



SECOND SESSION — THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE

of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 59

Tuesday, May 5, 2026

1:30 p.m.

PRAYERS

PRESENTING PETITIONS

Petitions of citizens of the province of Saskatchewan were presented and laid upon the Table by the following members: Aleana Young, Brent Blakley, Noor Burki, Bhajan Brar, and Tajinder Grewal.

READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

According to order and pursuant to rule 16(7), petitions from residents of the province of Saskatchewan, requesting the following action, were read and received:

To adopt fair and effective rent control legislation that limits annual rent increases.
(Addendum to sessional paper no. 13)

To provide adequate and equitable SAID rates.
(Addendum to sessional paper no. 32)

To meaningfully address the affordability crisis in Saskatchewan.
(Addendum to sessional paper no. 33)

To immediately provide the support needed to complete and open the second joint-use school in Harbour Landing as soon as possible.

(Addendum to sessional paper no. 103)

To immediately develop and implement a province-wide crime reduction strategy.

(Addendum to sessional paper no. 158)

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

The following bill was reported with amendment and consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bills having been waived, by leave of the Assembly, it was considered as amended. It was moved by the Hon. Lori Carr:

That Bill No. 48 — The Compassionate Intervention Act be now read the third time and passed under its title.

A debate arising and the question being put, it was agreed to on the following recorded division:

YEAS — 33

Scott Moe	Kim Gartner	Warren Kaeding	David Marit	Jeremy Cockrill
Jim Reiter	Everett Hindley	Jeremy Harrison	Ken Cheveldayoff	Eric Schmalz
Terry Jenson	Michael Weger	Travis Keisig	Jamie Martens	Sean Wilson
Chris Beaudry	Darlene Rowden	Alana Ross	Tim McLeod	Lori Carr
Brad Crassweller	Doug Steele	Colleen Young	Daryl Harrison	Kevin Weedmark
Barret Kropf	Blaine McLeod	Megan Patterson	Terri Bromm	Racquel Hilbert
David Chan	James Thorsteinson	Kevin Kasun		

NAYS — 21

Carla Beck	Erika Ritchie	Noor Burki	Betty Nippi-Albright	Trent Wotherspoon
Aleana Young	Jared Clarke	Leroy Laliberte	Jordan McPhail	Meara Conway
Nicole Sarauer	Kim Breckner	Brent Blakley	Tajinder Grewal	April ChiefCalf
Keith Jorgenson	Bhajan Brar	Hugh Gordon	Brittney Senger	Jacqueline Roy
Don McBean				

The said bill was accordingly read the third time and passed.

The following bill was reported without amendment and consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bills having been waived, by leave of the Assembly, it was read the third time and passed:

Bill No. 55 — The Medical Profession Amendment Act, 2026

ADJOURNED DEBATES / DÉBATS AJOURNÉS

Bill No. 58 — The Time Act, 2026

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion of the Hon. Eric Schmalz: That Bill No. 58 — The Time Act, 2026 be now read a second time.

The debate continuing and the question being put, it was agreed to and the said bill was accordingly read a second time and committed to a Committee of the Whole on Bills later this day.

Bill No. 59 — The Time Consequential Amendments Act, 2026 Projet de loi n° 59 — Loi de 2026 corrélative de la loi intitulée The Time Act, 2026

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion of the Hon. Eric Schmalz: That Bill No. 59 — The Time Consequential Amendments Act, 2026 be now read a second time.

L'Assemblée reprend le débat ajourné sur la motion de l'hon. Eric Schmalz: Que le projet de loi n° 59 — Loi de 2026 corrélative de la loi intitulée The Time Act, 2026 soit maintenant lu une deuxième fois.

The debate continuing and the question being put, it was agreed to and the said bill was accordingly read a second time and committed to a Committee of the Whole on Bills immediately.

Le débat se poursuit et la motion, mise aux voix, est adoptée et, en conséquence, ledit projet de loi est lu une deuxième fois et renvoyé au Comité plénier sur les projets de loi immédiatement.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ON BILLS COMITÉ PLÉNIER SUR LES PROJETS DE LOI

The Assembly, according to order, resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole on Bills.

Conformément au règlement, l'Assemblée se forme en Comité plénier sur les projets de loi.

The following bills were reported without amendment, and by leave of the Assembly and pursuant to rule 75(1), read the third time and passed:

Les projets de loi suivants sont rapportés sans amendement et, avec la permission de l'Assemblée et conformément au règlement 75(1), lus une troisième fois et adoptés:

Bill No. 58 — The Time Act, 2026

Bill No. 59 — The Time Consequential Amendments Act, 2026
Projet de loi n° 59 — Loi de 2026 corrélative de la loi intitulée The Time Act, 2026

The committee was given leave to sit again.

Le comité obtient la permission de siéger de nouveau à la prochaine séance.

On motion of the Hon. Tim McLeod:

Ordered, That this Assembly do now adjourn.

The Assembly adjourned at 3:43 p.m. until Wednesday at 1:30 p.m.

Hon. Todd Goudy
Speaker

RETURNS, REPORTS, AND PAPERS TABLED

The following papers were laid upon the Table:

By the Hon. Eric Schmalz:

Northern Municipal Trust Account: 2025 annual report

(Sessional paper no. 217)

By the Hon. Jeremy Harrison:

Saskatchewan Government Insurance Superannuation Plan: 2025 annual report

(Sessional paper no. 219)

NOTICE OF MOTIONS FOR FIRST READING OF BILLS

On Thursday:

Trent Wotherspoon to move first reading of Bill No. 624 — The Provincial Sales Tax Amendment Act, 2026

NOTICE OF MOTION FOR A SEVENTY-FIVE MINUTE DEBATE

On Thursday:

April ChiefCalf to move the following motion:

That the Assembly calls upon all members to quickly pass the legislation brought forward by members of the official opposition this session.

NOTICE OF PRIORITY ITEMS

No. 1 (Government)

ADJOURNED DEBATES

On the proposed motion no. 2 moved by Terri Bromm:

That this Assembly supports the Government of Saskatchewan's recovery-oriented system of care and the Patients First Healthcare Plan to protect our most vulnerable residents.

(Brad Crassweller)
Adjourned once

No. 2 (Opposition)

Not submitted — item of business determined pursuant to rule 24(4).

NOTICE OF WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The following questions were given notice on day no. 59 and are to be answered by day no. 64:

Question no. 32 (Erika Ritchie):

To the Minister of Social Services, (a) what is the total number of income assistance workers per region, (b) what is the total number of active income assistance cases per region, and (c) what is the number of income assistance worker vacancies per region, for each of the past four fiscal years?

Question no. 33 (Erika Ritchie):

To the Minister of Social Services, what is the total number of vacancies currently in the Ministry of Social Services, broken down by department?

Question no. 34 (Erika Ritchie):

To the Minister of Social Services, (a) what data, if any, were collected from Food Banks of Saskatchewan in exchange for the two-year, \$2 million grant; and (b) what funding will replace the food bank grant, given continued increases in usage province-wide and the absence of any new allocation in the 2026–27 budget?

Question no. 35 (Erika Ritchie):

To the Minister of Social Services, what data does the ministry use to support its claim that Saskatchewan's income assistance benefits are among the strongest in the country?

Question no. 36 (Erika Ritchie):

To the Minister of Social Services, what evidence does the ministry rely on when calculating the rates for benefits for clients to ensure they are sufficient for current food costs?

Question no. 37 (Erika Ritchie):

To the Minister of Social Services, what is the average length of time a recipient remains on SIS, broken down by service level screening category (SLS 1–4)?

Question no. 38 (Erika Ritchie):

To the Minister of Social Services, (a) what are the specific performance targets and response-time standards for the mobile income assistance outreach team, and (b) what measures are being used to measure success?

Question no. 39 (Erika Ritchie):

To the Minister of Social Services, (a) what methods does the ministry employ to systematically track housing stability for social assistance clients; (b) how many social assistance clients are experiencing housing stability, and (i) how many SIS clients, (ii) how many SAID clients, (iii) how many TEA clients, and (iv) how many Child and Family Services clients; and (c) what correlation has been observed between benefit levels and clients' ability to afford and maintain housing?

Question no. 40 (Erika Ritchie):

To the Minister of Social Services, (a) who conducted the recent audit of Social Services clients and (i) what was the scope; (b) under what specific policy grounds was wide-scale file review/audit initiated; (c) what were the criteria used to identify files for review; (d) who was responsible for conducting the province-wide SIS and SAID file review; (e) was the eligibility review unit responsible for conducting the province-wide SIS and SAID file review and (i) if so, did that unit have sufficient capacity to conduct a review of this scale and what was the timeline over which it was carried out; (f) what was the justification offered for prioritizing a province-wide audit focused on clawing back benefits from this population; (g) how many clients had benefits reduced or discontinued as a result of that audit and (i) how many lost travel benefits specifically; (h) how many clients are now required to repay overpayments as a result of the audit and (i) what is the total dollar amount of those overpayments; and (i) what was the total amount saved by the ministry as a result of the audit?

Question no. 41 (Erika Ritchie):

To the Minister of Social Services, (a) what is the approval rate for SIS applications; (b) how many SIS applications were approved and denied for each month of the past four fiscal years; (c) what was the process for developing the Order in Council changes to the SIS program manual that took effect April 1st, 2026, and (i) is there any written record of the policy development process, including any internal analysis or stakeholder input; and (d) what specific inflation rate or index figure was used to determine the two per cent benefit rate increase for 2026–27?

Question no. 42 (Erika Ritchie):

To the Minister of Social Services, (a) for SAID clients living in cities, is medical travel now expected to be covered entirely through the general living allowance; (b) what formula was used to calculate a \$70 disability mobility allowance to adequately cover the cost of medical transportation; and (c) what criteria must now be met to access medical travel benefits?

Question no. 43 (Erika Ritchie):

To the Minister of Social Services, (a) what was the rationale offered for the ministry changing its approach to supplemental diet benefits so that clients must now either pay upfront and seek reimbursement or arrange direct billing through a pharmacy, and (b) how many clients have been affected by this change?

Question no. 44 (Erika Ritchie):

To the Minister of Social Services, (a) how many clients residing in private care homes have been assessed overpayments related to the phone benefit and what is the total dollar value of those overpayments, and (b) on what basis has the ministry determined that residents of private care homes with a public phone are ineligible for the \$30 basic phone benefit?

Question no. 45 (Erika Ritchie):

To the Minister of Social Services, (a) how many SAID clients is the ministry currently requiring to draw down locked-in retirement accounts (LIRAs) as a condition of eligibility, using the federal post-COVID hardship clause as the basis for doing so; and (b) how many clients required to draw down a LIRA have subsequently had the remaining balance as an asset in future eligibility reviews?

Question no. 46 (Erika Ritchie):

To the Minister of Social Services, (a) what is the confirmed end date for the Saskatchewan Rental Housing Supplement; (b) what alternate programs will existing SRHS clients be redirected to when the program ends, broken down by number redirected to each program; and (c) to which programs will the funding allocated to the SRHS in the budget be redirected?

Question no. 47 (Erika Ritchie):

To the Minister of Social Services, (a) how many trusteeships are currently active province-wide and (i) how many of those are involuntary; (b) what is the total funding flowing to CBO trustees in 2026–27 compared to 2025–26; and (c) how many trustee spaces were added in each of the last five years?

Question no. 48 (Erika Ritchie):

To the Minister of Social Services, (a) what is the breakdown of child deaths in ministry care in 2023–24, by (i) legal status, (ii) placement type, and (iii) location of death; and (b) what is the scope and timeline of the planned review of the Person of Significant Interest program based on the recommendations of the Child and Youth Advocate?

Question no. 49 (Erika Ritchie):

To the Minister of Social Services, (a) what were hotel expenditures in (i) 2024–25 and (ii) 2025–26; and (b) what is the written hotel use policy in the policy use manual, and (i) when was this policy updated?

Question no. 50 (Erika Ritchie):

To the Minister of Social Services, (a) how many SIS and SAID recipients who were previously receiving travel benefits are now expected to use Access Transit or similar services for medical appointments, and (b) what assessments were carried out to assess the capacity of these transit services to absorb these new clients?

Question no. 51 (Erika Ritchie):

To the Minister of Social Services, what metrics were used to track the improvement in consistently recording and recovering SIS overpayments since the targeted case review and staff training referenced in the 2025–26 estimates, and (a) by how much did recording and recovery improve?

Question no. 52 (Erika Ritchie):

To the Minister of Social Services, for each of the last four fiscal years, what is the total number of income assistance workers, broken down by (a) region, (b) total number of active cases per region, and (c) number of vacancies per region?

Question no. 53 (Erika Ritchie):

To the Minister of Social Services, how many vacancies are currently open at the ministry, broken down by department?

Question no. 54 (Meara Conway):

To the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, for each of Regina and Saskatoon's complex-needs facilities, from July 1, 2024 to August 1, 2024, what is: (a) the total number of unique clients served; (b) the number of clients connected to mental-health and addictions supports in that time, and (i) what specific supports/programs were utilized; (c) the number of clients connected to housing in the community, and (i) what types of housing placements and (ii) what were the locations of these housing placements; (d) the number of clients connected to physical-health services, and (i) what were the specific supports utilized; and (e) the number of clients who could not be connected to required services due to service unavailability, broken down by service type?

Question no. 55 (Meara Conway):

To the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, for each of Regina and Saskatoon's complex-needs facilities, from July 1, 2024 to August 1, 2024, what is (a) the nightly occupancy, broken down by date; (b) the breakdown of unique versus repeat clients; and (c) the average length of stay for the top 50 repeat users?

Question no. 56 (Meara Conway):

To the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, for each of Regina and Saskatoon's complex-needs facilities, from July 1, 2024 to August 1, 2024, what is: (a) the total operational expenditure; (b) the cost per client per night for the same period; and (c) the description of the funding model, including (i) whether funding is per bed (capacity-based) or a fixed contract amount, and (ii) any performance-based funding components tied to outcomes?

Question no. 57 (Meara Conway):

To the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, for each of Regina and Saskatoon's complex-needs facilities, from July 1, 2024 to August 1, 2024, what is: (a) all outcome indicators, metrics, evaluation frameworks, and success measures used to assess (i) client outcomes, (ii) program effectiveness, and (iii) value for taxpayer investment; and (b) any internal or external evaluations, audits, or performance reports since the applicable start date?

Question no. 58 (Meara Conway):

To the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, for the Willowview Stabilization Program (province-wide), from January 1, 2025 to present, what is: (a) the nightly occupancy, broken down by date; (b) the type of bed (in-patient, out, virtual); (c) the total number of unique clients served; (d) the number of clients who completed treatment; (e) the program's definition of "completion"; (f) the average length of stay for clients who completed treatment; and (g) the number of clients who did not complete treatment, including: (i) recorded reasons for non-completion, (ii) whether follow-up was attempted, (iii) who attempted follow-up, and (iv) what follow-up actions were taken?

Question no. 59 (Meara Conway):

To the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, for the Willowview Stabilization Program (province-wide), from January 1, 2025 to present, what is: (a) the number of clients who accessed drop-in treatment services, (b) the number of clients who completed drop-in programming, (c) the number of clients who registered for virtual treatment, and (d) the number of clients who completed virtual treatment?

Question no. 60 (Meara Conway):

To the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, for the Willowview Stabilization Program (province-wide), from January 1, 2025 to present, what is: (a) Willowview or SHA's post-program process to track clients who complete treatment, including (i) all outcome indicators, success metrics, and evaluation tools used to determine whether clients remain substance-free, (ii) number of clients contacted, (iii) number successfully reached, (iv) length of follow-up period, and (v) reported outcomes (abstinence, relapse, housing stability, service engagement)?

Question no. 61 (Meara Conway):

To the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, for the Willowview Stabilization Program (province-wide), from January 1, 2025 to present, what is: (a) Willowview's documentation describing how they provide culturally appropriate programming, including (i) program descriptions, (ii) staff cultural competencies or qualifications, and (iii) partnerships with Indigenous-led organizations or Elders; and (b) Willowview's documentation describing how they implement trauma-practiced care (not trauma-informed), including (i) operational policies, (ii) staff training materials, (iii) clinical practice guidelines, and (iv) any internal evaluations or audits of trauma-practiced care delivery?

Question no. 62 (Meara Conway):

To the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, for the Willowview Stabilization Program (province-wide), from January 1, 2025 to present, what is: (a) the total operational expenditure; (b) the cost per client per night; (c) the cost per treatment completion; (d) the description of the funding model, including whether funding is per bed (capacity-based) or a fixed contract amount; and (e) any performance-based funding components tied to outcomes?