

The Assembly met at 10:00.

Prayers

**ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS**

**PRESENTING PETITIONS**

**Ms. Draude:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I again rise today to present a petition on behalf of people from my constituency who are concerned about the high cost of education tax on their property.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly urge the provincial government to take all possible action to cause a reduction in education tax burden carried by Saskatchewan residents and employers.

The people that have signed this petition are from Wadena, Fosston, Bankend, Foam Lake, and Hendon.

**Mr. Gantfoer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again this morning I rise on behalf of citizens of Moose Jaw and district concerned about the lack of dialysis services in their community. The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause government to take the necessary action to provide the people of Moose Jaw and district with a hemodialysis unit for their community.

Signatures on this petition this morning, Mr. Speaker, are all from the city of Moose Jaw.

And I'm pleased to present on their behalf.

**Mr. Elhard:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I have a petition on behalf of constituents from the communities of Lancer, Abbey, Portreeve, and other areas of the northern part of the constituency of Cypress Hills. And the prayer reads as follows, Mr. Speaker:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the provincial government to take the necessary steps to ensure current Crown land lessees maintain their first option to renew those leases.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, this petition is important to these producers because of the impact of Crown grazing leases in that region. Thank you.

**Mr. Stewart:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present a petition signed by citizens concerned with the lack of an urgently needed hemodialysis unit for the city of Moose Jaw. And the prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take necessary action to provide the people of Moose Jaw and

district with a hemodialysis unit for their community.

And as is duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by citizens all from the city of Moose Jaw.

I so present.

**Ms. Eagles:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, again today I rise to present a petition on behalf of constituents of mine who are very concerned about the condition of Highway 47. And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take immediate action and make necessary repairs to Highway 47 South in order to avoid serious injury and property damage.

And as in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

And this is signed by residents of Estevan, Macoun, Bienfait, and Regina, Mr. Speaker.

I so present. Thank you.

**Mr. Huyghebaert:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I rise with a petition from citizens of rural Saskatchewan that are concerned about the Crown land leasing policy which could have a devastating effect in my constituency. And the petition reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the provincial government to take the necessary steps to ensure current Crown land lessees maintain their first option to renew those leases.

And as in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

And, Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by the good citizens of Bracken, Val Marie, and Orkney.

I so present.

**Mr. Dearborn:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition on behalf of constituents from the Kindersley riding concerned with the closure of rural schools and the devastation that occurs to those communities. And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary steps to retain schools in rural communities such as Denzil and supply adequate education for rural families of our province.

And as is duty bound, our petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, this is all signed from the very concerned citizens of the town of Denzil.

I so present.

**Mr. Brkich:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a petition here with citizens opposed to possible reductions in services in Davidson and Craik health centres. The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary steps to ensure that the Davidson and Craik health centres be maintained at its current level of service at minimum, with 24-hour acute care, emergency, and doctor services available, as well as lab services, public health, home care, and long-term care services available to users from the Craik and area and beyond.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Signed by citizens from the town of Davidson and also residents from Saskatoon.

I so present.

**Mr. Weekes:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also have a petition from citizens concerned about the high crop insurance premium rates to farmers. The prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary steps to have Sask Crop Insurance reverse the 2003 premium increases and restore affordable crop insurance premiums to our struggling farmers.

And as is duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Signed by the good citizens of Biggar and district.

I so present.

**Mr. Allchurch:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise in the Assembly today to present a petition signed by citizens of Saskatchewan that are concerned with the government's handling of the Saskatchewan crop insurance premiums. And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary steps to have Sask Crop Insurance reverse the 2003 premium increases and restore affordable crop insurance premiums to our struggling farmers.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

The signatures on this petition, Mr. Speaker, are from Hafford, Rabbit Lake, and Mayfair.

I so present.

#### READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

**Clerk:** — According to order the following addendums to petitions have been reviewed and pursuant to rule 12(7) they are read and received and they are addendums to sessional papers no. 12, 13, 21, 27, 35, 36, 90, 100, and 114.

#### NOTICES OF MOTIONS AND QUESTIONS

**Mr. Dearborn:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that I shall on day no. 48 ask the government the following question:

To the Agriculture minister: in the most recent fiscal year, could the minister please table all of the contracts the department made between individuals in the department and between all the firms and the department; also please disclose the dollar amounts?

I so present.

#### STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

##### Estevan Man Inducted into Saskatchewan Baseball Hall of Fame

**Ms. Eagles:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Estevan resident Bob Burns has been selected for induction into the Saskatchewan Baseball Hall of Fame.

Burns has been umpiring ball in this province for 52 years, starting in Wood Mountain — and, Mr. Speaker, the member from Wood River claims he taught him. He has umpired in almost every town in southeast Saskatchewan as well as, as far west as Swift Current, north to Hudson Bay, and at the summer games held in Moose Jaw in 1972. So his eyesight has been questioned many times.

Whether it's baseball, fastball, or softball Burns has become a fixture on the diamonds around this corner of the province and is one of the most respected baseball figures in the area.

As well as umpiring, Burns has also acted as coach on numerous local teams. In 1974 the Estevan Tower Mets, a junior baseball team coached by Burns, won the provincial title and placed third at the Westerns. He may not coach any more but Burns is always willing to lend a hand with practice. It's not uncommon to see him loading balls into a pitching machine and helping up-and-coming players with their fundamentals.

More recently, Burns has focused on developing a strong base of young umpires in the area.

Burns is one of 15 individuals to be inducted at a ceremony taking place on August 16 in Battleford.

I ask all members to join me in congratulating Bob Burns on this well-deserved recognition. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

##### Yorkton Short Film and Video Festival

**Hon. Mr. Serby:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a well-known fact that the oldest and the best film festival in North America is held every year in the city of Yorkton. It started again yesterday, Mr. Speaker, the 56th consecutive year, and will carry through until Saturday.

The story of the festival will begin with the Yorkton Film Council of 1947, is remarkable in itself, and can be found in

festival's Web site.

But in my part of the world, Mr. Speaker, we don't rest on our laurels; we go on by making things better each year and the executive director, Fay Kowal, and her remarkable staff of volunteers have done it again. They got things rolling with the second annual emerging filmmaking day with a workshop dedicated to helping filmmakers get their start.

The featured guest for the entire weekend is internationally acclaimed documentary filmmaker, Ric Burns, who will take part in several workshops to present the screening of the feature documentary entitled *Ansel Adams*.

Another highlight will be the awarding of a lifetime achievement award to actor Gordon Tootoosis of the Poundmaker First Nation of Saskatchewan. Members will know him in his role of *North of 60* TV series, and many other movies and TV roles.

Mr. Speaker, there will be a pitchfork fondue. There will be a screening under the stars on Saturday night, and I plan to be part of the Golden Sheaf Awards banquet and ceremony on Saturday. A trip to the east side of the province, Mr. Speaker, will be well worth your while. And I invite you and members of this Assembly to join us in Yorkton at the film festival this weekend. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

#### **Athlete of the Month Award**

**Ms. Julé:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to congratulate the Bruno Junior Axemen on being chosen recipients of the Saskatchewan Sports Inc. April Athlete of the Month Award.

This broomball team is made up of 19 players and coaches Ray Bender and Mark Weiman. The Axemen won their second consecutive national title by winning the gold medal at the Canadian National Juvenile Broomball Championships held in Montreal earlier this spring.

One member of the Axemen was named a first team all-star and two members were named to the second team. The team was nominated for this award by the Saskatchewan Broomball Association. Congratulations to the Bruno Junior Axemen.

#### **World Health Organization's Tobacco Control Treaty**

**Mr. Addley:** — Mr. Speaker, according to the World Health Organization, almost 5 million people die each and every year from cancer, cardiovascular disease, and other conditions linked to tobacco use, and that toll is predicted to rise to 10 million deaths annually by the year 2020.

In Saskatchewan it is estimated that 1,600 people die from tobacco use and 200 from second-hand smoke each and every year. And that is why, Mr. Speaker, more than 190 countries recently signed the World Health Organization's landmark anti-tobacco treaty that, among other measures, would ban or restrict cigarette advertising, reduced second-hand smoke, introduce more prominent warnings, and control terms like low

tar on cigarette packages.

Mr. Speaker, some of the provisions called for in the pact already apply in Saskatchewan. In fact, we are among the leaders worldwide in anti-tobacco legislation. For example, Saskatchewan, along with Manitoba and Ireland, are one of the first jurisdictions in the world that do not allow tobacco products to be openly displayed, promoted, or marketed to children. We are also implementing smoke-free public places, protecting the public and workers from the dangers of second-hand smoke.

I ask all my colleagues to join me in applauding the World Health Organization's efforts in this regard and in renewing our own commitment to a comprehensive tobacco reduction strategy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I would ask the members not to be conversing across the way here during members' statements.

#### **Saskatchewan Athlete Wins Eddie Shore Award**

**Mr. Dearborn:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure today to applaud the achievements of Mr. Curtis Murphy, a young man from the Kerrobert area. Curtis was awarded the Eddie Shore Award, an honour bestowed upon a player who is chosen by the American Hockey League's media and players as the best defenceman in the league.

He was named best defenceman with 22 goals and finished second with 52 points in 78 games for the Houston Aeros, accumulating seven power play goals. He was also named a first team all-star. The honour caps off a great season for Curtis who made his Minnesota Wild debut on December 15, and played in his second consecutive all-star game.

Please join me in congratulating this outstanding young athlete and wishing him every success in his future endeavours.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

#### **National Aboriginal Hockey Championships**

**Hon. Mr. Belanger:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Here's another great bit of good news for Saskatchewan. Add another team to the list of Saskatchewan's national hockey championships.

This month an all-star team of 15- to 17-year-olds won the second annual national Aboriginal hockey championship held in Akwesasne Mohawk Territory near Cornwall, Ontario. Saskatchewan beat the defending champs from Manitoba in a thrilling overtime win. Not only that, Travis Gardipy from Beardy's was named the tournament's most valuable player, and three others were named to the all-star team.

Mr. Speaker, here's how they won. They were trailing 2 to 1 with less than 10 seconds left, and a Manitoba player picked up the puck thinking the game was over. This gave us a penalty shot, which Travis scored, taking the game into overtime, which

we won six minutes in, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Belanger:** — And there's a lesson here, Mr. Speaker, to the members opposite — the game ain't over till it's over. Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate each member of the boys' teams and the girls' teams which also represented Saskatchewan very well.

I congratulate general manager, Lyle Daniels, and coach, Charles Keshane. And I know all members will join me in recognizing another Saskatchewan win. And, Mr. Speaker, the future is wide open for all athletes.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

#### **Cowessess Community Education Centre**

**Mr. Toth:** — Mr. Speaker, last Friday morning my wife and I had the pleasure of joining with community and First Nations leaders to witness the official opening of the new Cowessess Community Education Centre. Mr. Speaker, this new school is a sight to behold. Considering the state of the former education building, the new building is certainly a welcome addition to the educational services provided on the Cowessess First Nation.

Mr. Speaker, there are currently 200 students enjoying the educational opportunities in the Cowessess school. Over the years many students have graduated from the Cowessess Community Education Centre and are today nurses, lawyers, teachers, etc.

(10:15)

Mr. Speaker, an elderly First Nations woman was invited to speak and she commented on her education in the residential school at Lebret. She said that she had nothing but good and positive memories of her educational years. She went on to stress the importance of education giving First Nations people opportunities to find meaningful employment, enabling them to play leading roles in building their communities and our province.

Mr. Speaker, the opening of the new Cowessess Community Education Centre building was certainly welcome for community leaders, teachers, administrators, and students on the Cowessess First Nation.

I would like to extend my congratulations to everyone involved in the opening of this new school. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

#### **University of Saskatchewan Professor Honoured**

**Ms. Atkinson:** — Thank you. Mr. Speaker, every year the University of Saskatchewan honours a member of the faculty for excellence in the supervision of graduate students undertaking projects, theses, dissertations, or artistic works.

This year the university's Distinguished Graduate Supervisor

Award was presented to mechanical engineering professor, Kamiel Gabriel.

Mr. Speaker, Professor Gabriel has supervised 24 masters' and doctoral theses. All of his graduate students have been successful in finding jobs in academia, industry, and government laboratories, and most have published papers in highly reputable journals.

Tom Wishart, dean of graduate studies and vice-president of research, had this to say regarding Dr. Gabriel:

Professor Gabriel is an outstanding example of the type of faculty member we are seeking to honour — one who has demonstrated excellence in scholarship undertaken with students and who has superior mentoring skills to stimulate and motivate students to achieve high standards.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in thanking Professor Gabriel for his dedication and in congratulating him on receiving this prestigious honour.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

#### **ORAL QUESTIONS**

##### **Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy**

**Ms. Harpauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture. Mr. Speaker, it's now the fourth day of the investigation into the case of BSE (bovine spongiform encephalopathy) discovered in an Alberta beef cow. Can the minister tell this Assembly whether or not, as of this morning, the CFIA (Canada Food Inspection Agency) has in fact determined the farm where the infected cow was born?

**Hon. Mr. Serby:** — Mr. Speaker, yesterday at this time we had been of the view that the cow definitely was born in Saskatchewan. CFIA this morning is — in a conference call that they had earlier and will have again in the next little bit — are still of the view that there is not an absolute determination that the cow was in fact born in Saskatchewan. It would be their view however, though, that from a weighted perspective the cow looks like it was actually born in the province but there has not been an absolute confirmation of that at this moment.

**Ms. Harpauer:** — Mr. Speaker, yesterday afternoon officials from the minister's department, from his own department, told a Saskatchewan media source that CFIA had confirmed that the birthplace of an infected cow was at a farm near Baldwinton, Saskatchewan. However sometime later the official phoned the media back to recant the statement and said that in fact the place of birth could not be confirmed.

Mr. Speaker, in light of the questions surrounding the investigation into this case and the number of Saskatchewan farms involved, I believe it's extremely important that the information from the minister's department be as accurate and as timely as possible.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister explain why the officials went public to the media that the location had been confirmed when

the CFIA had indeed not confirmed the location?

**Hon. Mr. Serby:** — Mr. Speaker, if the member had been listening to the astute reporting that I might say happened by the media in our province this day, one of the things that they said is this: that we should pay close attention to the information that's being provided by CFIA because it's the information that CFIA provides from which we glean our information and then share accordingly for Saskatchewan people.

The media this morning said that they were at a briefing yesterday of which they all came away from where they all heard the same information. But in fact information was broadcast differently from some locations across the province from what they had heard at the briefing.

And I say to the member opposite, the information that we're relaying today to Saskatchewan people is information that we're getting directly from CFIA. Yesterday we were of the view that the farm in Saskatchewan was in fact the one from where the cow was born. Today we're again being told that that has not been confirmed fully. We are of the view yet that this animal is likely to have been born in Saskatchewan and this is what CFIA continues to tell us. And I say to the member opposite today, this is the information that we have today.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Ms. Harpauer:** — Mr. Speaker, it's now being widely reported that there is questions surrounding the actual age of the animal infected with BSE and that the CFIA is trying to determine whether the animal is eight years old as originally thought, or in fact five or six years of age. They are trying to determine this through the trace-back process and we respect their efforts.

Has the minister's department been assisting the CFIA with this process? And will the minister tell this Assembly what the CFIA has told them about why there is both a discrepancy in the actual age of the infected animal and some question about its birthplace?

**Hon. Mr. Serby:** — Mr. Speaker, what will be important to determine here, which will be determined by CFIA . . . And all provincial departments of Agriculture and ministers are involved in receiving information on a regular basis and are also involved through their departments in assisting the CFIA and the federal government in this very difficult period.

The reality is, is that they have not yet been able to determine whether or not the cow was actually born in the province or whether or not in fact the fetus was . . . the cow was bred in Saskatchewan. They have yet not determined that, Mr. Speaker, and they're currently working on that.

It will be important to know whether or not the dam of the cow, of which was infected here, in fact came here from some other province, or outside the country, or in fact it's a Saskatchewan cow that came from another herd in our province. And it is that yet that CFIA has not been able to determine. It will be important to have that information to determine specifically the age of the animal which is currently in question yet again, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Ms. Harpauer:** — Mr. Speaker, some media sources are reporting this morning that in addition to the two Saskatchewan farms under quarantine in relation to the case of BSE, there are eight farms quarantined in Alberta and now three farms in British Columbia.

Mr. Speaker, has the minister been informed by CFIA whether there are any other Saskatchewan farms now involved in the investigation and whether there may be any other Saskatchewan farms placed under quarantine?

**Hon. Mr. Serby:** — I am aware that there are now 13 farms in Western Canada that are quarantined. There are in fact three in British Columbia. There are eight in Alberta and there remain two in Saskatchewan.

What in fact will happen, or has been happening, is that this cow of course had some offspring. Where the offspring went to are now being examined and some of those farms have been quarantined.

The animal that in fact was infected — the cow that was infected — was in fact rendered, as we reported before earlier this week. Those renderings have made their way into some of the animal food chain.

The farmer who in fact had the cow in Alberta had assembled a host of other animals as well for his yard. Those animals went out to other feedlots and other locations across Western Canada. And accordingly, we now have to trace back all of those animals, not only the ones that were indirectly . . . that were all directly in contact or in the same area that this cow was.

So we have the siblings of the cow. We have the residents of where the cow lived over the last several years. And we also now have other animals that were associated to this animal on this farm that went somewhere else that are now being examined.

So there will be, I expect, more farms that will be quarantined along the way to be sure that we can isolate this to the particular incident of the animal.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Lorenz:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the farm under quarantine near Baldwinton, Saskatchewan has been named in the media, and the farm family has been under intense media scrutiny because of the possibility of the ties of the cow to BSE.

I have spoken with the family several times over the last two days, and on behalf of them I would ask the following questions.

Mr. Speaker, CFIA visited the farm just once earlier this week to inform them of their herd under quarantine, but they have not heard from CFIA since and have no contact whatsoever from Saskatchewan Ag and Food. They feel quite dismayed that the media now knows more about what is going on than they do.

Mr. Speaker, will the minister commit to immediately contacting the Saskatchewan cattle farmers quarantined as a result of the BSE investigation to provide any information he has and to regularly update these family farms on the investigation, and also briefing the Saskatchewan farms prior to his media releases?

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Serby:** — The answer, Mr. Speaker, to that question would be, yes. Absolutely we would be in contact with those individual farmers. What we have not done, Mr. Speaker, in any of the provinces, on the direction of the federal government and the CFIA, is that they are the lead agency doing the examination and the investigation of this matter.

This is a very, very complex issue. It affects for sure today Western Canada. And what we do not need today, Mr. Speaker — what we do not need — is we do not need a whole host of professionals or people who believe they're experts engaging themselves in this deliberation.

This investigation is being led by CFIA. They're advising us, Mr. Speaker, on the processes happening today. And those provinces where, in fact, there are farmers that have been identified, absolutely, Mr. Speaker, we'll have contact with those people.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Lorenz:** — Mr. Speaker, as also discussed this morning, it is still unconfirmed where the infected animal was born. The family farm at Baldwinton has a lot of questions as to whether or not the infected animal did in fact originate in their herd. As a result they have requested that CFIA provide a DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) sample from the deceased cow that they could match their own DNA samples on record to provide that the animal is one of the same.

Mr. Speaker, will the minister and his department officials work with this farm to help facilitate the request of CFIA?

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Serby:** — Mr. Speaker, the minister and my department will not tell CFIA how to do their job. Mr. Speaker, CFIA will do their investigation using their resources that they have at their disposal.

They are the food inspection agency of record in Canada. They have an outstanding record, Mr. Speaker, of examining the issues around animal disease. In this province, as we well know with chronic wasting disease, this agency has served this province in an outstanding fashion and there is absolutely no question on this minister or this department's perspective about the capacity of this agency to do its work.

They'll use the tools and the techniques and the skills and the scientific knowledge that they have today to assure not only this Saskatchewan farm but Canadians, Mr. Speaker, about the importance of their work. And at the end of the day will confirm in my mind and other Canadians that we have a safe food system in Canada, in Saskatchewan farms, on Alberta

farms, on British Columbia farms, and in Canada. And we should let CFIA, in my view, continue to do its work, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Lorenz:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, just asking the minister not to, I guess, tell CFIA what their job is and what they're needing to do in relationship to this situation but working with the farmer to see if the DNA can be used as a way of identifying that it's an animal that's come from their herd.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Serby:** — If the member is asking us to have a conversation with the farm family, I've indicated that we'll have a conversation with the farm family. We'll continue to assure through my department and the specialized people who work in my department who are working closely with CFIA, we'll ensure that they have a conversation with the farm family to ensure them that all of the work that's been done today to identify the source of this particular disease in this animal and how it in fact will affect the other animals on their farm — we'll have that conversation, Mr. Speaker, with that farm family.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

(10:30)

### High-speed Internet Service

**Mr. Huyghebaert:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the minister responsible for SaskTel.

Mr. Speaker, the town of Ogema is one of Saskatchewan's economic success stories. In 2002, the town of Ogema applied to SaskTel for high-speed Internet service to support continued growth. SaskTel flatly refused.

In a letter dated June 12, 2002 to the mayor of Ogema, SaskTel president, Don Ching, wrote this, and I quote:

Internet service is a competitive service, and SaskTel must justify providing this service based on the revenue . . . it will generate.

Mr. Ching went on to say that, quote:

SaskTel must consider long-term profitability when selecting expansion sites for High Speed Internet service.

Mr. Speaker, why does the NDP (New Democratic Party) government think the town of Ogema is not economically viable enough to provide high-speed Internet service?

**Hon. Mr. Sonntag:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well I'm pleased, Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased that that member from the Sask Party acknowledges the importance of high-speed Internet, Mr. Speaker, and so does SaskTel.

SaskTel by the way, Mr. Speaker — and for the information of

the Sask Party and for the information of the public of Saskatchewan — will have connected 74 per cent of the population of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, by the end of this year. There is no other jurisdiction in the world that has achieved that objective, Mr. Speaker, no other jurisdiction in the world.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Sonntag:** — Rather than criticize, we should be incredibly proud, Mr. Speaker. And SaskTel and its officials, Mr. Speaker, will continue to work with people within the communities to try to deliver high-speed Internet into every part of our province, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Huyghebaert:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the minister suggests that they're working with every community. It's obvious they're not working with the community of Ogema.

Mr. Speaker, the town of Coronach also has a problem with SaskTel's high-speed Internet service, but unlike the problem in Ogema, where SaskTel is shunning one of Saskatchewan's most successful rural communities, in Coronach the problem is that SaskTel has decided to provide high-speed Internet service even though that service is already being provided by a community owned and operated company.

Mr. Speaker, why did SaskTel refuse to provide high-speed Internet service to the people of Ogema who desperately want SaskTel service, while at the same time launching SaskTel's high-speed Internet service in Coronach in direct competition with a locally owned company that is already providing the service to the people of Coronach?

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Sonntag:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well we in SaskTel, Mr. Speaker, SaskTel and this government, obviously recognize the importance of communities like Ogema. Mr. Speaker, they are integral to the development of the economy in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. Absolutely they are.

But, Mr. Speaker, what an incredible contradiction. That member should look to his left to the critic of Crown Investments Corporation, Mr. Speaker, who on a daily basis stands in this legislature and criticizes SaskTel for competing, Mr. Speaker, with other high-speed Internet providers, Mr. Speaker, on a daily basis criticizes for a competition with other high-speed providers. Mr. Speaker, there are private companies who can deliver high-speed Internet, Mr. Speaker, but this member stands up in the legislature and demands and is insulted, Mr. Speaker, that SaskTel won't provide it.

Well I say again, Mr. Speaker, SaskTel by the end of this year will have delivered high-speed Internet to fully 74 per cent of the population of Saskatchewan and that number will grow into the future, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Huyghebaert:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, to the minister, a very simple question: how can the minister justify not putting high-speed Internet service into a town that desperately needs it and wants it for economic growth, and yet will provide service to compete with an existing system in Coronach?

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Sonntag:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I need to supplement my last answer. I don't think I answered it completely. It was pointed out to me, Mr. Speaker, that I referred to one member to that member's left. In fact, I think everybody is to the left of that member, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I want to point out, yesterday there was reference made by the critic of Crown Investments Corporation who talked about DBRS's (Dominion Bond Rating Service Limited) credit rating . . . or the report that DBRS released yesterday, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the distortion of the day from that member, Mr. Speaker, the distortion of the day from that member, said, Mr. Speaker, DBRS referred to SaskTel as amongst the strongest telephone companies, not just in Canada, Mr. Speaker, but in the world, Mr. Speaker, in the world.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Sonntag:** — Mr. Speaker, globally, Mr. Speaker, globally, worldwide, SaskTel ranks 10th — 10th in the world, Mr. Speaker. And there are literally thousands of telephone companies, Mr. Speaker, in the world. They rank 10th.

Mr. Speaker, you know what, you know what DBRS said, Mr. Speaker? They said that SaskTel has amongst the best debt ratios, Mr. Speaker, of all telephone companies.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Huyghebaert:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, Mr. Speaker, it's nice to hear the minister's rant, but unfortunately the sad part of this whole story is Coronach was turned down for high-speed Internet service, that's why they went to another community service base. And as soon as that goes in, then SaskTel comes in and competes.

Mr. Speaker, the president of SaskTel is absolutely right when he says that SaskTel has to . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order, please. Order, please. Order. Order please, members. One at a time.

**Mr. Huyghebaert:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I'll say that the president of SaskTel is absolutely right when he says that SaskTel has to make decisions about providing services based on long-term profitability. Unfortunately SaskTel then uses that criterion to refuse high-speed Internet service to the town of Ogema, one of the fastest growing towns in Saskatchewan.

But apparently SaskTel is not so interested in applying this criterion when it comes to pouring money — \$24 million into its dot-com in Atlanta, Georgia — or pouring \$40 million into money-losing stock market gamble in Australia.

Mr. Speaker, will the minister explain why the NDP thinks it's just fine to keep pouring money into all of these losing foreign investments in Atlanta and Australia and then decide that it's not in SaskTel's best interests to invest in high-speed Internet service in one of Saskatchewan's fastest growing towns right here in Saskatchewan?

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Sonntag:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do want to point out to that member, in case that member is not aware, Mr. Speaker, that SCN (Saskatchewan Communications Network) is the service provider for CommunityNet to that area, Mr. Speaker. They already do provide CommunityNet through SCN, Mr. Speaker, in case he's not aware of that.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, I do want to also point out . . . Because he talks about why SaskTel is diversifying outside of the province, Mr. Speaker. Well I want to point out, in DBRS's report yesterday, that they released yesterday morning — listen carefully, listen carefully, Mr. Speaker — the one area that DBRS notes, the only area where SaskTel is below average, is in its size, Mr. Speaker. They say that DBRS thinks that SaskTel is too small and that SaskTel needs to diversify and grow to remain one of the strongest telephone companies.

How do you grow, Mr. Speaker, under the policy of the Sask Party, Mr. Speaker? You don't. You shrink; you sell, Mr. Speaker. The way you would grow, Mr. Speaker, is to diversify like SaskTel is doing so that they can provide high-speed Internet to fully everyone in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

### Regional Highway Maintenance Centres

**Mr. Bjornerud:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Highways.

Last week my colleague from Last Mountain-Touchwood asked the minister about the reduction and closure of several regional highway maintenance facilities in the province. But the minister provided no answers as to how many facilities were going to be closed or downsized and why these closures were taking place.

Mr. Speaker, there are huge concerns about how the safety of highways in these areas will be impacted as a result of these changes. In fact Department of Highway workers and members of the SGEU (Saskatchewan Government and General Employees' Union) say they will join the fight against the reduction of highway employees working out of the Churchbridge maintenance facility.

In fact the SGEU says the only rationale for downsizing is to save money, and I quote:

. . . but they may be saving money by risking people's lives.

Mr. Speaker, to the minister: how many highway maintenance facilities and crews are being closed or reduced in the province this year and why?

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Wartman:** — Mr. Speaker, there has been one closed; that was in '96, I believe, in Maidstone. And as far as the efficiencies that we are working on, we are also — as we're working on those efficiencies — we are also looking at making our service better.

In terms of laying people off, in terms of selling off, getting rid of equipment, those are the experts over there, Mr. Speaker. They sold off the equipment. If there's any problem with maintenance, struggling to do maintenance in this province right now, it's because of what they did in the '80s; it's not because of what we're doing right now.

We are building the highways, we are fixing the highways, and we are making progress in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Bjornerud:** — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the minister should come out and check with the people of Churchbridge; check the conditions of the highways in the state they are now with what they're going to be like with less people working on them.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Bjornerud:** — Mr. Speaker, the minister claims all is well and in fact that it's business as usual at these regional maintenance facilities. Well the people of Gull Lake know all too well because they watched the Highway department load up all equipment and move it to Swift Current.

Employees at the Highway department know how difficult it can be during bad weather, especially bad winter weather, to keep a highway clear and safe . . .

**The Speaker:** — I'm sorry. Order, members. I would ask all members to allow the question to be put in a manner which it can be heard.

**Mr. Bjornerud:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in Churchbridge they know that they're able to . . . what they are able to do with existing staff and equipment, and believe their ability to provide timely road maintenance will negatively be affected.

They say, and I quote again:

At the end of the day the people in Churchbridge area will be serviced less and their level of safety will drop by an hour, (or possibly) two . . .

Mr. Speaker, why is the NDP government compromising the safety of motorists by cutting these regional maintenance facilities on a busy highway like Highway 16?

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Wartman:** — Mr. Speaker, in terms of closing or reducing the staff at any of the regional maintenance facilities,



the fact is that when the department looks at this they look at the broader picture of the whole province and how to make our roads safer, how to make sure that the overall maintenance is done right. And I tell you we have no interest in the privatization schemes that Alberta pulled, that these guys on the other side, the Sask Party, would pull.

What we are interested in is improving our highways in this province, giving the best service that we can, and when those maintenance shops are changed, the structure around them is changed, the corresponding ones around the area are improved, Mr. Speaker. And we give good service to the citizens of this province. Thank you.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — Order. Order, please. Why is the Minister of Government Relations on his feet?

**Hon. Mr. Osika:** — With leave to introduce guests, Mr. Speaker.

Leave granted.

#### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**Hon. Mr. Osika:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I am privileged to introduce to you and through you to my colleagues in this Assembly, some very special guests that are seated in your gallery, Mr. Speaker, and I would ask that each of them stand as I introduce them. And I, in advance, apologize if I mispronounce any of the names. I beg your indulgence.

The Hon. Akwasi Asare Ankomah, who is the president of the National Association of Local Authorities of Ghana.

**Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Osika:** — Mr. Diotrefes Mmari, who is the permanent secretary, regional administration and local government; Mr. Basilius R. Nchimbi, who is the Secretary-General of the Association of Local Authorities of Tanzania.

**Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Osika:** — Mr. Shingirayi Mushamba, who is a senior officer, municipal development program, Zimbabwe.

**Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

(10:45)

**Hon. Mr. Osika:** — And I believe, Mr. Speaker, they are accompanied by members from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and that would be Mr. Claude Rainville, who's a program officer, East and Southern Africa; Marie Lynne Grandbois, administration officer, African program.

And they are accompanied here, Mr. Speaker, by the president of our Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities, Mr. Mike Badham. And I'm not sure whether Mr. Keith Schneider accompanied him this morning or not, but I would ask all members to

welcome these people to our great province and I hope they enjoy their visit.

**Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Bjornerud:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the official opposition I would like to join the Minister of Government Relations in welcoming our esteemed guests from Ghana, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe, as well as the officials from the Canadian municipalities association along with Mike Badham, our president of SUMA (Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association). We hope your stay in Saskatchewan will be very favourable and hope you enjoy your time here.

So will everyone join me in welcoming them again.

**Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

#### ORDERS OF THE DAY

#### WRITTEN QUESTIONS

**Mr. Yates:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm extremely pleased today to stand on behalf of the government and table written responses to questions 302 through 304 inclusive.

**The Speaker:** — Responses to questions 302, 303, and 304 have been submitted.

#### GOVERNMENT ORDERS

#### ADJOURNED DEBATES

#### SECOND READINGS

#### Bill No. 17

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Cline that **Bill No. 17 — The Land Surveys Amendment Act, 2003** be now read a second time.

**Mr. Elhard:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Bill No. 17, An Act to amend the Land Surveys Act, 2000 is quite possibly one of the shortest pieces of legislation this government has entered into the House for consideration.

While it is very terse and covers a very few pieces of interest, I have to indicate, Mr. Speaker, that Bill No. 17 is tied in its entirety to one of the largest financial boondoggles this government has ever imposed on the people of Saskatchewan, the Information Services Corporation — better known as ISC — and the LAND (Land Titles Automated Network Development) project.

Now as you know, Mr. Speaker, and as the people of this province know, ISC was supposed to be a \$20 million computerized improvement to land titles. And as of last count I think we were at somewhere near \$107 million, Mr. Speaker.

I don't understand, even by NDP math, how we could have got to that particular level; how we could project a project costing \$20 million and eventually end up at somewhere near 107

million and counting. But nevertheless that's what the people of Saskatchewan are burdened with financially for this failed project. And I say failed, Mr. Speaker, because at this point it is yet a very flawed system.

Mr. Speaker, I had, as part of the preparation for today's notes, some of the comments made by other members of the opposition concerning this particular piece of legislation. And without exception, every person who from the opposition side spoke to this Bill pointed out episodes and issues that their own constituents have had with ISC.

In the time that this computerized land titles system has been so-called operational, we have seen one fiasco after the other develop in terms of land registry, the time with which it took to complete a transaction, the delays and the financial consequences for people who are undertaking various lands transactions, the frustration that individuals received or obtained as a result of trying to receive information on where their land transactions were at.

So, Mr. Speaker, the ISC experiment to date has not been exactly as joyful an experience as most people would have anticipated, given the amount of money it's taken to get this project up and running. It has created a lot of anxiety and uncertainty among many people. And each of us as MLAs has had our own story to tell on behalf of our constituents in this regard.

We're not talking about major changes in The Land Surveys Act that is part of this ISC project. There are minimal changes actually as a result of this piece of legislation, as I indicated earlier. What The Land Surveys Act, 2000 does purport to do, Mr. Speaker, is to define the term, legal description.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I think in almost any transfer of title, any land changing hands, any condo that's purchased by individual buyers in the province, any house transaction that might occur, has as part of the whole legal package a legal description. And we find out now that the term legal description — although it's been used commonly in transactions and in various pieces of legislation — the term legal description has never been defined in any careful manner.

And what we find here is that the legal description with respect to a parcel of land will now mean a considerable number of things. And I think that some of the changes that are included in this piece of legislation have been necessitated by the technical difficulties experienced by ISC.

You know, in most instances in terms of rural land, rural parcels of land changing hands, a land description was enough. We could get the northwest quarter of this section in this township and that description was quite adequate. Now what we've got . . . And it seemed actually quite easy. I think it was understandable and everybody could identify with it.

But now what we've got is a situation where ISC doesn't know for sure whether it can handle that kind of simplicity; it's gone to a numbering system to help identify pieces of land. So we've got kind of a dual system now for ISC's purposes. We have a land description that is designated for the parcel on a plan that will include, and I'm going to read from the Act if I may, Mr.

Speaker:

(A) in the case of a parcel on an approved plan, the number that the Controller assigned to the plan on approving the plan pursuant to section 37;

And we won't go into a lot of detail there.

(B) in the case of a parcel on a plan of survey that was filed or registered in the land titles office of a former land registration district pursuant to the former Act, *The Land Titles Act* or *The Condominium Property Act, 1993*, the registration number of the plan of survey;

And if you want to sell a piece of land that maybe doesn't have all the detailed information that a plan might ordinarily require, you can get down to:

(iii) a written description of the parcel that uniquely describes the parcel without ambiguity, and which may include all or any of the following descriptions:

(A) a description of the geometry of the perimeter of the parcel;

(B) a description of a portion of the parcel;

(C) a description of a remainder of the parcel;

(D) a description of an exception to the parcel.

I don't see that this particular piece of legislation actually makes clarity or achieves the test of clarity, when the old system was really quite clear and quite understandable. But nevertheless, what we have here is a Bill that will allow this material — this information I've just read into the record — to provide the definition of legal description.

The other thing this piece of legislation does is it allows for the requirement for surveyors to re-erect monuments in areas where those identifying features have been lost. And in the past there was no apparent legal requirement of surveyors to replace the monuments if they were out surveying that particular parcel of land and found that the monument had been destroyed, maybe removed, whatever, lost somehow. The surveyor wasn't required to replace that monument.

And now there is a requirement on the part of the surveyor to do that, although the time limitations may vary somewhat. There could have been a more restrictive time requirement, I believe, but it seems that for convenience purposes this piece of legislation has allowed some flexibility on behalf of the surveyor in the time requirement to replace the monument.

Mr. Speaker, the issue of a monument and the replacement of a monument might not seem like a significant matter. But in the case of many rural surveys that happened, well I think, prior to the turn of the century — back in maybe the 1880s or 1890s — we have in many areas of rural Saskatchewan been completely dependent on those surveys. And they were seen as quite accurate and really reliable for the purposes of land ownership and transaction. But we have also seen with the loss of some of those monuments that, over time, individuals ended up losing

the line of their property and maybe farmed over the line and into the neighbouring property.

I had a constituent call me just shortly after I was elected back in the fall of '99 and he was faced with a situation where his property was undermined by a new survey. What had happened is the ownership of his property had been defined by a survey that dated back to the previous century. And when there was access required on his property by an oil company, he wanted to establish a route where they could access their development site.

And when he had a surveyor come out he found that he was actually losing a fair amount of acreage as a result of the most recent survey. He had been farming his neighbour's property, but more than that of course, he had fenced what seemed to be the accurate line of his property and now with the new survey he was going to lose not just some of his acreage but his fence.

And when he appealed to the chief surveyor and the provincial government he was told that well, that's just the luck of the draw, that's the way things happen, and your particular loss will be at your expense. He didn't think that was fair and I'm not so certain that any of us would see that as fair.

But the problem was created in the first instance by the loss of the monument. So while on the face of it, on the surface of reviewing this particular piece of legislation, that replacement of monument provision may not be that important, or may not seem that important, but in reality for individuals from time to time the loss of that monument can be rather expensive and difficult, and create certainly some misunderstandings from time to time between neighbours.

Mr. Speaker, we have looked at this piece of legislation, as brief as it is, with some concern because of the way it ties into the Information Services Corporation and land titles and automation and so forth and the overall cost of that particular enterprise by the Government of Saskatchewan.

You know, we've been assured time and time again that Information Services Corporation will bring new efficiencies to the registration of land titles, and we certainly hope so because we can't afford any more losses. At \$107 million and counting we have to see some efficiencies and we have to see them soon.

But one of the things that I thought was interesting recently, Mr. Speaker, was, when the minister responsible for ISC was justifying its existence, he said that the Government of Alberta had decided they wanted to undertake an automated land titles system too and were looking at Saskatchewan's model.

Now I wonder, Mr. Speaker, why, if Alberta was looking at undertaking that automation process and looking at Saskatchewan's model, why have they not offered to buy Saskatchewan's model, take the information, and implement it in Alberta? Now I understand that at a \$107 million cost to Saskatchewan the province of Alberta probably wouldn't be interested in repeating that mistake. So if they could possibly buy this Saskatchewan technology and make it work in Alberta, I'm sure they would be quite prepared to do it.

Now the fact that they haven't done it yet, Mr. Speaker, I think

raises some concerns on the part of the official opposition, and probably underlines some of the issues with this particular system that we've raised in the past. It may not be as effective and workable as the government would have us believe. There might be a lot of additional flaws with this system and lots of wrinkles that have to be worked out yet before it would be commercially viable for any other jurisdiction.

(11:00)

So if that's the case, Mr. Speaker, we might be looking at a considerably larger investment on behalf of ISC than the \$107 million that has gone down that black hole to this date.

Mr. Speaker, there's one other thing that I did find interesting about this particular piece of legislation and that isn't what was in the legislation but what wasn't in the legislation.

And I know that as part of the process in developing legislation the government tries to entertain representations from various interest groups and gets their feedback and discusses what changes need to be brought forward and what ones would be beneficial to the industry.

And the one group that was, I assume, consulted or ought to have been consulted would have been the Saskatchewan Land Surveyors' Association. They're a self-regulating professional group and they're a small group in this province. We don't have a lot of professional members as part of the Land Surveyors' Association. If I recall correctly their membership amounts to about 70 people, maybe 75 in total in the whole province.

But this group was looking for some changes in the legislation that would allow them to operate with a little greater depth and scope. And I don't see any of the issues that the Saskatchewan Land Surveyors' Association brought forward, I don't see any of their concerns mentioned in this particular piece of legislation.

So I can only assume, Mr. Speaker, that the government chose to ignore the request of this organization, or they will be addressing some of these concerns in future or additional legislation. And I hope it's the latter, Mr. Speaker, because what this small professional organization was looking for was some latitude that would allow them to appoint members to their board of directors who weren't necessarily resident in Saskatchewan.

And as you know, Mr. Speaker, many of those professionals have been trained here, maybe start a business here, but in the past 10, 15 years have located into Alberta. And their workload is considerably greater over there so they could do . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order, please. I've been listening to the member's debate and he seems to be spending about 70 per cent of it on items other than that . . . directly on Bill 17. Now it's fine to relate these items but I think that the bulk of the member's remarks should really relate to the Bill.

**Mr. Elhard:** — Well relevance, Mr. Speaker, is important, and I'll try and maintain a better record in that regard.

But nevertheless, Mr. Speaker, I think that this particular piece

of legislation, this particular piece of legislation has been necessitated by the changes to the computerized land titles system. I mean, if we hadn't gone that route, Mr. Speaker, we would have . . . this would not have been necessitated. We could have gotten by with the old piece of legislation.

But I do think that it's very relevant, Mr. Speaker, to comment about the requirements of this organization, the Saskatchewan Land Surveyors' Association, and their desires and needs to be able to offer a greater variety of services to the people of this province. This particular piece of legislation deals directly with these individuals and to have ignored or at least not provided the changes that they were looking for is a gross oversight on the part of the government in this particular Bill. So we'll hope that they will make the changes requested by the organization in future legislation.

Mr. Speaker, in view of the concerns, the ongoing concerns that we have with the implementation of this legislation and how it relates to ISC, I believe that there are additional comments that members of the official opposition would like to make. And so, Mr. Speaker, I would move that we adjourn debate.

Debate adjourned.

### Bill No. 31

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Osika that **Bill No. 31 — The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Amendment Act, 2003/Loi de 2003 modifiant la Loi de 1997 sur la réglementation des boissons alcoolisées et des jeux de hasard** be now read a second time.

**Mr. Huyghebaert:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to rise today to enter into the debate on The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Amendment Act, 2003.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill requires some close scrutiny because as we've seen in the past, just about anything having to do with the ramifications of the 25-year agreement signed by this government with the FSIN (Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations), answers and real questions and legitimate concerns are few and far between from this government. Too many issues have arisen in the last few years when it comes to accountability surrounding First Nations gaming and the revenues generated to let these questions go unanswered.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to, I'd like to quote from the minister's introduction of the Bill where the minister says, and I quote:

These amendments will ensure that First Nation GLAs are accountable to the commission just as the Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority is.

Mr. Speaker, that's scary if that commission, or if the First Nations GLAs (gaming licensing authorities) are going to be as accountable as SLGA (Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority). And I would like to just talk a little bit on a little bit of historical data about accountability by this organization and this government.

We go back three years ago. The expense accounts of Mr. Dutch Lerat, spent close to 800,000 on vehicles and plane

tickets — the accountability of that and the minister's referring in this Bill it's going to be as accountable. Will it be as accountable as Mr. Dutch Lerat?

Mr. Speaker, also on the note of accountability, we go back a couple of years and we notice that the Provincial Auditor clearly stated that the lack of action by the minister led to the improper use of at least 1.7 million by the Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority.

Well, Mr. Speaker, there again you can see what our concern is. If the minister is suggesting that this organization will now be as accountable as SLGA, it is indeed a worrisome issue, for not only us but for the people of the province.

Mr. Speaker, I have another one that I would like to read with respect to the accountability. Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation's Act, public money directed toward the First Nations Fund is to be spent specifically for the economic and social development of First Nations people in the province.

In the Spring Report of 2001, the auditor concluded that he could not determine whether \$34 million of gaming proceeds paid to the fund was spent as directed in provincial legislation. He said there are no records to show how any of that money was spent except for 280,000 that was spent illegally on travel and for the FSIN Senate.

So again, Mr. Speaker, one has to question when the minister is suggesting that this organization is now going to be as accountable as SLGA. And yet we see what's going on within SLGA, the lack of accountability.

And more recently, Mr. Speaker, we have a mega bingo scandal — \$7.9 million that we know of today. Whether there's more or not is yet to be determined. But how accountable is that?

And now we're putting a 25-year agreement in place to ensure that this organization is going to be as accountable as SLGA, and yet the accountability at SLGA is definitely, definitely questionable.

Mr. Speaker, when the minister was questioned at the time of the 25-year agreement about jurisdictional issues and how that agreement affected them, that minister wouldn't, or more accurately, couldn't answer those questions. He basically said, we'll let the courts decide. Well, Mr. Speaker, those kind of answers aren't good enough.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill will give us the opportunity to again ask those pertinent questions, and the House can rest assured that we will be asking those questions.

Some of the questions that we would like to ask pertaining to this Bill, Mr. Speaker, is, what will the 25-year agreement mean for the province's authority over gaming issues on reserves; how will this agreement improve accountability on those on-reserve gaming operations? And I've alluded to already and stated some of the problems that we have.

And how are we going to know that monies is going to go to the people that really need it on reserves? How will this agreement and the legislation we have before us ensure that dollars

generated will go, in fact, to the intended purpose of these dollars?

At the end of the day, money raised through these gaming operations are first and foremost supposed to help the First Nations people of this province socially. Now that's where the accountability issues come in again. And if we fail, if we fail to ensure that these dollars are actually being used in the best possible way to improve the lives of our First Nations people, then we have failed, and more specifically, the NDP government has failed the First Nations people of this province, Mr. Speaker.

The NDP continues to turn a blind eye and a deaf ear to these concerns and to wash their hands completely of the matter.

Mr. Speaker, until we get certain questions answered from this government, we will continue to ask these pertinent questions. So, Mr. Speaker, there'll be more people that wish to speak to this Bill, so at this time I would like to adjourn debate.

Debate adjourned.

### Bill No. 35

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Osika that **Bill No. 35 — The Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation Amendment Act, 2003** be now read a second time.

**Mr. Wall:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to enter into the second reading debate on Bill No. 35, The Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation Amendment Act.

Mr. Speaker, really the crux of the Bill, I think, was reflected in the minister's comments when he provided his second reading speech. When he talked a little bit about the fundamental change that would be occurring, he said that the Bill . . . I should back up a little bit, Mr. Speaker.

He talked a little bit about the Provincial Auditor's concerns. He recognized the Provincial Auditor's concerns with respect to the trust fund, the First Nations trust fund and he had this to say. He said:

. . . the Provincial Auditor has in the past expressed concerns with regard to some aspects of how the First Nations Fund was operated and administered.

And he went on to say that he wanted to assure, Mr. Deputy Speaker — this is a quote still:

. . . and indeed all members of this Assembly, that both the government and the FSIN take these concerns very seriously.

Now indeed, Mr. Speaker, Bill 35 takes these concerns so seriously that in his comments just before his commitment to take the concerns of the auditor about the First Nations trust fund seriously, in his comments just prior to that, he indicated the basis for this Bill, the heart of this Bill, which would provide a fundamental difference. And I'm quoting again:

. . . in the arrangement is that the First Nations trust will be directly responsible to the FSIN and will operate more independently of the provincial government (more independently of the provincial government) in keeping with the terms and conditions set out in the 2002 Gaming Framework Agreement.

Now, Mr. Speaker, as my colleague from Wood River has highlighted, there are concerns and I think matters of great public import surrounding the long-term agreement as it's been entered into by the Government of Saskatchewan, but also of concern is this ongoing issue of the trust. Because of course the First Nations trust and the revenues that accrue to that trust as a result of gaming in the province of Saskatchewan are there to improve the life of First Nations families.

That is their sole purpose, Mr. Speaker. That is their sole purpose. The sole purpose of these funds is to improve the life of First Nations families here in the province of Saskatchewan.

We know, Mr. Speaker, that the Provincial Auditor has on a number of occasions highlighted his grave concerns about the lack of accountability on the part of the First Nations trust fund. That's what he has highlighted, because the Provincial Auditor, like the rest of the province, wants to ensure that the dollars in this fund are used to improve the lives of First Nations people in Saskatchewan.

You know, Mr. Speaker, the member from Athabasca . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order. Order, please. I would ask the member not to interfere with the debate.

**Mr. Wall:** — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, we encourage the member for Athabasca to enter into the debate because I honestly believe that he too would have as his number one priority with respect to the First Nations trust, he too would have as his number one . . .

(11:15)

**The Speaker:** — Order, please. Now I ask the member of Athabasca once again to please not interfere with the debate. Order. Order, please. Order.

**Mr. Wall:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm sure the member for Athabasca, like every member in this House, shares a concern about the First Nations trust fund, would prioritize, would prioritize the fact that this trust fund must be used to improve the lives of First Nations people in the province of Saskatchewan. And that's the point.

Why he would be heckling about that, who knows, Mr. Speaker. Why he would be hectoring about that, who knows because frankly I'm sure the priorities are identical on this side of the House.

But the measure, of course, of the commitment to this isn't in words. It's not in the heckling. It's not in their interventions in the second reading speech. The measure of it, Mr. Speaker, is in their actions. The measure of their commitment and concern to the use of these funds, being to improve the lives of First Nations people in Saskatchewan, the measure of that is in their

actions.

What have they done, Mr. Speaker? When the Provincial Auditor of the province of Saskatchewan tells the government that the . . . that he, the auditor, the Provincial Auditor, has grave concerns about the lack of accountability of the trust fund, what does the government do to address that? What does the government do to ensure that there is accountability and transparency in that fund and that in fact it is being used to improve the lives of First Nations people? They do absolutely nothing, Mr. Speaker.

They've ignored the Provincial Auditor. Well the member for Saskatoon Southeast says it's categorically untrue. She might want to share that view with the Provincial Auditor because in report, after report, after report, the Provincial Auditor has said the same thing.

So if they're doing something to address it, I think we'd be the first to congratulate them, and so would the Provincial Auditor. The Provincial Auditor would also congratulate them for doing something about that accountability.

And, Mr. Speaker, the fact that he continues to state his concerns would clearly underscore the fact that the government of this province is not responding to the Provincial Auditor's concerns.

Now in this particular Bill, the Government of Saskatchewan is now affording this fund even more flexibility, even more independence as a part of a 25-year agreement on gaming. The minister went on in his second reading speech to say that the reason that they're able to do that, Mr. Speaker, is because they were going to also hold the fund to a greater level of accountability and the Bill would make changes to that too.

Well, Mr. Speaker, given the track record of this government with respect to this trust fund, this First Nations trust fund, given the importance of the fund, given the importance of the purpose of the fund, we will have a number of questions at the committee stage of debate of this Bill to find out exactly how the government hopes to achieve the accountability that it promises, that the minister promises in a second reading speech.

And even prior to that, Mr. Speaker, because of the importance of this Bill in the debate, we will have . . . there will be others in . . . my caucus colleagues, who will want to enter the debate. And therefore I would move that debate be adjourned on this Bill at this time.

Debate adjourned.

#### Bill No. 34

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Crofford that **Bill No. 34 — The Film Employment Tax Credit Amendment Act, 2003** be now read a second time.

**Mr. Dearborn:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to enter the debate on Bill No. 34 today, the Act to amend The Film Employment Tax Credit Act.

Mr. Speaker, essentially to start with, the Saskatchewan Party and the opposition recognize the importance of the film and video industry to Saskatchewan's overall growth. We do have some concerns with regards to the specific piece of legislation as it focuses primarily around the granting of a 35 per cent tax credit eligible for labour costs for film and television production companies.

The problem that we see just with the piece of legislation is that initially the tax credits and applications for such were to be wound up by December 31 of this year. And the amendment that is before the Legislative Assembly now asked for an extension of that for one other year, which would put it up to December 31 of 2004.

But akin to that, Mr. Speaker, there's also an . . . the amendment also requests that the minister would be able to receive applications beyond this day, which puts into question the real point of the amendment in the first place. If you're going to have deadlines, why would you have them if they're really not standing for anything. And that seems like kind of a roundabout way of putting something into legislation that's somewhat pointless.

I don't know if the idea behind it is to try to encourage corporations which are seeking to get such tax exemptions to get their applications filed in time. But at the end of the day it is a pointless piece of legislation to say, we're going to have a deadline but the deadline means nothing.

This inconsistency is not unfamiliar, Mr. Speaker, in the way that this NDP government has handled the growth in the film and video industry in the province of Saskatchewan. It doesn't take very long, Mr. Speaker, to look to the sound stage which the government put in, it appears untended, to be built for \$12 million, and again a lack of any kind of business plan to see what kind of attraction for production that they're going to get into.

With regard specifically, Vancouver, Toronto, and Calgary all also have sound stages and this is, as Mr. Speaker knows, a very competitive industry. It is completely, Mr. Speaker, dominated internationally out of, obviously, California and to a large extent there's a great deal of production out of Bombay as well.

Moving into this very aggressive market in Vancouver, Toronto, and Calgary, Toronto has had a great deal of success with the expansion of the film and video industry. And then trying to get a piece of that already saturated market for Saskatchewan has proven not to be very successful.

Mr. Speaker, relating this back directly to the tax credit. The tax credit was in force to allow for a specialist to come in for production that didn't have residency here, and that's what that 35 per cent waiver was allowed for.

After 16 consecutive quarters of population loss, the original intent of the tax credits to grow the industry in this province have been a failure. And they've been a failure not because of the specifics because of the film and video industry, Mr. Speaker, they've been a failure because of the overall climate that this industry has had to act within in this province, and that is a lack of economic vision. And at the end of the day we see

that the sound stage very largely is underutilized.

And when I drive to the Legislative Assembly in the morning, passing College Street, I'm not in the habit of at College and Broad seeing stars, you know. It's not that the production here . . . Whoopi Goldberg's not standing on the corner. It's not . . . We're not Hollywood, Mr. Speaker. And at the end of the day this hasn't delivered what it's been promised.

What we have seen is we've seen that often — more often than not — the sound stage is being utilized by Minds Eye Pictures. This is another example, Mr. Speaker, of where the provincial government attempts in another industry to pick winners and losers. By their own admissions this film company, which does utilize the sound stage, has taken cash injections from the provincial government of up to \$6 million and by their own admissions, they're still having problems with their cash flow and recouping this.

Mr. Speaker, this gets to the larger point on the nature of the economy and the role that the government should be playing in it. Centrally planned economies — and it's no different in the film and video industry — are not working. Even the attempts, Mr. Speaker, with tax credits of 35 per cent to allow production costs to be decreased, which we support, at the other side of it, having direct cash inputs into certain production companies over others, that is a failure for the industry. And it causes larger problems for the long-term viability of the industry.

As I said before, it's not as well with regards to the sound stage. There are other sound stages in Canada. Winnipeg has one; so does Edmonton and Vancouver and Toronto. And they're all vying for the same piece of the pie. So before Regina's sound stage was built, we had a very competitive industry. The tax credit attempts to address some of this but unfortunately, in the film and video production industry, tax credits alone are not going to be the end and deciding factor of where production occurs. There's other factors as well, Mr. Speaker.

The other factors would include the talent that's locally available, local production crews, and the infrastructure as a whole. It's not surprising to see, Mr. Speaker, in the United States that it's Hollywood, California and New York City in New York which have the bulk of the television and movie production. And as far as the other amenities that those centres are able to provide, it's very easy for the film industry to get whatever type of support it requires.

It makes it duly difficult for Regina to be competing — and this should have been known before the investment was put forth — with these other Canadian centres, some of which have larger population bases. And by that, they have other services that make it more difficult for a smaller centre to be providing on par with. And it would have been helpful had the New Democratic government looked into this prior to the monies that they put forth.

Mr. Speaker, at the end of the day we are supportive of the tax credit to legislation. We recognize, as I said before, the importance of the film and video industry to our province. And I do believe that there are some other members from this side of the House which wish to speak to this Bill.

What we would like to end on, though, is we'd like to say we do not think it is correct in this industry that the New Democratic Party government insist on picking winners and losers in the film and video industry, with their investments in Minds Eye, their \$6 million worth of taxpayers' money which is gone and really isn't accounted for in a great way. And that is very problematic.

Based on these principles, Mr. Speaker, I find it necessary to adjourn debate and I move . . . I make a motion to that end.

Debate adjourned.

### Bill No. 32

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Thomson that **Bill No. 32 — The Miscellaneous Statutes (Security Management) Amendment Act, 2003** be now read a second time.

**Mr. Wall:** — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. The press release announcing the, not only the measures in Bill 32 and Bill 33, was issued by the government by the Minister of Corrections and Public Safety on May 9 of this year.

And as you go through the press release and then of course go through the actual pieces of legislation you find, Mr. Speaker, that fundamentally these two pieces of legislation are not only important to the province in light of the recent world events — in that they are intended to allow the government to react effectively and quickly to any threats of public safety and security, including terrorism — so you find that it's not only a very, very important issue, but you find, Mr. Speaker, once you read the legislation, that at least on the surface the initiative seems to be positive indeed. Now we will be looking at this Bill carefully in committee and asking specific questions on a clause by clause basis to make sure that it's as good as it can be, but on the surface it looks very positive.

But I'll tell you why we're a little bit concerned even at that, Mr. Speaker, because this particular minister, prior to becoming the minister of public safety and security, was the minister of Energy in the province of Saskatchewan, and last spring about now introduced a very positive measure as well. He introduced the government's policy on ethanol, which the opposition supported because he committed to no public money being used to develop the ethanol industry.

But what happened in that case, Mr. Speaker, is that minister was overruled and outranked by the current minister of Intergovernmental Relations. He was overruled by the then minister of Industry, who is in turn risking taxpayers' dollars in a number of ethanol-proposed projects around the province.

So we're a little concerned with respect to these Bills. We think they're positive but the last time that minister issued a press release to talk and introduce a positive initiative that the opposition could support, he was overruled by the minister responsible for SPUDCO (Saskatchewan Potato Utility Development Company).

(11:30)

Maybe that won't happen any more on this particular Bill — on Bill 32 and 33 — maybe that won't happen because now it would seem that the Minister of Public Safety outranks the minister of Intergovernment Relations after his demotion in the wake of the SPUDCO scandal. So we have that hope, Mr. Speaker.

Some of the specific measures in this Bill, some of the specific measures in this Bill, Mr. Speaker, including . . . include changes to The Charitable Fund-raising Businesses Act, so that the government of this province can keep a . . . even a better handle on the charitable activities and fundraising activities in this province, ensuring that those activities are not being undertaken for something untoward.

Mr. Speaker, the Bill also deals with The Clean Air Act and makes changes there with respect to the potential for acts of terrorism with respect to the environment; it raises fines in terms of imprisonment for that. And, Mr. Speaker, dangerous goods are addressed, The Dangerous Goods Transportation Act is addressed also by this Act, as is The Department of Health Act, The Emergency Planning Act.

And there are several other amendments that really do provide, I think, the government with the flexibility and the authority that it needs in the post 9/11 world to ensure the safety of the . . .

**The Speaker:** — Why is the member from Cypress Hills on his feet?

**Mr. Elhard:** — Mr. Speaker, with leave to introduce guests.

Leave granted.

### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**Mr. Elhard:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to the members of the House assembled here today, I'd like to introduce a good-looking group of people in the east gallery, Mr. Speaker, and 30 students from the community of Burstall are with us today, as well as 16 adults — a number of teachers and parent chaperones.

And I want to say that Burstall is the community that is furthest west in my constituency, and it's a community that I have come to appreciate a great deal. I have family that lived in the Burstall area some years ago and I used to visit there when I was a youngster. And when I came back — that'd be 20 years later or something like that — when I came back, I found that it was a growing community, a very productive community, a prosperous community, and a very attractive community.

And I'd like to welcome this group of students to the legislature and their adult companions today. And I just want to say thank you for coming. I had an opportunity to talk to them and answer some questions on the steps of the legislature earlier. And they've made a real effort; they got up early this morning to come.

And I'd like to welcome them here today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

## ADJOURNED DEBATES

### SECOND READINGS

#### Bill No. 32 — The Miscellaneous Statutes (Security Management) Amendment Act, 2003 (continued)

**Mr. Wall:** — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too would like to join with my friend, the MLA for Cypress Hills, in welcoming the group from southwest Saskatchewan here to the legislature today.

We're debating at the second reading stage the Bill No. 32, which we've already indicated, Mr. Speaker, that in principle we can support because this Bill seeks to again increase the ability and the authority of the government to protect our province from, in terms of public safety and security, including from acts of terrorism. My colleague from Cannington says we need legislation to protect the people of the province, to protect them from their government perhaps. But that'll happen after the next election this fall.

So, Mr. Speaker, there are some specific questions that we will have for the minister at the Committee of the Whole level stage of debate and we intend to ask those. But at this point, Mr. Speaker, we are prepared to see the Bill move through to committee deliberations.

Motion agreed to, the Bill read a second time and referred to a Committee of the Whole at the next sitting.

#### Bill No. 33

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Thomson that **Bill No. 33 — The Miscellaneous Statutes (Security Management) Amendment Act, 2003 (No. 2)/Loi corrective (gestion de la sécurité) de 2003 (n° 2)** be now read a second time.

**Mr. Wall:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Lest it ever be said by anybody in this province that the official opposition, the Saskatchewan Party, does not provide constructive and informed opposition and support where it's necessary, these last two Bills, Mr. Speaker, are going to prove those people wrong.

Because once again we have a Bill, Mr. Speaker, Bill No. 33 that is a good measure for the province of Saskatchewan. It relates exactly to Bill No. 32 in terms of the government ensuring the security of people. And so twice, consecutively, we stand to say we support the Minister of Public Safety, unlike his colleague, the member for P.A. (Prince Albert) Northcote who too often overrules him.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, we want to say something else. We want to say something else, Mr. Speaker. These two particular Bills prove once again unequivocally in the province of Saskatchewan that even the blindest squirrel can find a nut every now and then, Mr. Speaker. Because these are constructive and important changes.



And as this relates specifically to the security issues that we spoke of in Bill 32, although this deals with identity fraud — another important issue in the wake of 9/11 — I just want to indicate to the members of the House today that we would like to see this Bill moved into Committee of the Whole where we can ask specific questions of the minister.

Motion agreed to, the Bill read a second time and referred to a Committee of the Whole at the next sitting.

### Bill No. 29

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Hagel that **Bill No. 29 — The Non-profit Corporations Amendment Act, 2003/Loi de 2003 modifiant la Loi de 1995 sur les sociétés sans but lucratif** be now read a second time.

**Mr. Elhard:** — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's good to be able to stand in the House and speak on a piece of legislation that I think is very worthwhile and necessary in this day and age of litigious attitudes to be honest with you.

Mr. Speaker, the information we've got on this Act — it's Bill No. 29, an Act to amend The Non-profit Corporations Act, 1995 — the information we've got before us is I think overdue and certainly timely if not overdue. This deals with the officers and directors of non-profit corporations and whether or not they can be sued as a result of their efforts in the line of duty as directors and officers.

And what we're finding, Mr. Speaker, is that in a lawsuit-happy world, people who give their time voluntarily to make a variety of organizations operate to the benefit of all of society, directors and officers are often subjected to lawsuits and frivolous legal action that would deter them from doing their job. And frankly, Mr. Speaker, as we move forward in our society, it's going to be more important for this kind of legal protection all the time.

You know it's an interesting situation that we find ourselves in, in the province of Saskatchewan. We have as a people, as a province, an extremely envious reputation as a province of volunteers. Volunteerism in this province is unequalled anywhere else in this country. And I think that we can look at that situation with a considerable amount of pride.

You know a little earlier, Mr. Speaker, I introduced to the House a group of students and a number of adults who accompanied them from the community of Burstall. And those students wouldn't have the benefit of this educational opportunity, this visit, without the voluntary action and assistance of the teachers and the parents who accompanied them.

And although this is not a formal organization and there aren't directors and officers involved in this particular activity, it represents the willingness of the people of this province to participate for the common good.

And certainly in our communities of far-flung rural areas, small communities throughout the province of Saskatchewan, and I know specifically in my own constituency, there are literally thousands and thousands and thousands of man-hours, of person

hours, given to voluntary projects that would not happen without the willingness of the people in those communities to participate at their time and expense.

And, Mr. Speaker, this particular piece of legislation goes a long way to recognizing the importance of that work and the need to be protected against frivolous legal action.

Just to refer to a few more details and specifics about how important the voluntary sector is to the province of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, 47 per cent of people over the age of 15 reported participating in some form of voluntary work in their communities right here in the province of Saskatchewan — 47 per cent of people over the age of 15.

Communities couldn't begin to pay for the work that is done by volunteers in these myriad of projects that we benefit by. And we need to recognize that, I think, and celebrate that on a regular basis. I know it's become almost trite to talk about it and we don't want to, I suppose, pat ourselves on the back for good works, but nevertheless when you have a participation level as significant as we have here in the province of Saskatchewan, it ought to be recognized.

There was some information provided for me, Mr. Speaker, by one of our researchers. They went to the Sask Culture Web site and we found out from that Web site that Sask Culture's volunteers provide over \$35.4 million of unpaid labour to maintain cultural activity in the province. That's estimated . . . If you worked that out on a per hour basis, I think that would work out to about \$6 an hour, according to a 1997 national survey.

And the interesting thing about the statistics I just presented to you, Mr. Speaker, is that Sask Culture's volunteers account for only about one-half of all the reported voluntary activity that's undertaken in this province. So we can see the magnitude of the sector, and speak to the importance of the sector in our provincial society and economy.

When you stop to think about the dramatic numbers associated with volunteerism in the province of Saskatchewan, you can see, Mr. Speaker, why civil lawsuits could have a devastating impact on non-profit organizations and could discourage people from sitting on boards and getting involved in the running of so many of these voluntary organizations.

Now what this piece of legislation does, Mr. Speaker, is it protects directors and officers of non-profit corporations from civil action for any losses suffered by any person as a result of carrying out his or her duties on these non-profit corporation boards unless of course, you know, the action was a result of fraudulent or criminal misconduct. And you can't make exceptions for those types of activities and they do crop up from time to time.

We've seen some incidents reported in the newspaper where people have abused their position of trust and have taken advantage of the organization they work for and have deceived or fraudulently benefited from some of their activities. And that still is subject to prosecution, as it ought to be. But for those people who are serving in good-will capacities in good faith, and something happens that is beyond their control, they should

not be liable for legal action by disgruntled parties.

Mr. Speaker, this particular piece of legislation is important to me personally because I have sat as a person on a board, as a director on a board of a non-profit corporation and have been warned through various means of how important it is to be scrupulous and very careful about the way you conduct the business of the organization that you represent. And I think it was advice well given, certainly well intentioned, and only the foolish would not heed such good advice.

But this particular piece of legislation will also protect a director or officer from a non-profit corporation seeking to recover damages that may be awarded if the director or officer is not liable.

And this particular legislation, as I said at the outset, is very appropriate, very timely, and I think will be well received by people involved with these types of organizations throughout the province.

So, Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to adjourn debate . . . move that we adjourn debate.

Debate adjourned.

(11:45)

## COMMITTEE OF FINANCE

### General Revenue Fund Government Relations and Aboriginal Affairs Vote 30

#### Subvote (GR01)

**The Chair:** — I would recognize the minister to introduce any officials.

**Hon. Mr. Lautermilch:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. To my right I have Brent Cotter, who's the deputy minister of Government Relations and Aboriginal Affairs.

Immediately behind me is Donavon Young, who is the assistant deputy minister of Aboriginal Affairs. Next to him is, to his right is Wanda Lamberti, executive director, finance and management services. To her right is Curtis Talbot, who is the executive director of First Nations land resources. And further back is Paul Osborne, who's the assistant deputy minister of trade and international relations.

Have I got everybody? Oh, and I'm sorry, next to Deputy Minister Cotter is Al Hilton, and Al is the assistant deputy minister of federal-provincial relations.

**The Chair:** — I understand we have a triumvirate of ministers so if the other . . . We may as well introduce all the officials first go and then we're done with introductions. So I'd recognize minister number two.

**Hon. Ms. Crofford:** — Well I hope I'm correct in my assessment of who's here, Mr. Chair, but . . . or Mr. Deputy Speaker. But I have with me today Florent Bilodeau, the

director of the office of French-language co-ordination. Florent is seated at the back. And as well, Michael Jackson, the executive director of protocol and honours for the province, and Michael is seated directly behind me.

**The Chair:** — I recognize minister number three.

**Hon. Mr. Osika:** — Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Being number three, my officials at this point in time are seated in the back. And towards the back of the chairs, the benches, the deputy minister of Government Relations and Aboriginal Affairs, Brent Cotter, has already been introduced.

Wanda Lamberti, who is the executive director of finance and management services; Larry Steeves, who's the associate deputy minister, municipal relations; Doug Morcom, who is a director of grants administration; Russ Krywulak, who is the executive director of grants administration and provincial municipal relations; and Mr. John Edwards, who is our executive director of policy development. Thank you.

**Ms. Julé:** — Thank you, Mr. Chair, Deputy Chair. Mr. Chair. I just want to take a moment to welcome the minister and all the officials, actually the ministers and all the officials that are here with us today to provide some answers to our questions.

My first line of questioning is going to be directed to the Aboriginal Affairs minister. And, Mr. Minister, in this year's estimates, under the heading, support for Aboriginal organizations and issues, there will be an estimated increase of \$175,000.

Could the minister please explain to me where this estimated increase would be spent.

**Hon. Mr. Lautermilch:** — Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The enhancements to the funds are \$125,000 for the implementation of the FSIN bilateral accord enhancement; \$50,000 to the enhancement of Aboriginal Employment Development Program, AEDP — and you'll be aware of that program — expansion of sports network initiative, which is basically employment for Aboriginal kids in the summer. And that really is the enhancement for the funding.

There's been a shift of 25,000 from other areas of the department and that's the total incremental of 175,000.

**Ms. Julé:** — Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Minister, treaty land entitlement is going to see, according to the estimates, an estimated increase of \$1.1 million in its budget for the coming fiscal year. Could the minister explain why that increase is taking place.

**Hon. Mr. Lautermilch:** — Okay, this is related to the land settlement for the Onion Lake Band, and this is tax loss compensation and the amount of \$1.1 million that is paid to municipalities who are affected by the transfer.

**Ms. Julé:** — Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Minister, the First Nations, the gaming agreement has an estimated increase to the budget for this fiscal year of \$4.49 million. Is this increase a result of the new gaming agreement signed last year? If not, why is there an increase in this line item?

**Hon. Mr. Lautermilch:** — That number reports an increase in a revised profit estimate for gaming. The variance is \$4.49 million. The new budget for 2003-2004 would be 28.704 million estimated, over the 24,214 estimated for the 2002-2003 year.

**Ms. Julé:** — Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Minister, could you tell me whether or not there will be an increase in funding for the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan or to the Clarence Campeau Development Fund?

**Hon. Mr. Lautermilch:** — The amount is held steady this year from last year.

**Ms. Julé:** — Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Minister, I have some questions that are a bit interrelated between the department of Social Services and Aboriginal Affairs, and certainly would be of consequence to both departments. So I'm going to attempt to ask you these questions. And if it's possible for you to answer them, I would appreciate it.

Can the minister please explain to me what role the department plays, the Department of Aboriginal Affairs plays in renting houses to First Nations people on reserves.

**Hon. Mr. Lautermilch:** — The department nor the government have any role in that regard.

**Ms. Julé:** — Thank you, Mr. Minister. I just needed to clarify that for sure. Some residents in northern Saskatchewan have indicated to some of our members that they wish to purchase their homes. So I wanted to know what programs the government has in place, either on its own or in partnership with other organizations such as Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp., to enable these northern residents to do that very thing.

**Hon. Mr. Lautermilch:** — Mr. Chairman, I'm told by my officials that this off-reserve housing for Aboriginal people would be the responsibility of Community Resources and Employment, under what was formerly the Housing Corporation.

And I'm, you know, I'm certainly not trying to shift an answer to another department. But my officials aren't responsible for that so therefore wouldn't have the information that you require. But certainly the Minister of Community Resources and Employment would be able to answer that question for you.

**Ms. Julé:** — Thank you, Mr. Minister. I kind of expected that that might be the case but I wanted to ask you anyway.

Mr. Minister, at the SARM (Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities) convention on March 11, 2003, the Minister for Government Relations spoke to the SARM delegates and mentioned that there was a partnership between the provincial government and SARM that would provide Aboriginal, I believe it's Aboriginal people — but I'm not too sure if it was Aboriginal youth — professional development training. There was a . . . I'm just trying to find out what this is all about.

There was a steering committee that was struck to assist, I guess assist financially and with resources, Aboriginal people in their hopes to have some professional development training in

electronic services. So I'm just wondering what that program is about. And I'm wondering if that program is being offered for Aboriginal people on-reserve as well as non-reserve residents, and how is the training being delivered?

(12:00)

**Hon. Mr. Lautermilch:** — If I could, Mr. Chairman, I would hope to attempt to clarify the question . . . or the response to the question. And I believe what the minister would have been responding to would have been the relationship between the government and the RMs (rural municipality) in terms of training and advancing the ability for not only Aboriginal but non-Aboriginal applicants for these job opportunities.

The work that we would do within the department would be through the Aboriginal Employment Development Program that you may be aware of. It's a partnership between Aboriginal Affairs and the different entities who have signed on.

We just announced yesterday that SUMA has an agreement in terms of enhancing employment opportunities for Aboriginal people. I think the program, it's fair to say, could be responsible for somewhere in the neighbourhood of 1,500 jobs through that program.

The municipal leaders development program I think might have been what he was referring to, which would deal with training for municipal officials, elected officials, administrators. And I think it's also fair to say that other officials, Aboriginal officials, are welcome to attend the sessions. And the sessions do start this fall as I understand it.

**Ms. Julé:** — Well thank you very much, Mr. Minister. Mr. Minister, the minister I was referring to is sitting only a couple of seats down from you and I was . . . I thought what he was saying at the SARM convention was that there was . . . this program was targeted towards assisting Aboriginal people in being able to train for electronics, in the electronics services area.

And the indication at SARM was that this was an initiative that was going to be, I guess, cost shared between SARM and provincial government. I'm not sure even if it was cost sharing but it was certainly a promotion of this between the two. And so the message that I got from that, that there would be training for Aboriginal people.

And so I'm wondering if that was the correct message or if the message's more according to what you have mentioned?

**Hon. Mr. Lautermilch:** — As you refer to the cost sharing, I think that would lead us to believe that the remarks were focused on the municipal development . . . or leaders development program. And we would be more than willing to expand on an explanation of what it is, how it's funded, as it related to the minister's remarks and how it relates to this program. Okay.

**Ms. Julé:** — Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Minister, I would appreciate some more details on the program because there is question coming from some Aboriginal people — off-reserve as well as on-reserve — whether or not they would qualify for this

type of programming. So I appreciate your answers.

I have some more in-depth questions that may result in some debate and I'm going to withhold those questions until the next time that we may sit here because I have a colleague of mine that would like to submit some questions to the appropriate minister on Intergovernmental Affairs. And I thank you very much for your answers.

**Mr. Lorenz:** — Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, obviously the last couple of days we've had pressing issues and urgent issues on our minds in regards to the BSI situation and trying to identify I guess if it's a situation that's only provincial issues or if it's an issue that's across, you know, across Western Canada as well.

We're seeing now that not only in Saskatchewan but Alberta and British Columbia have got farms that are being quarantined as well. We're also realizing that the fallout has come quite quickly in the sense of closing the doors to imports of beef product, and those seem to be growing from day to day with some of the countries that are closing their doors.

The European Union has made a comment and a statement that they feel quite confident in what's happening within our country and that's quite . . . that's a positive indicator in I guess the efficiency of being able to identify the meat product that we have in this country.

But I would like the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs to maybe talk a little bit about his involvement in the fact of the international impact that this has on our agriculture industry: how he personally has been involved and how his officials have been involved and how he feels that the work that needs to be done on the level of the federal concept as well as the provincial concept, that we need to work with this issue and work with the situation, and how we can alleviate that problem to reopen those doors and opportunities for the beef industry.

**Hon. Mr. Lautermilch:** — Mr. Chairman, I can say to the member that the officials have been actively engaged with our federal counterparts in Ottawa. As you will know, the Minister of Agriculture and Food on behalf of the province of Saskatchewan, has been the lead minister on this file as it relates directly to an industry that is very much related to agriculture.

I can say to the member that I will be speaking with Stéphane Dion, who is my federal counterpart, on Monday. We haven't set yet a time for that.

As well, the Western premiers have been engaged in Canada/US (United States) trade issues, as you will know. And the Department of Intergovernmental Affairs works with the Premier's office as part of that. And I would suggest, given the events of the last few days, that the BSI issue will be very much brought to the top of the list of things that we will be discussing.

Hopefully the issue will be better understood, there will be more light shed, more clarification in the coming days as the federal administration works towards a better understanding in an attempt to get to the bottom of this issue. Because as you

will know, the impact of trade as it relates to the beef industry is not inconsequential not only for Saskatchewan but for Canada in that it is a very, very large part of our trade. And so it's very much on the top of the minds of officials within our department or within our government.

And I would want to say that there's been some very close co-operation with Saskatchewan, with the Western provinces who are impacted, and the federal administration. And it will be . . . I'm looking forward to my discussions on Monday with my federal counterpart because it is a very important issue to us as a province and us as a government.

**Mr. Lorenz:** — Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Chair, to the minister, I guess we recognize and realize the impact it's going to have on the entire industry in that respect. And I guess we're not only concerned in talking about the producers, the ranchers, as well it's impacting obviously the stockyards; the slaughtering plants have been closing down. The trucking industry is being impacted as well. And I think the sense of having some indication of what type of a time frame that we may be looking at to . . . having to deal with this issue and the amount of, I guess, days or weeks or months that may impact this entire industry is, I think, a real issue that we need to understand.

If the minister can make some comment in the sense of what type of a timing situation we've got here. Are we talking about this being tied up for a lengthy period of time or is this something that we can have at some expediency on, to try and get these doors opened up again?

**Hon. Mr. Lautermilch:** — Mr. Chairman, and to the member, I think it's fair to say that this is very much, for us as a province, it's very much a priority of this government because we do recognize the impact.

I can tell you as well that the Premier has been involved. He has met with Minister Goodale, the cabinet minister from our province who represents Saskatchewan in the federal government. I can tell you as well that the Premier is communicating with the Prime Minister as it relates to this issue.

I think at this point it's difficult to determine the time frame in which this whole issue can come to resolution but I can concur with what you say in terms of the impact, the potential impact on industry — not only the production of cattle, but the whole industry that supports this, the packing industry.

So it is important to us; it's important to Saskatchewan's economy in particular. At a time where we're attempting to work with the producers to expand the livestock industry here in our province, it certainly creates some uncertainty at this point.

I am confident that the work that will be done by the officials who are looking at this will bring this to a conclusion and that we will be able to satisfy the concerns of those to whom we export beef, which is a large part of this industry. It's certainly, as you will know, not all domestic consumption. There's a concern that we need to, we need to find the solutions and find the base and the root of this as soon as we can.

And we are putting all the resources that is required, from the Premiers office on down, to ensure that we do our part as a province to come to a resolve sooner rather than later. I mean, time is, as you say, important. We need to restore these markets; we need to continue to build this industry. And so we are putting the required resources to the issue.

**Mr. Lorenz:** — Thank you, Mr. Minister. I guess, Mr. Minister, also in the area of the quarantined producers that are out there right now, there is that whole discussion of having to put down some of these animals and that whole area of compensation. And it may not be fair to ask you this question but, you know, I'll raise it anyway and you can decide if you want to respond to it.

In the sense of the compensation to the producers, you know, how these producers will be compensated, if it's strictly a federal issue that deals with the compensation, if we're going to see the provincial government involved somewhat as well to seeing that there's adequate compensation going to these producers because we have commercial herds as well as full-blood herds as well being involved here. So is there some indication of the way that compensation may go with the producers that are going to see some of these animals being put down?

**Hon. Mr. Lautermilch:** — I think, Mr. Chairman, I would like to respond in this way. The USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) and the CFIA will decide, I believe, the conclusion to this and it will be based on science. At this point I think it's a little premature — we don't know the scope, the magnitude.

There are, as you will know, some existing programs in terms of financial support. But I think I would want to respond by saying at this time the issue of compensation and articulating options and opportunities that there may be would be premature until we know the scope and the magnitude of the problem. And that hopefully will be known based on science and based on scientific evidence, and hopefully that'll be soon.

**Mr. Lorenz:** — Okay, thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Chair, I'm just going to change direction a little bit here in the sense of talking a little bit about the imposed tariffs on grain duties. We have the Canadian Wheat Board which basically is the Western Canadian provinces that encompass the Canadian Wheat Board, and we're the ones that are really impacted. And Saskatchewan is a huge producer of the wheat product in particular. And there was a 4 per cent levy and now we see another, an 8.15 on the Canadian wheats and durum, a 6.12 that's gone on as well.

Can the minister give us some indication on, and the involvement that he's got and his department has been playing, in the sense of working with the tariffs that have been put on to the Canadian Wheat Board and the products that have been going across the line, and where some of this direction is going, and what are some of the results. And what are we seeing that's going to be coming out of, I guess, initiatives and the actions that we've been taking, and particular this province has been taking to try and alleviate that problem, because it's a huge impact to the producers of this province.

(12:15)

**Hon. Mr. Lautermilch:** — Mr. Chairman, I want to say that the government certainly is disappointed with the actions taken by the Americans. This is the 10th attempt since 1990 to restrict access of Canadian wheat and durum exports. And as you will know, we all understand that the challenges are costly to defend and they're disruptive to the industry.

The province, its legal counsel, are going to continue to coordinate our response with the federal government, other provinces, and the Canadian Wheat Board by reviewing US findings, defending our domestic policies before trade panels and ultimately getting this decision reversed which has been done before. I think it's fair to say that the Canadian Wheat Board has been under attack by Americans, and as a matter of fact, by some internal to this country.

I would want to say, just looking at the actions taken by the United States, they're particularly questionable given the new US farm Bill and the massive domestic support that they provide to their agricultural community.

I think we have a very strong case to defend. We've done it before, and as I've said this has been ongoing, the 10th time now since 1990. Our officials and our legal counsel will continue to work with our federal counterparts to have these decisions turned around. And hopefully that'll be soon.

**Mr. Lorenz:** — Thank you, Mr. Minister. I guess in that same area of discussion, it seems that the Canadian Wheat Board is the one that always seems to be attacked. The Ontario wheat board and the wheat board, you know on the eastern side of the province, and the British Columbia wheat board, they function and structured in a little different manner and they don't seem to have the impact of concern for tariffs as such.

You know, if the ministers have some interest in talking about I guess the structure of the Canadian Wheat Board . . . And I know that's always been brought up in the sense of its structure and how it has control in marketing products which is quite different from the structure of the other boards that are out there right now as well. And if that needs to be a way or an area that needs, you know, we need to take a look at and have some open discussion on the sense of being able to have, I guess, the opportunity of marketing in different styles that allows the producer to move his product in some different ways as well, and we don't become under that scrutiny all the time that the United States seems to have on the structure of the Canadian Wheat Board in itself.

**Hon. Mr. Lautermilch:** — Well let me, Mr. Chairman, respond to the member in this way. And I want to make it very certain that people understand, and that the agriculture community, that people across this country understand that we very much support the Canadian Wheat Board as a provincial administration. We support the benefits that it provides for our farmers. We support the process. And that's not to say that there can't be improvements to the way the Canadian Wheat Board does its business. I think administrations of that nature are always looking at ways in which they improve their efficiencies.

I would want to say that the Canadian Wheat Board has faced this scrutiny, as I said, since 1990. And every challenge has

been overturned. I think the vast majority of the farmers in Saskatchewan support what the Canadian Wheat Board does, support the way it markets their grain, and support the benefits that they provide, that the Canadian Wheat Board provides. And I know sometimes this becomes a matter of political discussion, a matter of political debate that what we are facing now, frankly, in my opinion, is a challenge that would happen irrespective of the Canadian Wheat Board's operations.

I think that there is a large lobby in the United States with . . . in the grain industry as there is in the softwood lumber industry. I think it's fair to say that the attack on softwood lumber is as unfounded as the attack right now on the Canadian Wheat Board. And it's unfortunate that the Americans have taken this position.

We'll use the legal opportunities and options that we have. We'll continue to work with the federal government to ensure that these levies, these tariffs, are looked at in a fair way. And if it requires a third party review, certainly we would support that.

But I would want to say that we very much as a government support the Canadian Wheat Board and the benefits that it brings to Saskatchewan farmers. And I think it's fair to say that it will be found and it will be discovered that the levies that are imposed as it relates to durum and wheat will be reversed as they have been in the past.

**Mr. Lorenz:** — Thank you, Mr. Minister. I guess bringing up that discussion with the softwood lumber issue, I guess the question basically to be asked, you know what is the situation with the softwood lumber tariffs that are being put on right now? Can you give us a bit of an update of what's been happening there, kind of where that whole thing is proceeding to, in kind of . . . Are there ongoing meetings, ongoing discussions? Are we finding that we're making some headway on that whole area? Because it definitely has an impact to this province, maybe not as large as it impacted you know the British Columbias, but still it has got quite an impact to our industry as well.

If the minister can maybe talk a little bit about that softwood lumber situation and kind of what's been happening there?

**Hon. Mr. Lautermilch:** — Mr. Chairman, I think, just to the member, you will know that just recently there was an announcement of a shutdown of one of our sawmills here in Saskatchewan, Carrot River, that and along with three other sawmills owned by Weyerhaeuser. And part of that is a result of the actions that have been taken by the Americans.

We as a province are continuing to work with the federal government and the other provinces in terms of litigating against the US duties. At the same time we're trying to negotiate a long-term solution to this issue. Recently Canada, the work by Canada and affected provinces, in Washington has, as I'm told, resulted in a set of forest policy reform guidelines that we, should we decide to adopt them, may lead to the US revoking at least part of the . . . at least the countervailing duty portion, which is about two-thirds of the existing tariff.

You know and as I said earlier, I think there's always ways that we can look at ways of doing business a little differently to

satisfy some of these disputes. And I'm certainly hopeful that we can be looking at a resolve to the softwood lumber issue as we do with the wheat and the durum tariffs and levies that you have spoken and we have spoken of earlier.

**Mr. Lorenz:** — Thank you, Mr. Minister. And obviously, yes, it is very important that we get, you know, these tariffs looked after and dealt with as quickly as possibly and into the future as well.

It's always I guess a costly venture that we need to go back and revisit that situation, having to deal with it. And I guess the wheat tariffs are one that, like you've mentioned, we've been having to deal with those since the early '90s and they just keep cropping up. It's almost like they're looking for a loophole that they can find and a way of getting into it to establish that there is some injustice there, that that becomes an avenue for them to start coming through. And hopefully that we can come up with some solution there that they can accept this on a long-term basis, that the structure that we have is acceptable as well.

Mr. Chairman, just wanting to talk about the West Nile, I guess, situation right now. And if the Minister of Government Relations can talk a little bit about the program that's being administered through SUMA and SARM and how that whole process is starting to come together?

I know there was some, there were real problems in being able to identify where the application forms were going to come from, where the application forms were going to go, who they were being processed through as well, the dollars that they were eligible for is there as well on a population basis? Sometimes that becomes a little difficult to bring those municipalities together of need when you're talking to 2,000 or 2,500 people and you get into some rural situations where you've got to go quite afield to bring that amount of people together.

And you've got some areas in the rural sector as well that are needing some support. They're needing some help to, you know, to fight the situation as well. And if you can't become eligible because you don't have the population, you still have the problem.

Can you maybe speak about this a little bit on the sense of how that whole process is going?

**Hon. Mr. Osika:** — Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To the member, I appreciate the question and we will do whatever we can to obtain the information and look into the very specific questions you've asked. As you will appreciate, and I'm sure you're aware, it is in fact a Health file but we have been working closely with our friends in the municipalities.

The question that you raise with respect to population numbers that may be required to access some of the funding is an important one, and perhaps now brings to . . . into perspective the potential for neighbouring communities on an application basis to apply involving neighbouring communities that may in fact make up the numbers that may be required. I offer that as an observation because that may be one of the considerations under the application process.

But as I pointed out, it is a Health file that we will follow up

with answers to the specific questions, application forms, and the other inquiries that you had earlier in your question.

**Mr. Lorenz:** — Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Chair, through to the minister. I think it's very important to appreciate and realize that the criteria of 2,500, you know, basis for population becomes quite challenging when you get into the rural sector. And I guess if we take a look at the rural communities, there's a lot of those rural communities that just won't qualify. For them to bring 2,500 people together for a population base becomes quite a challenge, if it's even possible.

Would the minister take a look at that criteria with the Minister of Health to see if you can I guess allow for some opportunity for some of the smaller communities and some of the rural communities out there, and even the rural RMs, that they can find a way of qualifying for their need that actually is out there?

And I know you're using mosquito traps and such to identify if those actual mosquitoes are out there that are carrying the virus. And if there's a way of identifying there's some absolute need, I think we need to address the opportunity of being able to provide that offsetting funding, you know, for those particular communities and municipalities as well.

**Hon. Mr. Osika:** — Mr. Chairman, in response to the member, I just want to say that we all have a concern with respect to the West Nile virus issue. And it's evident because we've involved people from various agencies to become involved in looking at the whole picture.

We've involved the medical professionals for advice and the criteria that's been set out for the program that we're talking about. As I mentioned, if there's a potential for smaller communities to apply on the basis of — I don't like to use the word regionalization because it makes it sound such a massive area — but in those areas where there are smaller communities and a population base within the rural municipalities that may make up the numbers to qualify under the program, that will certainly be looked at.

But I can assure the member, Mr. Chair, that there is a sincere concern about doing whatever we can, working with whomever, with our, as I say, our good friends in the municipalities, with the medical professionals, and any other agency that may assist us in ensuring that we can take whatever adequate measures to assist and ensure the safety of all our citizens.

(12:30)

**Hon. Mr. Lautermilch:** — Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the officials for their support and move that the committee rise, report progress, and ask for leave to sit again.

The committee reported progress.

The Assembly adjourned at 12:34.

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