and we will work with Amanda and her family as well to make sure that we are doing everything possible to ensure that they've got stable, safe housing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Brent Blakley: — Mr. Speaker, Amanda is a constituent of mine. She has tried to contact the minister. I have tried to contact the minister. And yet Amanda and her children are still afraid of becoming homeless due to the ridiculous restrictions that are forcing her to find a five-bedroom home.

Why won't this minister commit to ensuring Amanda doesn't lose her children and help her find proper housing?

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

Hon. Terry Jenson: — As I said earlier, Mr. Speaker, when it comes to making sure that individuals have housing, especially families with young children, this is a government that is committed to ensuring that we are providing as much of that housing as possible for families, Mr. Speaker.

I'll be more than happy to meet with Amanda and Bailey following proceedings today, and I will try to have my officials here as well to ensure that we are doing everything possible so that Amanda and her family can have a safe, supportive place to live. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Funding for Public Libraries

Matt Love: — Mr. Speaker, a library isn't just a library. It's a gathering place. It's a provider. It offers vital services for everyone, from families with young children to older adults to people trying to get back on their feet. And in rural areas, a library can tie together a whole community.

And yet the Sask Party has decided to tear apart not one, not two, but six communities. The Wapiti Regional Library is being forced to shut down six branches. Why? Because this province isn't funding them.

Well there's a simple solution available today to that minister. Will the minister commit to increasing funding to save those six libraries today?

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Everett Hindley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This government supports the library system across this province through a number of different funding initiatives, through grants that are provided to libraries. There's an investment in this year's budget of $11.7 million towards the library system. And in addition to that, Mr. Speaker, there's also funding provided by the municipal sector and by municipalities.

Mr. Speaker, in this particular case and in all cases across the province, operational funding is provided to the regional library boards. And from that point the library boards make those decisions with respect to how they disburse the funding and how they allocate the resources to the libraries within their region. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Matt Love: — Mr. Speaker, this entitled and out-of-touch government isn't just underfunding libraries. They're disrespecting the librarians, the workers, and the communities that they serve.

Now this minister wants credit for funding libraries, but he doesn't take responsibility when that funding is inadequate and leads to closures. This government is responsible for funding libraries.

Now here's what the CEO [chief executive officer] of the library had to say:

> We've been struggling for years with lack of adequate provincial funding. And every year when we do our budget, we have to make a variety of operational decisions to manage those funding shortfalls.

To the minister: how many more libraries will close before he takes action and supports them with adequate funding?

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Everett Hindley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Grants are provided to the seven regional libraries across the province. And there's been an increase, as I said, in this current year's budget, of 2 per cent in funding towards the regional libraries, Mr. Speaker. In previous years there have been other increases in funding.

Mr. Speaker, I've had the opportunity to meet with a number of regional libraries and individual libraries during my time as the minister. I know that the officials at the Ministry of Education and the Provincial Librarian meet, I believe, quarterly with their libraries across this province to engage with them on what their concerns are, some of the challenges they are facing in the library system. We work very collaboratively to try to work very closely with them to address shortfalls where we can within the funding that we're able to allocate to libraries across this province, Mr. Speaker.

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

Addressing Homelessness

April ChiefCalf: — Thank you. Mr. Speaker, homeless encampments have sprung up this past summer and fall in Saskatoon, Regina, and Prince Albert, and homelessness is visible in communities all across Saskatchewan, large and small. And it's a direct result of this Sask Party government's choices.

It was this entitled and out-of-touch government that did away with the direct payment of rent and utilities for folks receiving assistance. Landlords and tenants both warned this would lead to more evictions, and all of these years later, the aftermath can be seen on our streets.

Has the minister seen enough? Will he admit it was a mistake to end the direct payment of rent and utilities?

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

Hon. Terry Jenson: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. The majority of SIS [Saskatchewan income support] clients successfully manage their own money, and they pay their own bills. They should have the freedom and the dignity to continue to do so, Mr. Speaker.

The Ministry of Social Services does provide a suite of assistance when it comes to individuals who struggle to pay their own bills, Mr. Speaker. We have trusteeship, which is administered by a number of community-based organizations around this province, teaching individuals how to budget, how to have money management supports.

Mr. Speaker, we've always had direct pay for the very few circumstances that require it. If an individual landlord has a tenant that is late or chronically not paying their rent, we have a direct line right to the ministry by email, Mr. Speaker. We will put that client on direct pay to the landlord so that tenant does not get evicted, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supports for Victims of Family Violence

Nicole Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, domestic violence is an

epidemic in Saskatchewan. Everyone across this province knows that — everyone except for, it seems, this Sask Party government. Mr. Speaker, we called for this government to declare domestic violence an epidemic multiple times, most recently this past spring. The Sask Party government refused.

We saw a woman here today who's having to choose between keeping her family safe, homelessness, or going back to a violent situation, Mr. Speaker. This government is not providing the supports that is needed for survivors to continue to survive.

Mr. Speaker, they've had the summer to think about their choices. Can the Minister of Community Safety explain why they refuse to declare domestic violence an epidemic in this province?

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Minister of the Status of Women.

Hon. Alana Ross: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our government recognizes that interpersonal violence is an issue in our society. That is why we provide a variety of programs and services across government to help women and children who are facing and fleeing from interpersonal violence. It is important to take a coordinated action that goes across government with our partner organizations. And we will continue to support the women who are fleeing this terrible situation, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 75 — *The Community Support and Recovery Act*

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Minister of Remote and Rural Health.

Hon. Lori Carr: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 75, *The Community Support and Recovery Act* be now introduced and read a first time.

Speaker Goudy: — It has been moved by the Minister of Health that Bill No. 75, *The Community Support and Recovery Act* be now introduced and read a 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. Lori Carr: — Next sitting of the Assembly.

Bill No. 639 — *The Saskatchewan Assistance (Direct Payment of Rent and Utilities) Amendment Act*

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

April ChiefCalf: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill 639, *The Saskatchewan Assistance (Direct Payment of Rent and Utilities) Amendment Act* be now introduced and read a first time.

Speaker Goudy: — It's been moved by the member from Westview that Bill No. 639, *The Saskatchewan Assistance (Direct Payment of Rent and Utilities) Amendment Act* be now introduced and read a 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?

April ChiefCalf: — At the next sitting of the Assembly.

Speaker Goudy: — Next sitting.

[14:30]

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 74 — *The Workers' Compensation (Strengthening Compensation Outcomes) Amendment Act, 2026*

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

Hon. Ken Cheveldayoff: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Colleagues, I rise today to move second reading of Bill No. 74, *The Workers' Compensation Amendment Act,* 2026. The Workers' Compensation Board plays an important role in supporting Saskatchewan's workers and employers by providing compensation for workplace injuries, facilitating recovery and return to work, and maintaining a financially sustainable compensation system.

Mr. Speaker, legislative amendments to *The Workers' Compensation Act* are often informed by the committee of review, a legislative process that occurs every five years. The most recent review, completed in 2022, led to amendments that came into force in 2024 and 2025, including expanded presumptive firefighter cancer coverage, improvements to benefits, and amendments to the definition of "worker."

The amendments before the Assembly today are separate from those, from the committee of review recommendations. They have been identified by the Workers' Compensation Board to address emerging system needs, support workers and employers, and ensure the workers' compensation system remains fair, effective, and sustainable in the future.

Mr. Speaker, these amendments focus on three key objectives. First, they support better rehabilitation and return-to-work outcomes by reducing barriers that can delay recovery and return to work and by encouraging the timely resolution of issues that affect injured workers.

Second, they improve fairness, clarity, and consistency in the

administration of benefits, helping ensure workers receive the benefits to which they are entitled while supporting consistent application of the Act.

Third, they strengthen compliance, governance, and administrative processes, helping maintain the integrity of Saskatchewan's worker compensation system and public confidence in its operation.

Mr. Speaker, I will now highlight the key amendments contained in the bill. We will begin, Mr. Speaker, by better supporting employees who are re-entering the workforce. They will now receive 100 per cent wage reimbursement for time they miss from work to attend injury-related treatment after they have returned to work. We will implement a two-year appeal time limit to support timely identification of issues that may create barriers to rehabilitation and return to work. This will encourage both employers and workers to address appeal issues in a timely manner.

Further, Mr. Speaker, these amendments will provide clarity regarding who qualifies for psychological injury benefits. We will authorize more health care professionals to diagnose psychological injuries and increase the range of qualified medical professionals to sit on medical review panels. We will modernize the eligibility criteria for the annuity program to reflect current realities and ensure consistent application.

The amendments will align dependent spouse benefits with the Workers' Compensation system core earnings loss replacement principles. While lump-sum payments for funeral and related expenses will continue to be made available, outgoing spouse benefits would be tied to situations where there is an actual loss of earnings resulting from a workplace injury or death.

Mr. Speaker, these amendments will allow us to improve fairness for workers whose wage-loss benefits are interrupted for legitimate reasons. They will clarify the benefits payable for workers who experience reoccurrences of older injuries to ensure predictability and fairness.

We will also resolve an unintended interpretation related to the status of directors of corporations from an earlier amendment. We will clarify quorum requirements for board appeal tribunal decisions to support consistency and proper decision making. We are also looking to explicitly provide authority to the Workers' Compensation Board for the clearance process to protect principles from liability arising from contractors' unpaid premiums.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, we will enhance access to information for employers and will improve collaboration in support of safe and timely return-to-work planning. With appropriate safeguards, expanding employer access to information will help support decision making and ensure procedural fairness during the appeals process.

Simply said, Mr. Speaker, the amendments will help provide injured workers with better support for their recovery and reintegration into the workforce. They will enhance fairness, equality, and clarity in benefits, and they will help reinforce the integrity of the Workers' Compensation system.

Mr. Speaker, I'm honoured to move second reading of Bill No. 74, *The Workers' Compensation Amendment Act*, 2013. Thanks very much.

Speaker Goudy: — It has been moved that Bill No. 74, *The Workers' Compensation (Strengthening Compensation Outcomes) 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 add some remarks to the debate on Bill No. 74, *The Workers' Compensation (Strengthening Compensation Outcomes) Amendment Act, 2026*.

Mr. Speaker, it is important to have clear and effective protections in place for injured workers or the spouses of workers who have died. Unfortunately Saskatchewan has the worst rates of workplace deaths. Not enough is being done to make sure workers get home safe every day, and no amount of money can compensate for the loss of life.

Some of these changes have the potential to seriously impact who's eligible for compensation and how to access it, so we're going to have to talk to our labour partners and ensure that this legislation is a step in the right direction.

With that I wish to move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 74, *The Workers' Compensation (Strengthening Compensation Outcomes) 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.

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 61

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by Hon. Tim McLeod that **Bill No. 61 — *The Mandatory Testing and Disclosure (Bodily Substances) Amendment Act, 2026*** be now read a second time.]

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

Brittney Senger: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to speak to Bill No. 61, the mandatory testing and disclosure amendment Act. This bill makes amendments to legislation that was passed 20 years ago, and these changes have been made at the request of police.

It goes to show the dangers that first responders face every single day, which just continues to get worse. In fact I recently spoke to a first responder and they were telling me how the lack of funding, the lack of support to social services, to housing, and to mental health and addictions has just put more pressure on them.

And the Act doesn't do anything to address the root cause of the problem. It doesn't do anything to get drugs off the street, and it doesn't do anything to support people that are struggling with mental health and addictions issues.

We have the highest rates of HIV [human immunodeficiency virus], the highest rates of AIDS [acquired immune deficiency syndrome], the highest rates of hepatitis and of tuberculosis. And we're constantly worst or second-worst in a number of other infectious diseases, and we have been for a very, very long time.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 61, the mandatory testing and disclosure amendment Act.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Speaker Goudy: — Carried.

Bill No. 62

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Tim McLeod that **Bill No. 62 — *The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2026*** be now read a second time.]

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

Brittney Senger: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to speak to Bill No. 62, *The Statute Law Amendment Act*. This seems pretty straightforward, very much a housekeeping bill which removes some of the Latin jargon and updates pronoun usage and job titles.

One of the last Acts updated is *The Provincial Sales Tax Act* of 2018, which was the largest PST [provincial sales tax] expansion in the history of Saskatchewan. And it's been a hardship on Saskatchewan people ever since. Repealing the PST on kids' clothes and on groceries might have been a better use of time than removing some Latin jargon.

And with that, I move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 62.

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 Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Jim Reiter that **Bill No. 63 — *The Municipal Employees' Pension Amendment Act, 2026*** be now read a second time.]

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Leroy Laliberte: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's again my pleasure to be able to rise here in the Assembly today to debate Bill No. 63, *The Municipal Employees' Pension Amendment Act* of 2026, Mr. Speaker.

And as in previous debate, as a colleague spoke that this is in keeping to the Sask Party's habit of moving legislative matters into regulations to reduce accountability. Now the notes say that it will make calculations faster and more responsive, but what we've seen in this sort of behaviour, it just leads to more of a mess when it comes to these types of things, Mr. Speaker.

We've talked to seniors on doorsteps who have been careful their whole lives, now having to go back to work. There's a lot of people that are on fixed income, Mr. Speaker. And it's the price of living. It's just not feasible for them to be able to afford to pay their bills, Mr. Speaker, which is why we've been calling every day for cost-of-living relief.

So there's still a few things to be able to go through, Mr. Speaker. So with that I'm just going to move to adjourn debate on this bill, Bill 63, *The Municipal Employees' Pension Amendment Act, 2026*.

Speaker Goudy: — I'm just going to mention, you know, saying that the government's doing something to reduce accountability and those kinds of comments, those contentions, is something that we need to stay away from. I appreciate your comments.

But 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 Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Jim Reiter that **Bill No. 64 — *The Revenue and Financial Services Amendment Act, 2026*** be now read a second time.]

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Leroy Laliberte: — Thank you. Again, Mr. Speaker, it's great to be able to rise and enter into debate to Bill No. 64, *The Revenue and Financial Services Amendment Act, 2026*. Again we do appreciate the clarification of statutes of limitation. No one ever wants to get a letter from the tax folks, Mr. Speaker.

Times are tough, so it's not surprising that the Sask Party's concerned with people paying their taxes. It's something that again we've been calling out regarding the cost of living, and we need the relief now, Mr. Speaker. So the people are struggling, and we see that especially around that tax time, Mr. Speaker.

We've told them it was a bad idea, and they insisted that it's vital for Saskatchewan but they quietly dropped it. And this isn't a government with a clear financial vision, Mr. Speaker. So we're seeing this every day, that the cost of living, everything's higher, as said in the previous bill. Especially for the elders and the people that are on fixed income, Mr. Speaker.

So again with this one, I will say that I move to adjourn debate on this bill, Bill No. 64, *The Revenue and Financial Services Amendment Act* of 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. 65

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Tim McLeod that **Bill No. 65 — *The Protection From Human Trafficking Amendment Act, 2026*** be now read a second time.]

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Leroy Laliberte: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now looking through this bill, again it's a pleasure to enter into debate once again to Bill No. 65, the protection of the humans trafficking amendment Act of 2026.

[14:45]

And it's obvious, Mr. Speaker, human trafficking is an incredibly serious issue here in this province. We do exceed the national average, so of course more must be done. And this is something that we've talked about before.

We will be reaching out to our stakeholders to make sure that this bill hits the mark and is the best interest of the law enforcement, in particular of the victims, Mr. Speaker.

One clear step forward the government could be doing to support those that wish to leave situations of human trafficking is to increase access to affordable housing. It's something that we have brought up numerous times, Mr. Speaker. So there's still more that needs to be done with this bill.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I will move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 65, *The Protection From Human Trafficking Amendment Act* of 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 Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Tim McLeod that **Bill No. 66 — *The Pooled Registered Pension Plans (Saskatchewan) Amendment Act, 2026*** be now read a second time.]

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

Keith Jorgenson: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I will apologize in advance. My voice is a bit out of whack. I'm just getting over the flu.

So the Bill 66 contains a number of good changes, you know. It's updating the Act. It's allowing maintenance enforcement of pooled funds, which I think is, you know, an addable thing to try and achieve, and it provides some greater financial flexibility for the people of Saskatchewan.

You know, the one thing I think is interesting, Mr. Speaker, is this Bill 66 is called the pooled registered pensions plan amendment Act. And you know, speaking of pools, Mr. Speaker, this government is continually leaving the people of Saskatchewan in the deep end when it comes to the cost of living in this province. You know, they're absolutely drowning in the costs that this government has offloaded them in terms of additional taxes, fees, levies, absolutely nothing to help out the average people of this province at all, Mr. Speaker.

With that, I would be happy to adjourn debate on Bill 66, the pooled registered pension plans amendment Act, 2026. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Speaker Goudy: — Carried.

Bill No. 67

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Tim McLeod that **Bill No. 67 — *The Coroners Amendment Act, 2026*** be now read a second time.]

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

Keith Jorgenson: — Thanks again, Mr. Speaker. Always a pleasure to be on my feet. You know, again it is a pleasure to enter some comments on *The Coroners Amendment Act*. This is sometimes a tough thing to talk about, as we talk about, you know, obviously the passing of people that we know and that we care about a great deal.

And you know, often a coroner becomes involved when situations are out of the ordinary. And one of those situations is when we see the absolute epidemic of people who are dying as a result of the mental health and addictions crisis. And it's frustrating to see.

It's good to see that the Act is being amended and that additional powers are being put in there for the coroner to allow them to do their job. But it is dismaying when we see the sheer number of people that the coroner has to investigate the cause of death and often conclude that very, very young people have lost their lives as a result of drugs and the mental health and addiction crisis, which the government has largely ignored at these young people's peril for almost 20 years, Mr. Speaker.

And I just want to share a very brief anecdote to underscore that, Mr. Speaker. I used to teach in Punnichy, Saskatchewan, not too far from here. And one of my colleagues was sharing a story of a mutual student that we knew who had passed away. And she encouraged me to look at the local mortuary's obituary page and

look at the number of young people that we mutually had taught who had passed away. And I was alarmed to look at that, Mr. Speaker, because when you read through those, you could see that more than a third of the young people that had been buried in that period of time at that home were under 30.

So it's great to amend the Act and update it, but we also need to be doing the things that provide young people with an opportunity to sort of live and be successful and be part of our society, rather than statistics. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I wish to adjourn debate.

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 Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Tim McLeod that **Bill No. 68 — *The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Amendment Act, 2026/Loi modificative de 2026 sur l'exécution des ordonnances alimentaires*** be now read a second time.]

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

Keith Jorgenson: — It's good to be on my feet yet again, Mr. Speaker, to talk about Bill 68, *The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Act*, 2026.

You know, I, on a couple of occasions in my lifetime as an employer, have been part of the process where the employer assisted in the process of enforcing maintenance orders. And I can tell you first-hand that that system can be better and additional tools can be put in place. And so it is good to see some of those potential changes in the pipeline, Mr. Speaker.

I did also want to add what I would believe is a bit of an intellectual inconsistency between some of the things that the government does and is saying, respectfully, Mr. Speaker. So this is the same day that my colleague, my almost seatmate, introduced Bill 639. And it's interesting. And I'm just going to read from what I remember as the quote that the Minister of Social Services gave today in response to a question that my colleague had asked in regards to the concept behind Bill 638, where he said the majority of social assistance clients are able to manage their affairs on their own and they deserve the freedom and dignity to manage their own affairs.

So I find it interesting that the government envisions that people who are on assistance are going to be able to manage their own affairs. The people who have children but, for whatever reasons, are not financially providing for them in the separated relationship, the government has to pass an additional legislation to garnish the wages from those folks, right. Because presumably, you know, for whatever reason, they don't have an interest in making those payments as part of the maintenance of their kids' upbringing. But somebody who may have lived in poverty for a long time and may be struggling with addictions, they have the ability to do that though on their own.

And I find it really intellectually inconsistent, Mr. Speaker, that the government is unwilling to see the fact that what they're doing with regards to paying social assistance directly to people on SIS and SAID [Saskatchewan assured income for disability], to entertain the notion that it isn't working when they introduce legislation to garnish the wages of folks who aren't paying for their kids. Which obviously, you know, I support those enforcement orders being enforced.

So with that, I would like to adjourn debate on Bill 68. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Speaker Goudy: — Carried.

Bill No. 69

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Tim McLeod that **Bill No. 69 — *The Legal Profession Amendment Act, 2026*** be now read a second time.]

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

Vicki Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to enter debate into Bill No. 69, *The Legal Profession Amendment Act, 2026*.

We know that these days the cost of everything is going up, life is more and more expensive, and access to justice remains quite a significant barrier for a lot of folks who find themselves needing a lawyer. And what we have seen is a lot of people who are helping friends, family members, those who are low income, with representation in legal matters. Often we see this in minor claims court, family law, traffic claims. And so we have these folks who are representing people, who are not lawyers.

And so this legislation seeks to clarify some of the regulations around what that looks like, allows for regulation through the Law Society of Saskatchewan, and helps to protect the public in knowing where some of the lines are in this situation. So of course we, you know, are supportive of clarity. It sounds like the Law Society is supportive of these changes as well in clarifying who must be regulated and licensed. It creates a specific category for these individuals.

And then in addition to these changes, Mr. Speaker, there's also a new process around health-related concerns for professionals as well as some administrative changes. So we will be looking closely at this legislation. I know the critic will want to weigh in and will have many questions. But with that, I would move to adjourn debate for today on Bill No. 69.

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 Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Tim McLeod that **Bill No. 70 — *The Legal Profession Consequential Amendment Act, 2026/Loi de 2026 corrélative de la loi intitulée The Legal Profession Amendment Act, 2026*** be now read a second time.]

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

Vicki Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Entering into debate on Bill No. 70 which is the consequential amendment Act to *The Legal Profession Amendment Act*.

Of course we know when we talk about consequential amendments, we're talking about all of the other bills that will need to change to reflect the changes in the bill that is being made. So very much a housekeeping matter to get everyone else organized to make sure that all the cross-references agree with one another.

The substantive comments that I have on this piece of legislation can be found under Bill No. 69. And with that, I would move to adjourn debate on this bill.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Speaker Goudy: — Carried.

Bill No. 71

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Lori Carr that **Bill No. 71 — *The Personal Care Homes (Safer Homes for Seniors) Amendment Act, 2026*** be now read a second time.]

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

Brittney Senger: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to speak to Bill No. 71, *The Personal Care Homes (Safer Homes for Seniors) Amendment Act.*

Mr. Speaker, personal care homes should and must be compliant with laws and regulations. This bill seems to order compliance and seek enforcement of compliance through courts as well as impose fines. We support attempts to make personal care homes safer. It's important. In fact I hear horror stories from seniors, from relatives of seniors, every day about lack of safety or things that are even worse — people forced into hospitals or roaming into the street at night or even being assaulted in SHA-administered long-term care homes.

While this is a very important amendment and bill, we need to ensure that we are continuing to fund, to staff, and to support personal care homes and those working in personal care homes, to keep our seniors out of hospitals and to ensure that they have the support and quality of life that they deserve. And with that, I move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 71.

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 Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Jeremy Cockrill that **Bill No. 72 — *The Opioid Damages Amendment Act, 2026*** be now read a second time.]

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

Brittney Senger: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to speak to Bill No. 72, *The Opioid Damages Amendment Act*.

This bill seems to create new grounds for the government to sue drug companies, specifically to recover costs incurred by the health care system for persons wrongfully taking opioids.

Mr. Speaker, the opioid crisis has put enormous strain on the resources in our health care system, first responders, the province at large. And we support trying to offset, and any attempt to address, the drug crisis within Saskatchewan. But ultimately this doesn't address the root cause of the issue, and I believe that there is more that could be done to address the addictions crisis that Saskatchewan is facing.

[15:00]

We want to see a better response from the government in terms of addressing the challenges within addictions and mental health here in Saskatchewan. And with that, I move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 72.

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. 73

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Jeremy Cockrill that **Bill No. 73 — *The Medical Assistance in Dying Additional Safeguards Act*** be now read a second time.]

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

Vicki Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to enter into debate on Bill No. 73, *The Medical Assistance in Dying Additional Safeguards Act*.

I know some of my colleagues have weighed in already on this piece of legislation. Of course a very serious topic that we're debating in the legislature here, Mr. Speaker, that there are a lot of thoughts and concerns and worries and opinions on, and I'm sure all of us have been subject to some of those thoughts as well.

And I'm not exempt from that. I've been following this issue very closely throughout my time as the shadow minister for Health and speaking to folks who have, you know, expressed all of these different ideas to me as well. And it's hard. These are hard things to talk about, Mr. Speaker.

What the government is proposing here with this piece of legislation is that no one can provide MAID [medical assistance in dying] or be eligible for MAID if they are under 18 years old — to my knowledge that has not happened anyway, Mr. Speaker — or if they lack capacity or if they're asking for it for reasons that are solely related to mental health.

Mr. Speaker, I know that these are also concerns that the federal government has raised. I don't understand the distinction between what the federal government is bringing forward and what the provincial government is bringing forward. It seems like, you know, a redundancy in the system, Mr. Speaker. So I think we'll have some questions about, you know, why this is being brought forward, whether we have actually seen incidents of MAID or attempted instances of MAID in these situations, Mr. Speaker.

I also understand that the legislation brings forward the right to refuse assisting in MAID. Again, Mr. Speaker, I've read through some of the regulatory bodies for doctors and nurses. They already have this ability to have a conscientious objection, I think it's called, for, you know, if it's not something they're comfortable in providing, then they can't be disciplined for it or anything like that.

So we'll be taking a close look at the legislation, as well as what the feds are bringing forward, and doing our due diligence. But with that, I would move to adjourn debate on this piece of legislation for today.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Speaker Goudy: — Carried. 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 1:30 p.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 15:04.]

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Premier
President of the Executive Council
Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs

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Minister of Energy and Resources

Hon. Lori Carr
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