

The Assembly met at 13:30.

Prayers

**ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS**

**PRESENTING PETITIONS**

**Ms. Draude:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased to rise again today on behalf of people who are concerned about the deplorable condition of Highway No. 49.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to repair Highway No. 49 in order to address safety concerns and to facilitate economic growth in Kelvington and the surrounding areas.

The people that have signed this petition are from Kelvington and Lintlaw.

**Mr. Elhard:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I have a petition referring once again to the Crown grazing lease issue that is prevalent in the southwest part of the province. The prayer 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 that 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 signed by residents of the community of Maple Creek and Eastend.

I so present.

**Ms. Harpauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a petition today with citizens concerned about Highway No. 20. And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to repair Highway 20 from Nokomis to Strasbourg in order to address safety concerns and to facilitate economic growth in rural Saskatchewan.

And the signatures, Mr. Speaker, are from the communities of Strasbourg and Duval.

I so present.

**Ms. Eagles:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition on behalf of people from my constituency who are very concerned over 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.

Mr. Speaker, this is signed by folks from Estevan, Lampman, and Midale.

I so present. Thank you.

**Mr. Huyghebaert:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, once again I rise with a petition from citizens from southwest Saskatchewan that are extremely concerned about the condition of Highway 43. And the petition reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to repair Highway 43 in order to address safety concerns and to facilitate economic growth in rural Saskatchewan.

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

Mr. Speaker, this is in total signed by the good citizens of Vanguard.

I so present.

**Mr. Brkich:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a petition here with citizens opposed to Saskatchewan crop insurance 2003 premium increases to farmers.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary steps to have Saskatchewan 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.

Signed by citizens from Davidson, Kenaston, and Girvin.

I so present.

**Mr. Wall:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I rise on behalf of folks from my hometown who are proposing a constructive alternative to the government's plan to put a permanent CT (computerized tomography) scanner into the southwest regional hospital.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the provincial government to reconsider its plan to allocate the used CT scanner to Swift Current and instead provide a new CT scanner for the Southwest.

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

Mr. Speaker, the petitioners today, again all from the city of Swift Current.

I so present.

**Mr. Dearborn:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today on behalf of citizens from west central Saskatchewan to present a petition concerning the state of health care in the area. 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 ensure continuation of the current level of services available at the Kindersley Hospital and to ensure that current specialty services are sustained to better serve the people of west central Saskatchewan.

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

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by the good folks from the town of Kindersley and also the town of Eaton.

I so present.

**Mr. Lorenz:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, presenting a petition in regards to Highway 14. The prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to recognize the deplorable condition of Highway 14 from Biggar to Wilkie and to take the necessary steps to recondition and repair the highway in order to address safety concerns and facilitating economic growth in rural Saskatchewan.

And as duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

The petition is signed by people from the community of Battleford, Wilkie, North Battleford, Unity, and Regina.

I so present.

**Mr. Hart:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a petition to present on behalf of constituents who are very concerned with the section of Highway 22. 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 22 in order to address safety and economic concerns.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Signatures to this petition, Mr. Speaker, come from the communities of Earl Grey and Southey.

I so present.

#### READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

**Deputy Clerk:** — According to order the following petitions have been reviewed and are hereby read and received:

A petition concerning the dispute over water levels in the Qu'Appelle River system; and

Addendums to previously tabled petitions being sessional paper nos. 12, 13, 18, 36, 41, 100, 114, 119, 120, 124, and 140.

#### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**Ms. Hamilton:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a great pleasure to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly, 27 grade 4 students from Balgonie Elementary School. They're seated in the west gallery, Mr. Speaker, and they're accompanied today by their teacher, Ms. Audrey Schultz. Now looking up there I see some very tall students so I know there are at least four chaperones accompanying the students today as well.

Whenever I've attended Balgonie Elementary School, I've had a warm welcome and I feel part of that community, Mr. Speaker. So I'm looking forward to meeting with the students on the staircase for pictures and a bit of a discussion following question period.

I'd ask all members to join with me in giving a warm welcome to the students from Balgonie Elementary School, their chaperones, and teacher. Thank you.

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

**Ms. Draude:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to all members of this Assembly, I'm very pleased to introduce 24 grade 6 students from St. Dominic School in Humboldt. With them are their teachers, Malcolm Eaton, Cathy Korte-Monz, Colleen Bowman, Linda Salikin, Bev Schmidt, and Debbie Bells.

Humboldt, as we all know, is Saskatchewan's newest city. It's a great place, and I'd like to welcome all the students here today and I hope you enjoy your time in the Assembly.

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

#### STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

##### *Pull of the Land Musical Drama*

**Mr. Hermanson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This past weekend I was privileged to attend a sold-out performance of the musical drama, *Pull of the Land*, at the Rosetown Central High School, put on by Sky High Productions.

This drama tells the story of a farm family coping with the issues such as generational transfer of a farm, rural lifestyle versus urban lifestyle, and both the pleasures and pressures that accompany that pull of the land.

First presented in Harris a few weeks ago, the production moved to Rosetown last weekend for three performances and is scheduled for future showing in Kindersley.

Taking the format of a dessert theatre in Rosetown, proceeds from the events were directed to the Harris Community Development and to the Rosetown and District Health Centre Foundation.

The musical drama was written and produced by Harris residents, Elaine Kowpak and Beth Robertson, and was performed by a cast of 24 from the Harris-Tessier area and from the Rosetown area. The pianist was Ruth Wilson from Harris. Several patrons also assisted in making this effort a success.

Congratulations to Sky High Productions for a job well done.

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

#### **La Ronge Mushroom Business**

**Mr. Goulet:** — Mr. Speaker, Kitsaki Meats, La Ronge, is owned by Lac La Ronge Indian Band and has been in the beef jerky and wild rice business for many years. But recently the firm has expanded into the wild mushroom wholesaling business, and business has been pretty good.

At the end of May, in the first five days of the season, pickers delivered over 5,000 pounds of morel mushrooms to the plant in La Ronge where they are packed fresh and dried before shipping. The majority of the mushrooms are currently destined for the United States, but Kitsaki has a distribution deal with a Swiss co-operative that will send mushrooms being sent directly overseas.

Mr. Speaker, this kind of entrepreneurial spirit is one of the reasons why the future of this province is wide open. I want to congratulate all those involved with this new initiative, in particular the Lac La Ronge Indian Band and Kitsaki management, and wish them continued success in this and all future ventures. Thank you.

#### **Rodeo Superstar**

**Mr. Elhard:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the world of rodeo, superstar status is not necessarily restricted to cowboys.

In 1978 Bob and Dixie Black ran a band of bucking horse mares on their ranch in the Cypress Hills near Maple Creek and a foal was born that year that would eventually go on to fame.

Coyote, as he was soon known, was sold three years later to the Bar T Rodeo Company and thus began his illustrious rodeo career as a bucking horse.

Coyote was chosen several times to buck at the Canadian Finals Rodeo in Edmonton and at the National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas. He excelled at the Calgary Stampede where he was part of a 1985 Canadian record bareback ride and was the 1985 Canadian Bareback Horse of the Year.

However in 1995 Coyote was sold to a stock farm in Colorado.

Now a couple of years ago Dan Black, son of Bob and Dixie, was bronc riding in some southern U.S. (United States) rodeos and happened to see Coyote. He mentioned to the horse's owner that he would like to bring that horse back to the Cypress Hills ranch to retire when the time was right.

Well late last year Dan finally got the phone call and Coyote was ready to retire. Now Dan made the arrangements to bring the horse home from Colorado without his parent's knowledge

and on the evening of December 24, the horse arrived at a neighbouring ranch. On Christmas Day, Dan delivered Coyote to his parent's ranch making this one of the best Christmas gifts they had ever received.

Late last month, in the spirit of respect and appreciation, the Maple Creek Cow Town Pro Rodeo honoured this bucking horse. Announcer Joe Braniff detailed Coyote's accomplishments and Coyote made a final run around the High Chaparral Arena in front of an appreciative audience.

In addition to Coyote's many trophies and awards, Mr. Jay Lundy has recently nominated this amazing horse to the Rodeo Hall of Fame. Mr. Speaker, I would ask all members to join with me in recognizing that good rodeo requires outstanding performances from both two-legged and four-legged critters.

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

#### **National Rivers Day**

**Hon. Ms. Junor:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My city is Saskatoon and as the movie title goes, *A River Runs Through It*. The same goes for your city of Prince Albert, Mr. Speaker. In fact in his book entitled *The Rivers of Canada*, Canadian author Hugh MacLennan called our two-branched Saskatchewan River one of the great historical rivers of our nation.

I mention this because this past Sunday I took part in a very pleasant and informative event to celebrate the first annual National Rivers Day, a day proclaimed to commemorate and preserve Canada's spectacular rivers. The Canadian Heritage Rivers Board was jointly established by the federal, provincial, and territorial governments for this purpose.

The Meewasin Valley Authority, the living water project, and Partners FOR the Saskatchewan River Basin co-hosted a scenic cruise and barbecue aboard the *Saskatoon Princess*, a cruise which took us along the South Saskatchewan River for two hours. As well, Mr. Speaker, other events were held throughout the day to honour our rivers and to make us aware of the heritage, vastness, and diversity of Canada's rivers from sea to sea. One day of celebration for what we know is year-round attention.

Thank you.

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

#### **Wilkie Students Win Youth Business Institute Interprovincial Competition**

**Mr. Lorenz:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Youth Business competition prepares future entrepreneurs. Wilkie's the home to about 1,400 people. It also has the world's largest grasshopper. And now it has the first Saskatchewan high school to produce a champion in the Youth Business Institute interprovincial competition. Wilkie can claim the bragging rights over communities such as Regina, Saskatoon, Nokomis, Turtleford, Prince Albert, and La Ronge, where students have keenly been obtaining . . . trying to obtain this title for themselves.

Mr. Speaker, the Faculty of Administration at the University of Regina and the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce have co-sponsored the YBI (Youth Business Institute) since its inception 18 years ago.

Every year high school teams from all over Saskatchewan are invited to form teams up to six players to operate a simulated business on computer. Competitions are held in the fall and winter seminars with the top 16 teams from each moving on to the grand challenge. Prior to the grand challenge the winners of the fall and winter competitions take on the top two teams from the similar program managed by the Manitoba Chamber of Commerce. Last month the first team, a Saskatchewan team, won the interprovincial competition. The Wilkie high school has broken the Manitoba dominance.

Mr. Speaker, students are given a generic industry and companies. They have to think through business strategies, and make business decisions, short-term and long-term planning, and budget quality and quantitative analysis strategies.

Mr. Speaker, join me in congratulating Ryan Kolenosky, Tarilie Pernitsky, Chantz Jandl, and teacher adviser, Alex Majewski, on winning this competition.

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

(13:45)

### **Saskatchewan Express Launches Summer Tour**

**Ms. Hamilton:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last evening the CIC (Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan) minister and I, along with a host of other Saskatchewan Express fans, were at the Centre of the Arts for this year's first performance of our celebrated song and dance group to launch their summer tour through parks and communities across our wonderful province. The minister was there for the entertainment and also to present a cheque from SaskPower for \$30,000 to help fund the activities of Saskatchewan Express.

This first performance of the season, hosted by Jean Freeman and Doug Alexander, was even more special because it included a tribute to the group's founder, Carol Gay Bell. Some 23 years ago Carol Gay Bell set out to create a show that would feature Saskatchewan young people and would entertain the young and old in communities across our province and beyond. A Saskatchewan talent hunt to rival that of *Canadian Idol* was launched, and a celebration of our province's 75th anniversary was planned.

Over these last 10 years more than a quarter of a million people have seen the Saskatchewan Express perform in the province. I know we all commend Carol Gay Bell's commitment to nurturing our province's young people. Congratulations also to Irene Deck, Chair of the board, and her directors.

Thanks to so much hard work, people across the province will once again enjoy their music, their dance, and their energy this summer. I am pleased that SaskPower continues its contributions to the quality of life in Saskatchewan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Naicam Recycling Programs**

**Ms. Draude:** — Mr. Speaker, as we become more aware of the vulnerability of our environment, recycling has become a household word in many communities. The community of Naicam is no exception.

Paper recycling began when the local cadets decided to provide a valuable service as a means of raising money. Recycling bottles through SARCAN became another activity. Next, this community became part of the first trial regional recycling facility, REACT (Regional Authority of Carlton Trail) and recycling became more extensive with glass, boxes, plastics, and garbage.

The next phase in this community's recycling endeavour was the founding of the Naicam community thrift store a year ago, which offered an opportunity for the community and surrounding area to recycle and reuse items — a year-round garage sale. This volunteer effort has met with great success, and in a few short months the loan for the renovation was paid off, and profit after a year was given to a community organization.

The board of directors are a visionary group and have now expanded their mandate to include the collection of reusable clothing and household items for the Canadian Diabetes Association collection program.

Mr. Speaker, this is a prime example of volunteers with a vision providing a service to the community and to the province. And in the process they've made a profit which benefits not only local people, but people throughout the province.

I ask you to join with me in congratulating these very resourceful people.

### **ORAL QUESTIONS**

#### **Support for Beef Industry**

**Mr. Hermanson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Canadian Press is reporting that the federal government has already decided on a compensation package for the beef industry, and that it contains nothing but interest-free loans. Mr. Speaker, if that's their position, it's another slap in the face of the beef industry and of Western Canada.

Mr. Speaker, more loans and more debt is not going to help feedlot producers and cattle producers; it's the last thing they need, Mr. Speaker. At a time when they still have no idea when the US border is going to open, further debt will just help bury them.

Mr. Speaker, my question to the Premier is, are these reports correct? Does the federal aid package amount to nothing more than interest-free loans and more debt for cattle producers?

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

**Hon. Mr. Calvert:** — Mr. Speaker, I have just come from a

variety of national interviews that some of these similar questions were being put. What we have received this morning are reports from sources. We cannot, from the federal government, attain any clear answer on whether this in fact is the case or is not the case.

But let me say this. If it is the case that all that Ottawa is proposing to meet the needs of the livestock industry in Canada and in Saskatchewan are loan guarantees, then they have totally missed the mark. They have totally missed the mark.

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

**Hon. Mr. Calvert:** — Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Agriculture is able to be here. He will soon be leaving this province to travel to Vancouver to meet with all of the Canadian ministers of Agriculture, including Mr. Vanclief, the federal minister, tomorrow. I will ask him to respond to further questions today.

But let me assure this House and assure the people of Saskatchewan that our Minister of Agriculture attending to that meeting in Vancouver will be taking a very, very clear message. We need substantive support for the livestock industry in our province and it needs to be a whole lot more than loan guarantees. Asking people to take debt when they're suffering is simply inappropriate.

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

**Mr. Hermanson:** — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. While the Premier was doing these interviews, I happened to be watching Mr. Vanclief do an interview, a scrum on Newsworld. And Mr. Vanclief more or less indicated that all he was prepared to put on the table were loan guarantees. And he said he would also use statutory programs, which I would take to mean the existing farm safety net programs, the new super NISA (Net Income Stabilization Account), and perhaps the compensation for slaughtered animals. Now, Mr. Speaker, this is not the solution to the issue at hand. Mr. Speaker, this is an insult to Western Canada.

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

**Mr. Hermanson:** — Mr. Speaker, this is a slap in the face of the beef industry, the men and the women whose livelihood depends on the beef industry. Mr. Speaker, I ask the Premier, what is he going to do about it? What is he going to tell the federal Liberals? Is he going to tell them and insist that this plan is absolutely unacceptable, and bring home a better plan?

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

**Hon. Mr. Calvert:** — Mr. Speaker, as you know, all of the Western premiers gathered this week in Kelowna and laid on the table what we think is not a rich package but an important package that can support the industry through this period of difficulty until we can get the American border open.

I had the opportunity yesterday to speak with other premiers from across Canada. This morning all premiers in Canada were on a conference call. I raised the issue with all premiers. And I think it's fair to report that there is general, if not unanimous, support across the country among premiers for this kind of

response to the BSE (bovine spongiform encephalopathy) and the livestock industry.

You can rest assured, Mr. Speaker, and the Leader of the Opposition can rest assured, that I will continue pushing the national government, as the Minister of Agriculture will tomorrow with his colleagues. We will continue pushing this federal Liberal government until they wake up and find out what's happening in Western Canada.

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

**Mr. Hermanson:** — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Premier mentions that the proposal of a \$400 million package is a modest one. Well modest it is indeed, because a recent report indicated that the cost to the industry and the cost to the country could be as much as \$550 million a month, Mr. Speaker. More in a month — and a month has already passed — than the total package being asked for. This same group says that a four-month ban would cost the beef industry two and a half billion dollars.

Mr. Speaker, the federal Liberals have not received that picture yet. They're still in the Dark Ages. Mr. Speaker, what's even more appalling is that the federal Liberals seem to have already dismissed the Western premiers' proposals. That's a real concern and our Premier has to deal with that. Mr. Speaker, this federal proposal of loan guarantees is a problem, not a solution.

How does the Premier propose to get it through the heads of the federal Liberals in Ottawa that they have to come up with a different plan?

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

**Hon. Mr. Calvert:** — Mr. Speaker, I think through the same kind of consolidated voice, the consolidated efforts that we've had coming out of this legislature, and coming out of the Western premiers, coming across Western Canada, now coming from all parts of Canada.

I too heard the reports of the Canadian animal coalition this morning and their estimates that this industry could be losing between 5 and \$600 million a month — 2.5 billion in a very short period of time.

But, Mr. Speaker, I think we all recognize the potential, the potential damage here is even much greater than that. If we are not able to resolve the border issue with the Americans, this industry's very existence in Canada is threatened. Now we will know that . . . We will know the harsh reality of that in Saskatchewan but so will every Canadian in every provincial jurisdiction.

We know that we are on the verge of seeing expansion of the livestock industry in this province. We know that we're on the verge of seeing expansion in ethanol where the distillers' grain can build that livestock industry. We know that we produce the best beef on the face of the earth. We know that there's a great and hungry market for good quality food and good quality Western Canadian and Saskatchewan beef. That is why we take this issue so seriously.

We have ensured through the science that the food supply is safe; that this is one isolated incident. We've taken the science. We've proven the science. We need to go to our American counterparts now and convince them to reopen the border.

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

**Mr. Hermanson:** — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. And certainly we all have to speak loudly and clearly on this issue because the federal Liberals aren't helping us very much. And unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, neither is the federal NDP (New Democratic Party).

There was a very troubling letter today in the *Leader-Post* from none other than NDP MP (Member of Parliament) — senior MP — Lorne Nystrom. Now Mr. Nystrom took it upon himself to criticize Canada's food inspection system. He said, and I quote:

... this whole situation could have been avoided if Canada's food inspection and regulatory system had been stronger to begin with.

Mr. Speaker, this opinion is grossly misinformed. It's a comment that is damaging to the cause that we are trying to correct, Mr. Speaker.

I ask the Premier, does he support his NDP federal cousin for criticizing Canada's food inspection system?

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

**Hon. Mr. Serby:** — Mr. Speaker, I would concur that I'm a bit troubled by the notion of the article that indicates that a strengthened CFIA (Canada Food Inspection Agency) would have served us in a more appropriate fashion. The reality is that I think through the investigation process in Canada, it's been demonstrated fully that we have a very good food inspection agency in Canada and it will only get stronger, Mr. Speaker, through the course of the recommendations that will be made over the next couple of days. It will only strengthen.

I think what was also important in that article, Mr. Speaker, that the Leader of the Opposition of the Saskatchewan Party has yet not alluded to, is that the . . . is that Mr. Nystrom also said that this is an issue that requires federal compensation. He said that this is a trade issue. The reason why today beef isn't moving in Canada into the US, Mr. Speaker, now that the science is completed, is about the decisions that are being made on trade.

If the science finds itself to be in the pure state that it will, it will then be the question about why isn't our beef moving into the US. Mr. Nystrom states it's then going to be about trade. And if it is about trade, then in Canada producers and feedlots should be compensated for trade injury which is what we've been on for some time, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Hermanson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we all agree that we need a trade compensation package, an injury damage payment because of what's happened. But because of Mr. Nystrom's statements that package will have to be larger

because it will be longer before the US border is open.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we had a Prime Minister who said some things that he shouldn't have said and some people called on him to have his mouth duct-taped shut. Mr. Speaker, we had a Minister of Agriculture in Ontario that said some wrong things and the Premier of Alberta demanded an apology and got a public national apology on television.

Mr. Speaker, I believe now it's up to the Premier of Saskatchewan to demand a retraction and an apology from Mr. Nystrom so that we can set this behind us. Will the Premier show that leadership?

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

**The Speaker:** — Order. Order, please. Order, order. Order.

**Hon. Mr. Serby:** — Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition from the Saskatchewan Party is quite capable of calling Mr. Nystrom and making the kinds of requests that he's making of this Assembly on his own, through his own party. He's able to do that, Mr. Speaker, in his own capacity as the Leader of the Opposition.

On this side of the House, Mr. Speaker, the Premier and I and this government will be concentrating on two or three things. We'll be concentrating, Mr. Speaker, in enhancing the kinds of food safety issues that Canada will be required to make, I expect, on the report that will be made by the scientific community in the next couple of days.

We as the provincial government, along with the federal government, will work at enhancing those standards so that we have a better place in Canada and can provide to the international marketplace and domestically, Mr. Speaker, a level of foods, food safety that we think will be important and imperative.

And secondly, we'll press hard, Mr. Speaker, over the next few days and into the future to make sure that we get a reasonable compensation package to start with for our industry and into the future to build a stronger safety net, Mr. Speaker, that will incorporate trade injury on a variety of different fronts that we've argued are necessary to make the industry stronger.

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

### Municipal Revenue-Sharing Grants

**Mr. Bjornerud:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question's for the Minister of Government Relations. How much is the urban revenue-sharing grant for the city of Regina in 2003-2004?

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

**Hon. Mr. Osika:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to answer that question. The figure I referred to yesterday in the 13.2 million of revenue sharing provided by the Regina caucus were the estimated totals amounts of direct provincial grants, Mr. Speaker. The 13.2 million figure included revenue sharing, 7.89 million; grants in lieu, transfer for the disabled, operating

capital expenses, Mr. Speaker. It goes on and on.

I spoke with the, I spoke with . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order, please. Order. Order.

**Hon. Mr. Osika:** — Mr. Speaker, there are a variety of funds that are transferred from the province to urban municipalities. I spoke with the mayor of this great city of Regina this morning, Mr. Speaker; we have an excellent working relationship. And the province and the cities, and all the cities and municipalities in this province are working together to try and build communities, Mr. Speaker, and I very much appreciate and respect all the efforts of all the municipalities — the cities, the urbans, the rurals — who through the '90s supported this government in balancing the books, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Bjornerud:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm surprised the minister didn't include the \$30,000 SaskPower donated to Saskatchewan Express in Regina's revenue sharing. He's got everything else in the books in revenue sharing.

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

**Mr. Bjornerud:** — Mr. Speaker, once more I ask the minister, I'm asking the question, how much revenue-sharing money went to the city of Regina . . . or is going to the city of Regina this year? The exact amount of revenue sharing, not grants in lieu, not money for libraries, nothing else, just revenue-sharing dollars. How many dollars in 2003-2004?

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

**Hon. Mr. Osika:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, I've already answered that question. Perhaps the member wasn't listening.

But you know, Mr. Speaker, I also have some figures here from the city of Regina who are very, very appreciative of the support that this government has given the city of Regina. And the figures that I received from the mayor's office — that total grants and transfers amount to \$47 million.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure why the opposition is attempting, is attempting to create, to create this diverse concern. I mean I don't know why they're trying to be so . . . create some animosity between the city of Regina and this government.

We have developed strong relationships, Mr. Speaker. We work very closely. I am proud of my association with the city mayors with whom I meet, with the rural municipalities with whom I meet. They know that, working together, we'll create bigger and better communities and that's what we're working for — not to try and play politics to divide.

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

**Mr. Bjornerud:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last week the NDP member for Regina Qu'Appelle . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order, please. Order. Order, please. Order,

please. Order. Order. And would the member start over, please.

**Mr. Bjornerud:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last week the NDP member for Regina Qu'Appelle distributed an NDP election brochure chock full of misleading and inaccurate information about provincial funding for the city of Regina. In fact the NDP distributed some of the same false information to many other homes in Regina.

The NDP's election campaign brochures make phoney statements about funding to the city of Regina based on the claim that Regina's 2003 urban revenue-sharing grant is \$13.3 million.

But today, Mr. Speaker . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order. Order, please. Order, please. Order. And I'd ask the members to allow the question to be put and then to allow the response to be given.

**Mr. Bjornerud:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the NDP member for Qu'Appelle said the government has given the city of Regina \$13.3 million revenue sharing. But Mayor Pat Fiacco told reporters at a news conference today it's only 7.9 million. Who do you believe, Mr. Speaker? I'll go with Pat Fiacco.

Mr. Speaker, will the minister confirm that Mayor Pat Fiacco is right and that the NDP's campaign propaganda distributed to pretty near every household in Regina last month inflated the value of Regina's urban sharing revenue grant by a whopping 70 per cent?

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

**Hon. Mr. Osika:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, there appears to be more distortion coming from the opposition. I had the . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order, members. Order. Order. You just have to contain the exuberance a bit. Order.

**Hon. Mr. Osika:** — Mr. Speaker, I'd like to quote from the pamphlet, "Provincial Dollars to the City of Regina 1999-2000 to 2003-2004 Budget Years." And the funding is indicated. Plus let me read this:

Includes funds from the following sources: Urban Revenue Sharing Grants; Provincial Grants-in-Lieu of Taxes; Crown . . . (corporation) Grants-in-Lieu of Taxes; Transportation For The Disabled . . . Centenary Fund; Provincial Share of Canada-Saskatchewan Infrastructure Program; Municipal Police Grants; Grants-in-Lieu of Taxes from Casino Regina. Does not include Social Services direct funding (Mr. Speaker).

So it's quite clear, the revenue sharing.

And this is the document that I received from our good mayor, Mr. Speaker. It says here revenue-sharing grant, at the very top, seven million, eight hundred and eighty-nine point one million dollars. Added together, paratransit operating, Canada-Saskatchewan . . . and on and on and on, Mr. Speaker.

And the mayor says that the province transfers \$47 million.

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

**Mr. Bjornerud:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I don't know if the minister, Mr. Speaker, I don't know if the minister does not understand, but grants in lieu of taxes are not revenue sharing. Grants in lieu of taxes are like every other business. Every homeowner pays taxes on their home, their business, and that's all grants in lieu are.

So the minister needs to get his facts straight, find out what revenue sharing is, pass it on to the member for Qu'Appelle, so he doesn't put out this phony-baloney propaganda at election time.

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

**Mr. Bjornerud:** — Mr. Speaker, the minister and his NDP colleague, the member from . . .

**The Speaker:** — Okay, now. Order. Order.

**Mr. Bjornerud:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Government Relations and the member for Regina Qu'Appelle owe the people of Regina an apology.

It may be election time but it's time to tell the truth and be honest with the people of Regina. Mr. Speaker, the mayor of Regina and the council of Regina have tried to hold the line on taxes, but it doesn't help when members — city members in Regina — fabricate the numbers and distort the facts about how much money the government actually pays.

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

**Mr. Bjornerud:** — Mr. Speaker, will the Minister of Government Relations, on behalf of the member for Regina Qu'Appelle, apologize to the people of Regina?

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

**The Speaker:** — Order.

**Hon. Mr. Osika:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, if the member from Saltcoats continues to operate the way he has, there will be a Grant in lieu of that member . . .

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

**Hon. Mr. Osika:** — Mr. Speaker, this government has treated all municipal sectors fairly by providing an increase of 15.4 per cent in revenue sharing for each this fiscal year, Mr. Speaker. We've been working co-operatively with all the communities.

Over the past two years there have been increases in revenue sharing and there will continue to be into the following year, Mr. Speaker, each year. And I, as I said before, I very much appreciate meeting with the city mayors and meeting with communities of our municipalities and recognizing all their efforts through the '90s to help the government balance a budget that was so desperately needed to be balanced, Mr. Speaker. We have good co-operative work and we are working

and going in the right direction.

I still want . . . What the member is saying, I don't . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order, please. The member's time has elapsed.

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

#### North Battleford Sewage Treatment Plant

**Mr. Hillson:** — Yes, Mr. Speaker. On April 14 after the uproar of the CSIP (Canada-Saskatchewan Infrastructure Program) grants, the infrastructure grants, and my intervention, the Premier was good enough to agree to meet with the mayor of North Battleford to see what could be done to ensure that the construction of the waste water treatment plant recommended by the judge on the inquiry could proceed this year.

Now at the time the Premier said to the mayor he'd need a little bit of time to get back to him; he couldn't give an answer right then. It's now two months. Does the Premier now have an answer?

**Hon. Mr. Osika:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, I don't know where that member has been. I don't even know where he was when the problems in North Battleford were created. I'm sure he was somewhere in the vicinity.

But anyway, I want to tell you this, Mr. Speaker, that the government officials from our department and Sask Water have been working with the city of North Battleford to determine options for the city to be able to start building their new sewage treatment plant, Mr. Speaker. Now . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order, please. Order, please.

**Hon. Mr. Osika:** — Mr. Speaker, working collectively, you can always come up with options and solutions. But when you try to create divisiveness, as the Saskatchewan Party does, you resolve nothing, Mr. Speaker.

We have, working together, we have identified three options to pay for a new sewage treatment plant, Mr. Speaker. The opposition doesn't want to hear it because it is good news and this government is working in co-operation with the city of North Battleford.

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

**Mr. Hillson:** — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, I directed my question at the Premier, to the Premier, for two reasons.

First of all, it was the Premier who gave his sacred commitment that he would be there for North Battleford at the time of the water crisis. And second, the minister's opposition to any assistance to North Battleford for the waste water treatment plant is well known.

So I again ask the Premier. He is the one who said he would be there for North Battleford. He is the one who decided to spend \$2 million on an inquiry and nothing to fix the problem.



Now he said he needed a bit of time on April 14 to come up with a solution. It's been two months. How much money are they prepared to come up with to assist in the construction of the \$15 million waste water treatment plant? Will he at least match the amount of money that he spent on the inquiry?

And I direct that at the Premier, not at the minister whose opposition to this is well known.

**Hon. Mr. Osika:** — That member is accusing me, Mr. Speaker, of being opposed to assisting my home city of North Battleford? What has he done for that city? He sat on city council while all that was happening. What did he do for that city? He didn't even raise that issue in this House when it all began, Mr. Speaker. Where was he? Vying for the leadership of the great Liberal Party in this province?

Mr. Speaker, North Battleford and our department discussed option one. They could self-finance the 16.25 million sewage plant by providing \$2.5 million from their reserves and financing a loan for 13.75. This option then, Mr. Speaker, would help increase North Battleford's residents' monthly sewer and water rates by a minimal amount.

Option two was North Battleford can negotiate a partnership agreement with Sask Water to own and/or operate all or any portion of that facility, Mr. Speaker.

We have done more for that city in negotiating agreements and discussing options than that member ever did when he sat on that city council.

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

(14:15)

**The Speaker:** — Ministerial Statements. Introduction of Bills. Orders of the . . . Why is the member from Regina Lakeview on his feet?

**Hon. Mr. Nilson:** — I have a ministerial statement.

**The Speaker:** — The member for Regina Lakeview would request leave to revert back to ministerial statements after I called orders. Is leave granted?

Leave granted.

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

### New Health Care Facility in Outlook

**Hon. Mr. Nilson:** — Mr. Speaker, I apologize. I couldn't quite hear that word through all of the din that was here, but thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I'm very pleased to rise today, Mr. Speaker, to tell the members of this Legislative Assembly that yesterday I had the great pleasure of announcing that a new integrated health care facility will be built in Outlook. In this budget year, Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan Health is investing \$400,000 for the planning stages of a new integrated health care facility in Outlook. The new facility will be attached to the existing Pioneer Home

long-term care facility and will replace the existing Outlook Union Hospital. The result, Mr. Speaker, will be to provide better coordination of acute care, long-term care, home care, and a wide range of community services in one integrated health care facility.

This project represents this government's ongoing commitment to improving the quality and accessibility of health care in Saskatchewan. Our blueprint for change in the health care system was outlined in the Action Plan for Saskatchewan Health Care which the Premier and I were pleased to announce in December 2001.

Since that time, Mr. Speaker, this government and Saskatchewan Health have made significant strides in achieving the goals outlined in the action plan. On March 28 of this year, Mr. Speaker, we announced our provincial budget for the coming year which included a \$61 million investment over the next two years for new and upgraded health care facilities. This important commitment allows us to approve and support a number of new projects that are necessary to sustain our province's health care system.

The \$400,000 investment by Saskatchewan Health that I announced yesterday builds on the work we have done with the Heartland Regional Health Authority to ensure that the new health care facility in Outlook was a capital priority.

Mr. Speaker, this project in Outlook represents an effective partnership among many groups in Outlook and the surrounding communities. The result, Mr. Speaker, will be improved access to high-quality health care for people in Outlook and the surrounding area. The new facility will also enhance the Heartland Regional Health Authority move toward a primary health care focus system. These are all important goals of our action plan, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the new health care facility in Outlook will deliver a wide range of health care services all under one roof. It will not only benefit the residents in these facilities, but it will also provide an improved workplace for our valued health care providers that work in this region.

The project is estimated to cost \$4.6 million when completed, Mr. Speaker. The Government of Saskatchewan will continue to fund the next phases of this project until the new facility is completed and operational.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to our funding, the significant sum of \$1.7 million has already been raised by the residents of Outlook and surrounding areas towards the community's share of the project. This is a great gift by the people of the Outlook area and truly reflective of a strong community spirit that exists there.

Mr. Speaker, it is due to the hard work of many community leaders and volunteers that made this announcement possible. Their dedication and persistence to see their vision become a reality is indeed a reflection of the true pioneering spirit of Saskatchewan people.

That spirit exists in Outlook and area, and in all of our Saskatchewan communities, Mr. Speaker. That spirit is about

people working together and finding innovative ways of overcoming obstacles. We see a need and find a solution by working together with our community partners. And this announcement is evidence of that.

This community spirit is also about a set of values we all share, Mr. Speaker. They are the values of caring for others in our community and working together to make sure that such important services as health care are accessible to everyone, not just a privileged few.

Mr. Speaker, recognition also needs to be given to the board members and staff, past and present, of the Heartland Regional Health Authority and the former Midwest Health District, as well as the staff at Saskatchewan Health who supported this project from the beginning.

We look forward to continuing to work with the Heartland Regional Health Authority and its community partners to develop the scope, cost, and design of the project as well as complete a functional program for the integrated health care facility.

Mr. Speaker, the end result of this process will be a modern, attractive facility providing high-quality health care services to the residents of Outlook and surrounding area. This new integrated health care centre has been a priority for the people of Outlook for a long time, Mr. Speaker, and it's finally become a reality.

I am very pleased to be able to make this statement today, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Brkich:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to reply to the minister's statement. I happened to be with a councillor and the administrator yesterday when the news came to them that the project would be a go and to . . . Needless to say they were quite happy, as I can remember the last four years working to get this with the board and with the people in that area, the government funding at the end.

Like the minister had stated, the people had raised a million seven and they had it raised for quite a few years. And that shows you the work and dedication over the number of years that the people in that area, the Outlook surrounding area, have done to raise that, to make that commitment for that hospital in that area. And the only thing really holding them back over a number of years was the government share, and I'm glad that they finally came through with that now in the area.

And with that, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Outlook and the residents, they were very pleased with the announcement. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Mr. Hagel:** — Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Government Deputy House Leader on a point of order.

## POINT OF ORDER

**Hon. Mr. Hagel:** — Mr. Speaker, thank you. Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order to request that you review the *Hansard* record of today and make a ruling regarding remarks made by the hon. member for Saltcoats in the questions, when he was putting questions to the House in question period.

I'm not absolutely certain, Mr. Speaker, of the precise words that he used, but the *Hansard* record will provide a very accurate and precise record of what the words he . . . were used.

I apologize that in the noise in the House it was not possible for me to hear completely, precisely. But it is my belief, Mr. Speaker, that I heard the hon. member for Saltcoats make reference to the government member's failure to tell the truth. And in the same question, Mr. Speaker, or just a moment later, a fabrication of the truth or of the facts, something of that nature. But clearly and deliberately the word fabrication was used.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a long-standing practice of this House and all Houses in our practice of parliamentary democracy that it is most appropriate that we engage in passionate debate in this House — assuredly that is acceptable — but that what we do not do is engage in personal attacks and attacks in character. And for that reason, Mr. Speaker, it's a long-standing tradition that reference to members' honesty is not acceptable. There are ways of dealing with that if the hon. member bona fide holds that to be his belief.

Mr. Speaker, I would also point out that it is no more acceptable to do indirectly what one is not permitted to do directly by rules of the House. And I would argue that when one is not able to, by the rules of the House, to simply stand up and make an accusation of the honesty or integrity of a single member, no more are you permitted to do that of a collective number of members as well.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask that you would take these into consideration, review the *Hansard* record, and bring a ruling to the House. And I would humbly request that after having done so that you would request the hon. member for Saltcoats to withdraw his remarks and apologize to the House.

**The Speaker:** — Speaking to the point of order, I recognize the member for Rosthern.

**Mr. Heppner:** — Thank you, with permission to respond to that point of order. Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that what we have here is not a point of order. It's a situation where no one seemed to hear anything. There was nothing definitive heard; they don't know what they heard, and yet there's a complaint put forward. It seems to me a whole lot more that this is trying to defend a situation where they found themselves in trouble in question period rather than anything specific.

The reference was made to a personal attack. There were no personal attacks made there, Mr. Speaker. On this side of the House, we heard those statements. We were not engaged in a lot of noise making over here. We knew exactly what the statements were. The member's criticism and his point of order are, I believe, not well taken at all, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — I thank both members for their comments. I will take a look at the record and bring back a ruling on that issue in . . . at an appropriate time.

#### ORDERS OF THE DAY

#### WRITTEN QUESTIONS

**Mr. Yates:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am extremely pleased to stand today on behalf of the government and respond to written questions nos. 718 through 720 inclusive, being an open and honest government, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — Responses to questions 718, 719, and 720 have been submitted.

**Mr. Yates:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am extremely pleased today to stand and convert 721 for debates returnable.

**The Speaker:** — Question no. 721 converted to orders for returns (debatable).

#### GOVERNMENT ORDERS

#### COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

#### Bill No. 8 — The Youth Justice Administration Act

##### Clause 1

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

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I'm pleased today to be joined by Bob Kary, who is our director of young offenders, community programs, in the Department of Corrections and Public Safety. Seated behind Mr. Kary is Betty Ann Pottruff, the executive director of policy planning and evaluation with the Department of Justice.

**Mr. Huyghebaert:** — Thank you, Mr. Chair of Committees. And welcome, ministers and staff.

To the minister through the Chair, we have a number of questions on this Bill. There seems to be an awful lot of vagaries within this Bill. So if you would indulge me, we do have quite a series of questions that we would like to ask.

But before we get into the specifics, could the minister provide us with the basis and the background for this particular Bill?

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — Mr. Chairman, the federal government has responsibility overall for youth justice. What they have done is undertaken to replace the Young Offenders Act with the Youth Criminal Justice Act federally. This particular piece of provincial legislation enables us to carry out the administration of that Act within the province.

(14:30)

**Mr. Huyghebaert:** — Thank you, Mr. Minister. This Act is a very broad and sweeping piece of federal legislation that will have quite an impact on jurisdictions across the country. Yet it's

our understanding that the federal government purposely left the details and implementation of the federal Act up to individual provinces.

Could the minister please clarify for us how the proposed legislation in front of us today will facilitate that legislation?

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — Mr. Chairman, the Act in front of us largely is enabling from the federal legislation. The member is correct, there are a number of areas that have had options built into them provincially that we have exercised our discretion on.

If I might say overall, though, this Act really allows us to continue on with running the youth facilities. It allows us the authority to put into place determinations around open and secure custody, to deal with alternative measures programming.

One of the key issues that we have had some debate about in this province is around the presumptive age issue. This has been in the news to some extent. This is the point at which we determine whether a youth would be eligible for adult sentences. The federal legislation was not prescriptive in this. Obviously when a person turns 18 they're automatically considered for that. Under the Young Offenders Act the age had been set at 16 and there was an ability under this legislation to move that down to 14.

The Saskatchewan cabinet had decided to reduce that age to 14. We thought that was in better keeping with the provincial communities' response and request for us to deal with young offenders in a serious way.

I want to say to this Assembly that I am deeply disappointed with the approach taken by my federal colleague not to appeal the Quebec court's opinion that these presumptive age issues should be reset at 16 and not at 14. This is not a position the Saskatchewan government agrees with. I would argue it is not a position that Saskatchewan people agree with. And I have written to the federal minister to outline our serious concern with this, and we will take this up with him and our federal counterparts at the ministers' meeting this fall.

**Mr. Huyghebaert:** — Thank you, Mr. Minister. Prior to this Bill being brought forward, what kind of discussion or consultation or review took place, and with whom?

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — Mr. Chairman, the consultation around the Youth Criminal Justice Act occurred at the federal level and so there were, as I understand, federal-provincial discussions about this. There were discussions that the federal government undertook with various stakeholders throughout the province.

Obviously we have had a number of discussions over the past years we've been preparing for this, with different groups, various community-based organizations, service providers, Aboriginal groups, law enforcement officials, these different organizations. We've talked within the routine course of preparing for the transition from Young Offenders Act to the YCJA (Youth Criminal Justice Act).

But the key decisions around what went into the Act were determined by the federal government and so they were largely — well entirely — undertaken by the federal administration.

This is one of the complicated pieces as we deal with criminal justice, is that of course the legislation and the codes are set out federally but administration of these Acts falls to us provincially.

So this Act before us today really enables us to carry out the programming and services, but doesn't make the determination as to what are criminal offences, or in a large part why there would be different provisions for youth as opposed to older offenders.

**Mr. Huyghebaert:** — Thank you, Mr. Minister. Well I take from that that the consultation that has been done was predominantly at the federal level with various jurisdictions. But did I gather from your comments that after the federal legislation was passed that there was no consultation in this province with stakeholders; that the Bill was produced without any further consultation? It was just totally based on the federal government's Bill? Or my question goes back to was — after the federal government established and passed this Bill — was there consultation within the province with reference to the Bill before we come up with this legislation?

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — Mr. Chairman, in fact there was consultation after the federal Bill was introduced and passed that we undertook, largely around the operational issues and some of the options that we had to exercise here. Certainly one of the most significant sets of discussion was this question of presumptive age, the lowering from 16 to 14.

I anticipate the member's next question will be to understand better what the result of that was. I can say that in general there was support for reducing the age from the 16 to 14, with this one important segment opposed; the FSIN (Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations) and the First Nations and Aboriginal Justice Reform Commission do not support the reduction of the presumptive age. They have made that very clear to me as Minister of Corrections and Public Safety.

I have had this discussion with them on a number of occasions and while I appreciate their view, it is the view of the cabinet and of myself that the lowering of the age from 16 to 14 was within the keeping of what the provincial interest was. There were a number of other discussions that we had around how to deal with more of the alternative measures programs that were dealt with. It allowed us another opportunity to talk to stakeholder groups about how youth justice was dealt with.

While I am certainly critical of the approach the federal government has taken on the presumptive age and the decision not to appeal the Quebec Court of Appeal's decision, I am nevertheless pleased that the federal parliament has replaced the Young Offenders Act. And I think, as members in this Assembly have said during second reading debates and the discussion that we've had on this side, we're very pleased that the Young Offenders Act has been replaced. It was an ineffective Act.

The Youth Criminal Justice Act that was passed federally is, I believe, a step forward. But there are a number of things that we are going to have to work with Ottawa on to make sure that this Bill does not fall off the rails like YOA (Young Offenders Act) did, not the least of which is the question around how we deal

with the fact that we are seeing increased prevalence of criminal behaviour in younger people who may be outside of this age ring. I'm talking in this particular case about the 12 and unders.

We need to be very clear as to how we are going to deal with serious, chronic repeat offenders within the youth population to make sure that they are dealt with appropriately. But at the other hand, that we not overreact and that we make sure that there's a sufficient amount of resources put in to deal with alternative measures.

In this regard the federal government has done, I believe, a poor job of meeting their responsibility to make sure that the funding is available to deal with the alternative measures programming. The ability for us to fund alternative measures to keep young people who first come into contact with the law enforcement agencies, move them out of the system to a more corrected behaviour, is a positive thing within the Act. But that will only be achieved if we see the resources put into it. And this is an ongoing piece of discussion that we're having with the federal ministers that if they anticipate . . . if they really want this Act to work, they're going to have to commit the resources to doing it.

**Mr. Huyghebaert:** — Thank you, Mr. Minister. I think I have a couple of questions later on in my questioning with regard to funding. But more immediately my question was, originally here, what kind of discussion or consultation and with whom did the department speak to before bringing this Bill forward?

And initially I understood you to say that it was under the federal level. And then when I questioned again, you said, yes you have, since the federal government passed the Bill, that in fact you have had consultations here within the province. And I believe you mentioned FSIN. And I believe that was the only one you mentioned.

So I'll just want to refer back to my question and ask what groups that you consulted with in this province prior to putting this Bill forward?

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — Mr. Chairman, we're running into a bit of a . . . tripping over the word of, consultation. The federal consultations that were undertaken were largely imported into the discussions that we had in this Bill, in that the consultations that happened around the federal Bill, obviously we participated in and were aware of the responses to. Those were largely incorporated into how we dealt with this Bill.

But there were, as the member had previously pointed out, a number of discretionary issues that we did additional consultation on. The groups that we would have consulted in that case were in fact the FSIN. I think I met personally with at least two other tribal councils; the First Nations and Aboriginal Justice Reform Commission; the Children's Advocate was involved. We have done, as we were preparing for the changeover, met with the existing set of stakeholders that we have throughout the department offering programming.

I would not characterize those necessarily as thorough consultations. They were largely focused on operationalizing the federal Act.

And so I hope that that better clarifies the approach, that the federal government largely did the consultation on the big changes. We then talked more with groups about the discretionary issues that we had to deal with and the operational issues.

**Mr. Huyghebaert:** — Thank you, Mr. Minister. Where I was kind of going with this and I'm coming to it later and I just can't find it right now in my questions, but there's a huge issue on FAS (fetal alcohol syndrome) and FAE (fetal alcohol effects). And I'll come back to that, but that's why I'm asking the questions if you met with stakeholders such as people and discussed those two issues. But I want to come back to that with a little bit more thorough question later.

Mr. Minister, it's our understanding that some of the changes are more significant changes when comparing the old Act to the new federal Act. There's significantly less incarceration time for seemingly less serious offences, while the more serious ones will be looked at with a combination of incarceration and intensive rehabilitation and reintegration programs.

How specifically will this differ with what's being done before? And how will this legislation provide for that?

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — The member is largely correct that the Bill does seem to refocus in two directions. One is it provides the enforcement agencies and the province with more tools to deal with young offenders who are new to the system, in a large part, or committing what are considered less serious offences.

On the other hand, it provides us with a new set of tools to also what I would call, in a targeted way, get tough with chronic, repeat offenders.

If we take a look at the example here in the city of Regina where we have a strong commitment to community policing by the local police force, we have seen that by using those kind of resources more effectively, where the community policing works on the ground, we have more discretion available to the police and to prosecutors, to youth services, to make sure that first-time offenders, people that are young offenders that are involved in less serious crime, are dealt with in a way that reintegrates them back into the community by correcting or adjusting the unhealthy behaviour that they have.

(14:45)

That's one group. On the other hand what we have also found — and this was not well addressed by Young Offenders Act but is better addressed under this model — is our ability to get tough with the chronic repeat offenders. This was certainly the approach that we took with the auto theft strategy here in Regina, both phases one and two

Interestingly, the study that was done on this showed that where we were dealing with alternative measures for first-time offenders or relatively low-risk offenders through a community-based model, that we in fact had a very low rate of recidivism. The study in fact showed that of the 70 young people involved in auto theft that were referred to alternative measures, that only 8 of them reoffended — which is a tremendous success when you think that recidivism rates are

usually in the 50 to 60 per cent range.

On the other hand what we were able to do with the chronic offenders is make better use of tools to make sure that they had intensive supervision, that custody was employed in a secure way, secure custody was utilized where appropriate. And in fact, of the numbers, 30, 35 chronic repeat offenders that were involved in auto theft, I think today — I haven't seen the note for this week — but there would still be 18 to 20 of them who are in secure custody.

I use that as an illustration of the two different ways that this set of changes enables us to deal with youth — on the one hand with a more active way to reintegrate into the community; on the other hand a targeted get-tough approach with chronic repeat offenders.

That's the premise behind this Bill. The trick to making it work is to make sure the resources are employed appropriately and to make sure that we understand which category youth fall in.

**Mr. Huyghebaert:** — Thank you, Mr. Minister, and I totally agree. The resources being in place is a very key element of arresting crime in our province. But, Mr. Minister, from what you just explained, we could do all of that prior to this legislation; is that not correct?

And what I am failing to see is what this legislation is going to do different because all of that stuff that you referred to was in the past. We've done that, and I applaud the work that's been done in the car theft dealings here in the city of Regina. But we've been able to do that. And this legislation, I don't see how and where this legislation actually enhances that because we've been able to do all of those things that you just mentioned. And I'm wondering if there's . . . if I'm missing something in this Bill that says now we can go forward and do more, and I don't see that in the Bill. And I wonder if you'd explain that?

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — There are in fact two significant differences in this Bill as opposed to young offenders that the member has alluded to. First of all is it puts a greater, much greater, emphasis on using alternative measures which Young Offenders Act did not deal as much with.

The second piece is this does provide us with a new set of tools to deal with these chronic repeat offenders by allowing us to bring them back into custody, into secure custody in the case that they have not kept the terms of their release or have not been dealt with appropriately.

It is, it provides the province with more tools to get tough on these chronic repeat offenders of which, of course there's a very small number of, but they're certainly the ones who I think capture the public attention and cause a great deal of concern about rising crime among young people.

If I might say Saskatchewan has of course a fairly tough approach to dealing with youth crime; we take it very seriously. This is a concern throughout communities. And what we need to make sure is, is we work with communities under this new Bill, that we are able to build in place, community by community, the type of programming and supports that the police in that area need or the local community groups, or the

city councils, seek. So this gives us some flexibility and alternative measures to do that, but it still provides us with a good provincial regime on the chronic repeat offenders.

**Mr. Huyghebaert:** — Thank you, Mr. Minister. Just for clarification purposes, could you explain what defines open custody, secure custody, and I think temporary detention is self-explanatory, but the three of those phrases that are used in the Bill, just to try and explain the differences between those?

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. To answer the question, there are three types of custody that are used, the first being temporary which is, as the member alludes to, like remand. This is largely what the facility in Saskatoon deals with at Kilburn Hall where they are kept until their court dates.

The second option is where we would have open custody. This tends to be, in the vernacular, like a halfway house. The program is carried on outside of the, outside of the facility. The youth would participate in normal schools in the community. They may participate in programming outside of, outside of the facility, but they would still be resident at that facility.

The final type is secure custody which is like Dojack here in Regina, where the programming is inside. The youth are held in a secure environment and not . . . except in special programming situations, don't have direct contact outside of that facility.

**Mr. Huyghebaert:** — Thank you, Mr. Minister. Is there any basic difference between using these three terms under the YOA and under the new Youth Criminal Justice Act or are they basically the same under both Acts?

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — They're basically the same.

**Mr. Huyghebaert:** — Mr. Minister, one of the concerns that has been brought repeatedly to our attention is that the new federal legislation's focus on intensive rehab and reintegration programs, as we talked about and you mentioned, is funding. Yet this proposed legislation that deals directly with administration of the federal Act, there's no mention of increasing resources or funding. Could you comment on this?

Again, I know you started to talk about funding earlier. Is the federal government putting funding in, or where is the funding going to come from for these programs?

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — There is in fact a federal-provincial sharing cost funding agreement that we deal with. The federal government provides about 17 cents on the dollar, one seven cents on the dollar in terms of support up to a cap.

As we were dealing with this, anticipating the increased demand on community-based organizations and the funding arrangements that are going to have to be put in place, we did this year redirect from other departments funding into these services.

The member will recall in our discussion on estimates that it ends up being about 3.4 million that we used a special warrant for recently and of course have redirected in this existing

expenditure year.

So that's the cost in terms of what we're dealing with for some of this.

**Mr. Huyghebaert:** — Thank you, Mr. Minister. During the transition period between the two systems, what kind of problems or issues so far have been identified and how will this particular legislation impact on that?

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — We're fortunate to be able to have time to deal with the officials that we work with throughout the province, through different organizations, to do a lot of training to get ready for the new Act, the new provisions, and as such has been quite seamless. There has not been a great number of concerns out of this and it's really worked quite smoothly. So there's nothing I could report to the member or to the Assembly that sticks out as being a particular problem.

**Mr. Huyghebaert:** — Thank you, Mr. Minister. Section 4 of the Bill concerns facilities and that it says:

The minister may (and I quote) establish, maintain and operate any facilities that . . . (are considered) advisable to provide for necessary custody, detention, support and education of persons to whom youth justice services are provided.

How many facilities for youth justice services are there in Saskatchewan?

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — Mr. Chairman, there are about 12 locations that we have for facilities and they're split evenly between open and secure custody.

**Mr. Huyghebaert:** — Mr. Minister, with the new legislation aiming for less incarceration and more rehab and reintegration within the community, is there . . . do you foresee a need that some of these facilities may have to be adapted, changed to accommodate the new legislation?

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — I think in some ways, Mr. Chairman, it's a little too early to tell. There does seem to be a slight decrease in terms of the number of youth involved who are incarcerated. Whether that is a direct result of this Bill or other actions that have been taken, it's too early to tell; and whether that's sustainable or not, again it's a bit early.

It does appear though that there seems to be a bit of a downward trend over the past year for that. It's something we'll have to take a look at as we move forward. But at this point I don't anticipate it'll have a significant impact on the array of facilities that we have throughout the province.

**Mr. Huyghebaert:** — I take from that, Mr. Minister, that there's no plans to establish any new facilities to accommodate the changes required?

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — We're not anticipating that there would be a need for new facilities to be built. There is an ongoing question in the northern part of the province as to how we deal with youth who become involved with the system there and whether in fact we should consider some kind of a youth secure

or open youth facility in the near north area. This is not on the planning agenda for the next I'd say 24-36 months, although I have had discussions with northern mayors about this at the round table. Our view is that the facilities that are in place now are generally well suited for the size of the youth population that we're dealing with.

(15:00)

**Mr. Huyghebaert:** — Thank you, Mr. Minister. Section 5 refers to youth justice services, specifically the establishment and providing of such services and the entering into of arrangements with various people or agencies to provide such services.

Again since the new federal legislation aims for less incarceration and less . . . for less serious offences, is it the government's belief that current youth justice services as they exist in Saskatchewan are sufficient to meet the increased demands of the new federal Act?

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — Mr. Chairman, this provision in section 5 . . . clause 5 of the Act deals with our ability to provide funding to community-based organizations as the member has indicated. These deliver a lot of the programming that young people will be involved in.

There's always been pressure on us for additional funding in these areas. And what we will need to continue to monitor is how closely the . . . or how much funding we can dedicate into these community-based organizations as we look at the impact of the Act.

Part of this will deal with policing. Part of this will deal with the response of the courts. There's certainly pressure on us in some parts of Saskatoon to look at other alternative measures programs. But that's largely what this section deals with.

If the member's asking, is there sufficient funds there now, I would say, yes, that we are able to carry forward with most of the programming. Is there demand for more funds? Yes, there's significant . . . there are significant new programs we could introduce if we had more money available to us.

**Mr. Huyghebaert:** — Thank you, Mr. Minister. Could you explain or advise how many justice service programs are available?

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — Mr. Chairman, I'm told that the answer is lots. And we can endeavour to get a . . . endeavour to get a list. We have 18 different communities with offices that are represented. Each of those would have a number of different community-based organizations they would deal with. I can endeavour to get a list although I don't have it with me here today.

**The Chair:** — I recognize the member for Battleford-Cut Knife.

**Mr. Lorenz:** — Request leave to introduce guests.

Leave granted.

## INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**Mr. Lorenz:** — Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you to the minister and his officials for giving us the opportunity to introduce the school that's attending here today.

Mr. Chair, through you and to the members of the Assembly I would like to introduce 12 grade 7 students from the school of Chief Mistawasis from Leask that are in your east gallery. They are here with teachers and chaperones, Janelle Badger, Deanne Johnstone, Nick Postnikoff, Linda Johnstone. They are here to view proceedings this afternoon and have also taken a bit of a tour of the Legislative Building, and I'll be meeting with them later.

So if you join me in welcoming them here this afternoon.

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

**The Chair:** — Why is the member on his feet?

**Mr. Goulet:** — I'd like to introduce guests, with leave.

Leave granted.

**Mr. Goulet:** — Yes, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and members of the legislature, I'd like as well to join the member in regards to introducing here the students from — and the teachers and chaperones — from Mistawasis.

Mr. Speaker, Deputy Speaker, and members, I would like to say a few words in Cree. And of course in Cree we say Ta wow, you know, for you're welcome to the legislature.

(The hon. member spoke for a time in Cree.)

It is always a tremendous pleasure to have members, you know, of First Nations, you know, come over to the House and see the proceedings of the House.

(The hon. member spoke for a time in Cree.)

We thank you for coming over.

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

## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

### Bill No. 8 — The Youth Justice Administration Act (continued)

#### Clause 1

**Mr. Huyghebaert:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Chair of Committees. I also would like to welcome the group to the legislature this afternoon. What we're doing right now is called Committee of the Whole. And this is where we debate a Bill prior to its final reading and we have the opportunity to question the minister and his officials about the contents of the Bill. And that's the process we're going through right at the moment.

Mr. Minister, a number of well-known and highly regarded

public figures have expressed their concerns that the current programs and services available for young offenders have fallen far short of meeting the needs of this group. And they say the young people suffering from the effects of FAS and FAE are simply not receiving the levels of programs and services within the justice system they require.

And we talked about . . . I mentioned a little earlier about FAS and FAE, but with respect to this section — section 5 — there is no mention of this and I'm wondering why. It seems like a little bit vague and open-ended but I'm really wondering why there's no mention of programming for FAS and FAE in this section.

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — Mr. Chairman, one of the reasons we have not specifically articulated FAS/FAE/FASD (fetal alcohol syndrome/fetal alcohol effects/fetal alcohol spectrum disorder) as within this particular Bill is largely because we don't articulate our programming in the legislation for any one particular illness. We also would not deal with a particular treatment for schizophrenia or other addictions or these kind of issues.

We have in fact over the last number of years been working with our officials within the youth system to be able to better identify and deal with children with FAS/FAE/FASD problems.

Identification of this is often a difficult thing and there tends to have been — as I understand — within the system debate over the past several years as to what might have been previously diagnosed as attention deficit disorder may now in fact be better described as FASD condition. So part of what we've been doing is working on a professional basis with people, with youth workers to better identify the needs.

The programming laid out within the system is one that doesn't deal with youth in a categorical way but rather deals with the treatment plans on a one-to-one basis. For instance, where there is not an FASD situation, it may be needing to have a tailored education program, tailored employment program, behaviour management issues, anger management, addictions issues. These are largely dealt with in a very sophisticated way and an individual way within the system.

So that is why we have not articulated specifically treatment or resources to this although it is very much an issue that we are aware of.

Part of what is happening now within the youth justice community is trying to get a better understanding on the numbers and the treatment options for this. We could get into quite a long discussion in here, I think, about what is appropriate, but it's generally accepted that a highly regimented and a standardized routine is helpful in terms of dealing with this particular . . . or managing the behaviour of children with FAS- or FAE-type conditions.

So we haven't articulated here. We are nevertheless certainly aware of it and we're working with the health services community on ways to deal with it within the correctional system and then also on a community-based approach.

**Mr. Huyghebaert:** — Thank you, Mr. Minister, because this is

a problem — FAS/FAE — as we know about. A lot of these young people really don't realize that they're doing anything wrong. And there's definitely treatment that's required.

I've had some dealings with FAS/FAE and if we just simply lock them up and follow the rules that are laid down — as I see in the new justice Act they're treated just like the other inmates — and they're not receiving maybe the corrective services or the services that they might need.

But, Mr. Minister, this also goes along with other aspects of our youth society also, like there's an overrepresentation of Aboriginal youth within our justice system and how are we going to specifically deal with that? And I don't think this Bill covers that.

And also with our addictions. And we know that the youth addictions centres are totally inadequate. I know we've addressed this in the House the last couple of years. And I think the Health minister had suggested there was 12 beds available, and we've received something in the neighbourhood of 4,000 calls per year. So it's something that really needs to be addressed.

And as we know, how it relates to this Bill is that individuals that are involved in addictions, a lot of time they receive their money or get their money through acts of crime.

And so it's an overriding problem here that could be dealt with, in some respects, within this Bill but I don't see anything in this Bill that addresses any of these particular issues. And I'm wondering if the minister would comment on that.

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — The member raises three very important issues. And perhaps I'll just deal with them in, well as it turns out, alphabetical order, so starting with Aboriginal youth which he raises.

We are very committed to using extrajudicial measures to make sure that as we establish safe communities throughout the province, the young people, particularly as they start to come in to dealing with criminal behaviour, as they start to show that criminal behaviour, that we can deal with them upfront in a proactive manner at a community-based level to try and keep them out of the correctional system.

This is in fact one of the benefits of this legislation is it allows us to use more of those extrajudicial sanctions — sanctions outside of the normal custodial facilities. This will be a very important piece as we work with police and prosecutors to figure out how to deal with this. And it is going to be one that has to be community tailor-made.

For example, here in Regina we've used the auto theft strategy. We've talked about that. That's been very successful in dealing with inner-city youth who have problems or, in the case of Regina's specific situation, First Nation youth who may come into the city and become involved in these kind of behaviours.

In a community like North Battleford that I've had the opportunity to work with over the past year as they try to deal with issues there, we have taken a very proactive approach to dealing with the council, the RCMP (Royal Canadian Mounted



Police), the Battlefords Tribal Council, in finding solutions that work with them.

The Battlefords have an excellent facility there at Drumming Hill youth camp, youth facility, that is very helpful in terms of finding both cultural programming, recreational programming, educational programming to deal with Aboriginal youth.

We've been working with the community of North Battleford . . . or sorry, of Meadow Lake. We're looking at working with Yorkton. Saskatoon is another community. Each of these though we need to take a look at the resources available within the community to find an approach that works with the elders, with the cultural community there, with the policing environment, and to deal with it.

This Act, I would disagree with the member in . . . I may agree with him that it is mute on it, but it nevertheless facilitates that approach we've been taking. And I think that if we see this trend line continuing to go down in terms of number of youth involved with the . . . incarcerated, that we'll find that that is in fact one of the reasons why this is successful.

(15:15)

On the question of addiction, the member is correct that we have a difference of opinion in the Assembly as to how to deal with youth addictions. It is not our view that a significant increase in the number of in-patient spots should be available for youth. We prefer to deal with that through the health districts in an outpatient community-based approach.

I appreciate there's a philosophical difference between members on how we should deal with it. It's our belief that this is one . . . our approach on this side, the NDP approach, is better supported by the community-based organizations and in fact is in better keeping with treatment plans for individual youth. I appreciate the members opposite have a different view and I'm sure we can debate that.

On the issue of FASD and youth who are incarcerated, in fact we have a very . . . I would disagree with the member if his assertion was that we do not have special programming in place to deal with them. We do in fact deal with FAE, FAS, these FASD conditions on a case-by-case basis within the facilities.

These are very . . . They require very intensive and tailored programs for the individual. But one of the difficulties is that it is very hard for us to, in many cases, identify who the youth are.

FASD disorders, as the member will know, there's a spectrum within them. And so there are varying degrees of dysfunctionality associated with the youth and we need to make sure the programs are there.

I would argue that one of the biggest difficulties we are going to have as we see more FASD children go through the system is, first of all, making sure that we can identify them before criminal behaviour becomes an issue. I think too much of the fact is that it's being caught by the judicial system, and not first of all in the health and community systems themselves. So we're going to need to work on that to make sure upfront, before criminal behaviour is displayed, that we can deal with it.

Secondly, the youth justice system is not designed for long-term care. We just do not have a . . . That's not the purpose of this Act. It's not the philosophy behind the Bill. And so we are going to have to, as a community, as a . . . beyond just the justice system, think about how we deal with young offenders or young people who have this condition so that they can be dealt with in the community.

I'm not a believer that simply as they grow older that they'll age into the adult correction system and that we'll be able to house them in the jails and the penitentiaries. I think that that would be a wrong-headed way of dealing with it. This is a challenge that we have and we're going to have to work with community-based organizations to identify that more accurately.

Those are the comments I would offer. I appreciate the member's note that it is not specifically addressed in here but in fact the Act overall sets the groundwork for us to deal with each of these problems.

**Mr. Huyghebaert:** — Thank you, Mr. Minister. And I agree, in, especially in the FAS, FAE cases, and all of the cases that you have described, if we can get treatment prior to the justice system getting a hold of these young individuals we'd be far better off as a society as far as I'm concerned. Again because I believe an awful lot of these young people with FAS or FAE probably don't understand even why they're incarcerated, what they have done wrong. And so if we can keep them out of the judicial system we'd be far better off.

And also, Mr. Minister, I'm glad that you said we agree to disagree on the addictions.

And you may be aware that over the last couple of years I've been spending a fair bit of time working with youth addictions and looking at programs and where they've worked in other jurisdictions. And I would like to see us switch our focus a little bit more in this province on youth addictions and how to treat them. But as you said we will agree to disagree on how to do that.

Mr. Minister, section 8 deals with youth workers and yet there is little definition of what a youth worker actually is. Could you clarify what specifically youth workers will be required to do and what kind of background or credentials they will need?

**The Chair:** — Why is the member on his feet?

**Mr. Heppner:** — With permission to introduce guests.

Leave granted.

## INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**Mr. Heppner:** — Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to, on behalf of the MLA (Member of the Legislative Assembly) from Kelvington-Wadena who is at another meeting right now, to introduce a number of students in the east gallery — from Naicam, 20 students, grade 11s and 12s.

They're here with their teacher Ed de Gooijerand they're visiting Regina and the Legislative buildings. And they're going

to spend some time just watching what happens here and do a tour of the building and get their photo taken. And I'm going to have the privilege of meeting with them for a short period of time at about 3:45.

So would all members join me in welcoming these grade 11 and 12 students from Naicam to our Assembly this afternoon.

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

### COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

#### Bill No. 8 — The Youth Justice Administration Act (continued)

##### Clause 1

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. I of course want to join with the members opposite in welcoming the students here today, as they have an opportunity to watch us discuss in detail the youth justice services Act which is before the legislature right now, where we're going through on a clause by clause basis the discussions.

The member opposite has asked me about provisions under section 8 regarding youth workers and what these youth in fact do . . . or youth workers do. These workers really do a number of different things.

This is a broad category that we would use. They may be involved in everything from assessment to case planning, supervision, after-custody work with youth; they are often involved with interagency work. It's a bit of a catch-all category that we use, but it allows us to certify who they are.

**Mr. Huyghebaert:** — Thank you, Mr. Minister. And what kind of a background or credentials are required by these youth workers? It might be a question you may not be able to answer but wondering how many youth workers there are in the province? If that's a fair question.

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — I'm advised that there are 104 youth workers in the . . . 104 youth workers in the province. The minimum requirement is that they have a degree in social work and they do, as well as obviously having experience in dealing with young people. And we would deal with additional requirements depending on what the type of program they'd be involved with.

**Mr. Huyghebaert:** — Thank you, Mr. Minister. When we look at the new federal legislation and the legislation that's before us now, and looking at less incarceration time, is there an anticipated increase in the numbers of youth workers or will we be just maintaining the 104?

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — Mr. Chairman, of the 104 youth workers, 15 of those have been added as we prepared for this new legislation. So in fact there was some ramp-up on that.

I should also note that this does not include the youth workers within facilities, the folks that are involved in the custody facilities.

**Mr. Huyghebaert:** — Thank you, Mr. Minister. Is it the department's practice to conduct criminal record checks on those who will be working with those individuals who are at an impressionable age and who are already at risk?

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — Mr. Chairman, yes we do. Both with workers, these youth workers that would be noted in the Act, but we also undertake record checks with employees of community-based organizations that would be dealing with youth that we would have under our care.

**Mr. Huyghebaert:** — Thank you, Mr. Minister. Going on to section 12, it deals with separate detention in that when a young person is taken into custody he or she is to be held separate and apart from adults who are also in custody. Given the facilities that currently exist in the province, what specific provisions are in place at each of these facilities that will allow this to happen?

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — Throughout the province, Mr. Chairman, we actually have separate facilities for youth with the one exception being in Prince Albert where we have the facility divided so that youth are not, not kept together. P.A. (Prince Albert) is the one exception where we have a joint use facility but in fact it is separated so the youth do not come in contact with adult offenders.

Otherwise in Regina and the Battlefords, Saskatoon, Yorkton, other locations throughout the province, the youth are housed in separate facilities completely where there is no joint use.

**Mr. Huyghebaert:** — Thank you, Mr. Minister. Section 13 refers to trust funds for young offenders. Under what circumstances might one, one of these occur? How will they be administered and who will be taking care of them?

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — Mr. Chairman, I'm told that this is a new provision under this Act that wasn't previously in place under Young Offenders Act. The trust funds would normally be in a couple of different categories: one where there's been an estate left for youth; the other being a case where a youth may have some funds of their own that need to be administered while they are in custody.

The administration is carried out by CPS (Corrections and Public Safety) staff and within a set of rules are established and available to the Provincial Auditor. They are, as I'm told, relatively standard in their provisions. And although there are some of these funds, it's not . . . it would be an abnormal circumstance for us to see youth with these trust funds.

**Mr. Huyghebaert:** — Thank you, Mr. Minister. I have no more questions for this Bill but I would like to thank you and your staff for the answers provided today. And with that I have no more questions, Mr. Chair of Committees.

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clauses 2 to 21 inclusive agreed to.

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I want to thank the member opposite for his questions and the officials for their help today, and I would move that the committee report the Bill without amendment.

The committee agreed to report the Bill.

(15:30)

**The Chair:** — Order. Hon. members, please come to order in the Committee of Whole.

**Bill No. 17 — The Land Surveys Amendment Act, 2003**

**Clause 1**

**The Chair:** — I recognize the minister to introduce his assembled officials.

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — Thank you. I hope we're all well assembled today, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

With me, sitting immediately to my left is Ms. Mary Ellen Wellsch, who's the general counsel for the Information Services Corporation. And to her left is Mr. Allan Jensen, who's the deputy controller of surveys for the Information Services Corporation.

**Mr. Dearborn:** — Thank you, Mr. Chair. Welcome to the officials today. The first question that I would have has to do with . . . in terms of section 2, in the area of legal land description.

What is being changed here and why? As I look on the Act to amend The Land Surveys Act, 2000, we get a number of descriptions within the amendment under section 2, but township, range, and section don't seem to be included here.

So that question then is in two parts. What is being changed here, and why? And if the old . . . Is the old system at all being excluded, and if so, why?

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — In answer to the question, Mr. Deputy Speaker, no, the way of describing land is not being changed. And if land is described on a title using the quarter section, and the section, and the township, and the reference to the range, and so on, that still would be the case.

But a definition is added to the legislation defining the words legal description simply because those words have never been defined in legislation, although there are several pieces of legislation that use those words legal description. And this simply provides a definition of what legal description means.

And in terms of this Bill, the Bill says that section 2 is amended to add a definition of legal description with respect to a parcel and says it means:

the land description that is designated for the parcel on a plan and that includes:

And so on. And presently if you have land that is described by a quarter section number in the usual way, that would be the land description designated for that parcel on a plan. And that's simply . . . The definition of legal description simply says that is the legal description and it includes:

in the case of a parcel on an approved plan, the number that

the Controller assigned to the plan on approving the plan

So it includes the number, but the number doesn't replace the existing description of the land; and in the case of a parcel of land of survey that was filed or registered in the land titles office and so on, the registration number of the plan of survey, so that the registration number is also a part of the description.

So in other words if you had a land, the northwest quarter of section 3 in township 5, west of the third meridian — that would be part of the legal description; the number that the controller has assigned to the plan would be part of the legal description; and the registration number would be part of the legal description. So all of those things would form part of the legal description and so on. Thank you.

**Mr. Dearborn:** — To the minister. Possibly you could explain to the Assembly the need for the addition of this further descriptive term in a numerical value and what was the rationality on including this. Was it linked to the . . . for the computer system that was going to be handling this information?

It seems that we had a system that worked well here for a good number of decades. What is the reason to have an addition of a legal description — in this case, this numerical formation — and could you possibly provide parallel jurisdictions that have also added this legal description if it has been void in other areas. Thank you.

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — Yes. The reason, Mr. Chair, for the numerical description to be added is partly to accommodate the computerization of the system. But it's more than that in the sense that if you're dealing with a parcel of land that is farm land, let's say, and you're dealing with the northwest quarter and so on, that description will never be repeated so you don't have a problem. You only have one northwest quarter of section 5 in township 31, west of the third meridian.

But that is not true with respect to some urban properties. You may have in Saskatoon, let's say, lot 1 on block 2, plan GU501, and there may be a repetition of that in another municipality, in an urban municipality. So that for the urbans especially, you want to have the numerical number which will be unique to each piece of property to differentiate between lot 1 on block 2 in Saskatoon and lot 1 on block 2 somewhere else.

And it ensures that there is a unique number with respect to each piece of land in Saskatchewan, but that would not be as important for farm land, like I say, as land in urban centres.

**Mr. Dearborn:** — Thank you, Mr. Minister. The next question I would have is with regards to this new numerical number being designated in the description of a property. Is the description of a property now legally void without that new designation? As well, having also you've said, the old ones were complete prior — this is an addition. Is it still legally binding if you had the prior ones only and the new one has been excluded, for whatever reason, on whatever kind of transaction may transpire?

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — No. If it was not included, Mr. Chair, it would not affect the legality of a transaction or a title or

anything like that. The way this clause is worded:

as well.

**'legal description'**, with respect to a parcel, means:

(and then) the land description that is designated for the parcel on a plan and . . . includes (these numbers or) . . . the registration number of the plan of survey;

And I think every plan of survey has a registration number now. So it could be one or the other. So if you didn't have the one — the numerical number, the nine-digit number, I think it is — you would certainly have the other in any event. You'd have the registration number that now exists on every title in the land titles system.

**Mr. Dearborn:** — Thank you, Mr. Minister. The nine-digit registration number, does this digit, does the numerical value of this correlate with the global positioning system to be able to take that number and just derive from that exactly which piece of . . . which parcel is representative on the map?

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — No it does not relate to that; it's a completely random number.

**Mr. Dearborn:** — Well that leads to the next question. Who did the department consult with in making these proposed changes with regards to having this numerical allocation or demarcation as being a new part of the legality of property and having this number being absolutely random?

**The Deputy Chair:** — Why is the member on his feet?

**Hon. Mr. Belanger:** — Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To ask for leave to introduce a guest.

Leave granted.

(15:45)

### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**Hon. Mr. Belanger:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Today we have very special guests in the west gallery. We have the mayor of Pinehouse, Cecile Caisse, who's visiting the city today. And with Cecile is her daughter Corrine. And of course, with both these fine ladies is my brand new assistant, Tyrone.

I'd like to ask all the members of the Assembly to make welcome a very strong developer and fighter of northern Saskatchewan, the mayor of Pinehouse, Ms. Cecile Caisse, and her daughter Corrine.

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

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the minister.

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — With leave to say a few words of welcome to the guests also before I answer the question.

Leave granted.

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — Well I just want to say that I met with them and I enjoyed meeting with them and I wanted to welcome them

### COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

#### Bill No. 17 – The Land Surveys Amendment Act, 2003 (continued)

#### Clause 1

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — I wanted to say to the member, there was consultation with the Land Surveyors' Association with respect to the definition of land, legal description that is before the House today. I can't say that there was consultation with them with respect to the nine-digit number system. That is something that was developed internally for the reasons indicated for the land titles system.

**Mr. Dearborn:** — Thank you, Mr. Minister. When meetings occurred with the Land Surveyors' Association, I take it that they made a presentation on behalf of their organization.

Would the minister be able to table that or, in failure in being able to do that, be able to point out to the Assembly how many of those recommendations that they put forward were taken under consideration and put into this Bill?

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — I don't know right at the moment and neither do the officials whether there was a written presentation by the Land Surveyors' Association, but I'll undertake to look into that and then to respond to the member as appropriate, whether there is a written response.

And if there's no . . . If the land surveyors have no objection to sharing it and if the ISC (Information Services Corporation of Saskatchewan) has no legal reason why they can't share it, I'd be happy to share it with the member.

But at the present time, I don't know whether there is a presentation in writing.

**Mr. Dearborn:** — Thank you, Mr. Minister, on the verbal side of it, would your officials be able to point out from those consultations which recommendations came out of the survey association, which ones they directly felt they were very in favour of? Thank you.

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — I am advised by the officials, Mr. Chair, that they took a draft of this legislation to the Land Surveyors' Association. They asked them if they felt the legislation was appropriate, and the land titles or the surveyors' association said they thought the legislation was appropriate and really didn't have any objections to it that we're aware of.

**Mr. Dearborn:** — Thank you, Mr. Minister. The next question I would have would be with regards to the changes in the definition of property, again under section 2 to be amended. Will there be any costs involved to make these changes?

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — The answer to that is no.

**Mr. Dearborn:** — Thank you, Mr. Minister. Regarding . . . What about fees to customers with this proposed change? Will there be any increases in dealing with the system, having this

third designation under section 2 to be amended?

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — No, Mr. Chair.

**Mr. Dearborn:** — Thank you. Mr. Minister, in section 29 there are some changes regarding monuments. Could you just enlighten the Assembly of exactly what this means and possibly outline an example for our Assembly today. Thank you.

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — Yes. I am advised that land surveyors, as a matter of professional responsibility, feel that as they are doing their jobs if they go out to do a survey and the monument that marks the spot at a section corner or a quarter section corner is lost, they have a professional responsibility to replace that at their own expense. And that's what they normally do.

But sometimes the odd land surveyor, not as a normal practice, but the odd one may not put them on . . . re-establish the monument. And this says that if you go out and do the survey and the monument isn't there, you should put a monument there obviously to assist in keeping property lines well established. And so we're adding as a rule in this legislation that the land surveyor should re-establish the lost monument.

And I should add that this provision is not new. It actually was contained in the repealed Land Surveys Act. There was a Land Surveys Act that contained this rule but that was repealed and what this does is to simply re-establish the legislation that says land surveys should do this.

And I'm advised that some surveyors have neglected to establish monuments even though the lines and points are all run and established, and this provision will require that the monuments be re-established and that will assist in the maintenance of the provincial survey system.

**Mr. Dearborn:** — Thank you, Mr. Minister. Would you be able to outline just the cost to a surveying company of establishing a monument in, we'll just say rural Saskatchewan farm land or ranch land as opposed to being in the city?

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — Well it's a very low cost. You know, you have to bear in mind that this provision applies to a situation where the surveyor is already there, so there's no cost to getting the surveyor there. They are there anyway and being paid for that.

I'm told that it only takes a matter of minutes to actually re-establish a monument and I'm also advised that they actually only cost a few dollars. So there's very little cost associated with it. It's just the matter of, they're there, it's low cost; if the monument's not there, put it back or put a new one there.

And this is a matter of professional responsibility for land surveyors in any event. Most of them would do it without any legislative rule, but the rule should be there to say that is indeed what one should do.

**Mr. Dearborn:** — Thank you. Mr. Minister, in section 34 there are some changes regarding the powers of the controller. Could you just outline what's being done here please?

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — Yes. This provision stipulates that if a plan

is submitted for approval more than two years following the survey, a field inspection must be conducted before the controller will consider approving it.

But that's the present rule, that if you're more than two years from the survey and submit a plan, then a field inspection must be conducted.

But the controller and the surveyors feel that the two-year period is not long enough, and this provision will permit the time to be established in regulations. So that it says, any person submitting a plan, if more than two years has gone by, the thinking is that there could be a regulatory change to allow the controller to exercise some discretion in the matter.

**Mr. Dearborn:** — Thank you. I have one final question, Mr. Minister, regarding section 85. A clause is added dealing with frames and plan proposals. What's your department planning here? Just an outline of the amendment regarding section 85.

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — I'm sorry, Mr. Chair, could I ask the member to repeat the question?

**Mr. Dearborn:** — Mr. Minister, finally my last question deals with section 85. A clause is added dealing with time frames and plan proposals. What's your department planning here? Just an outline of what is meant by this change. Thank you.

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — Yes, Mr. Chair, I'm advised that the thinking of the officials is that the time within which a plan must be submitted to the controller after the making of a survey should be three to five years. That's what they're contemplating for the regulations.

**Mr. Dearborn:** — Thank you, Mr. Chair. We have no more questions and can advise that it return for third reading.

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clauses 2 to 7 inclusive agreed to.

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would like to thank the member from the opposition for his very helpful questions and also I'd like to thank the officials from the Information Services Corporation for their assistance here today.

And with that I move that this Bill be reported without amendment.

The committee agreed to report the Bill.

(16:00)

### **Bill No. 30 – The Pawns Property (Recording) Act**

Clauses 1 to 16 inclusive agreed to.

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — Well thank you, Mr. Chair. I thank the opposition for their co-operation, and also I would like to move that we report this Bill without amendment.

The committee agreed to report the Bill.

**Bill No. 35 — The Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation  
Amendment Act, 2003**

**Clause 1**

**The Deputy Chair:** — I recognize the Government House Leader.

**Hon. Mr. Lautermilch:** — Mr. Deputy Chair, what I'd like, to ask leave of the House to revert back to discussion on Bill 30. The members of the opposition have some questions that they haven't asked before the Bill was passed, and we would like for leave to go back so that the critic can ask his questions.

Leave granted.

**Bill No. 30 – The Pawned Property (Recording) Act**

**The Deputy Chair:** — I recognize the minister and ask that the minister introduce his officials.

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — Well thank you, Mr. Chair. With me is Mr. Darcy McGovern, who is a Crown counsel with the legislative services of the Saskatchewan Department of Justice.

**Mr. Huyghebaert:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chair of Committees. Appreciate the opportunity to ask a few questions related to Bill 30, the pawned property Bill.

What I'd ask the minister first off is if the minister could please explain how this Bill will operate once it becomes law. Specifically, what changes can pawnshop operators expect to see in their industry?

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — Yes, I would be happy to do so. Presently if a person takes a piece of property into a pawnshop and pawns it in most Saskatchewan cities — I think with the exception of Regina and Moose Jaw where a pilot project has been going on for three years where the system contemplated by this legislation is already in place and working — the information about the piece of property is recorded on a piece of paper and every so often these papers are given to the police in the local municipality.

We'll use Saskatoon as an example. And then, once received, the police have a huge pile, as you can appreciate, of pieces of paper, Mr. Chair, and they have to then have someone enter that into their system. And as a result the information is frequently out of date and inaccurate.

And what this system will do is it will address concerns that have been raised by the Saskatchewan police community, and they are saying that they want information in real time.

In other words, if I go into a pawnshop with a piece of property, the pawnshop will be required to record information about that item. If it has a serial number and a description they will record that and that information will be provided to the police right away, at the same time that that information comes in . . . or item comes into the pawnshop or shortly thereafter.

And one can see that this will assist the police with respect to stolen property that they may be looking at or looking for.

Where there's been a theft in a residence for example of a particular item, if the item with the serial number or a description matching the item comes up, the police will be able to have that information that this has just gone into a pawnshop yesterday; maybe this has something to do with that break and enter. And they will be able to retrieve that property, either use it as evidence if required, or if appropriate, return it to the lawful owner.

**Mr. Huyghebaert:** — Thank you, Mr. Minister. Could I ask what groups that the department contacted when drafting this legislation — what groups were consulted with and if it was debated with some of the stakeholders.

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — Yes. First of all I'd like to point out again that this system is already operating in Regina and Moose Jaw on a volunteer basis and with all pawnbrokers in those communities for the last three years. And it has been the positive results of it working in those communities that has led to the police community asking us to extend this type of system throughout the province.

In answer to the question, a working group was established in late spring of last year at the request of the Regina Police Service, and in response to a resolution from the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association. The working group consisted of officials from the Department of Justice; the RCMP (Royal Canadian Mounted Police), so as a third party the RCMP was consulted; the Regina and Saskatoon Police Services. So the Regina police department was consulted; the Saskatoon police department was consulted. Of course the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association was consulted and Business Watch International as well. The Saskatchewan pawnbrokers association was consulted. The Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities and the cities of Saskatoon, Moose Jaw, Regina, Prince Albert, Yorkton, and North Battleford have all been consulted.

I think it's fair to say, as far as I know, that all of those parties support the legislation with the exception of the Saskatchewan pawnbrokers association which does not, but everybody else does. And the police do, and the municipalities do, and we believe that it is in the public interest that the police be provided with 21st century tools to deal with 21st century criminals.

**Mr. Huyghebaert:** — Mr. Minister, it is my understanding — and correct me if I'm wrong on my figures — but out of the pawn transactions in this province, there's less than one-half of one per cent that have been identified with stolen goods. That figure was given to me and I wonder if your figures are the same.

And I understand where the policing services are coming from. Naturally the policing services want all the tools available to them that they can get, but it would appear by this legislation that more onus is going to be placed upon the pawnbrokers than on the policing services. It's driving the pawnbrokers into doing some of the stuff that they already do, but forcing into computerizing it.

And when we look at the small percentage and I'd ask you to comment on this. If that figure is compatible with what your figures are, the less than one-half of one per cent, and the fact

that we're placing more onus on pawnshop owners and operators in fact than we are on police when it comes to the goods that are in a pawnshop or the goods that are transacted in a pawnshop.

**The Chair:** — Why is the member on his feet?

**Mr. Forbes:** — To ask for leave to introduce guests, Mr. Chair.

Leave granted.

### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**Mr. Forbes:** — Well thank you very much, Mr. Chair. I'd like to introduce to the House, and through you and to you to the House, two special guests up in your gallery, Jake and Betty Banman.

They're from Saskatoon and how I know them is through their great volunteer work at our school, at Caswell School. Jake is known for making great pancakes and helping out with the breakfast program. When I saw them up there I thought oh, I've got to introduce those people, great people, and make our schools really special.

So I'd ask everyone to welcome them to our House.

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

(16:15)

### COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

#### Bill No. 30 — The Pawned Property (Recording) Act (continued)

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — Thank you, Mr. Chair. I believe that the figure that the member quoted is the figure that is being used by the pawnbrokers association. I don't believe it's a figure that comes from the police.

I will tell the member this, the Regina Police Service has been using this system for three years and they have given examples of cases that they say were solved directly as a result of the ability of the system to convey information on a real-time basis, and to track goods between communities that are on the system.

And I also want the member to know that a pilot project started in Saskatoon, January 1, 2003, January 1 of this year. And in its February 10 interim report, the pawn project sub-committee noted the following. Now I want to point out this is approximately 40 days, 40 days after the pilot project started in Saskatoon.

The police reported 132 stolen articles were identified in 40 days using this system. And 39 bicycles that were stolen were identified in the first 40 days. Hits for property stolen outside of Saskatoon — hits meaning that, you know, they get the information about the item and it's already registered on their computer as being stolen — hits for property stolen outside of Saskatoon, brought into Saskatoon, matching entries from reporting pawnshops in Saskatoon, 79 articles and 9 bicycles in the first 40 days.

Four hundred and twenty-two customers pawning in Saskatoon have an address and a location other than Saskatoon in the first 40 days; 95 customers pawning in a city other than Saskatoon have a Saskatoon address.

In other words, I may . . . Someone may steal a piece of property in Saskatoon and take it to Regina and if it's entered into the system, the police in Saskatoon can be told that that item has shown up in a pawnshop in Regina.

And I might add that the most popular pawned items are the television and video recorder. So there is great progress made when you have this system.

And I want to say, Mr. Chair, to anyone who is listening, that one of the problems we have in our communities — I'm very sorry to say — is a high rate of break and enter. And most people, most reasonable people living in Saskatchewan know that that is a problem.

And what this Bill does is it says if I go into a pawnshop and pawn something, the pawnshop has to tell the police what item has been pawned and they have to do that in real-time using a computer. And I want everyone watching this to know that what this Bill will do is give the police the tools that they need to identify stolen property that is coming into pawnshops. And we have experience in Regina and Moose Jaw that shows that is the case. We have experience in Saskatoon after a short time that says that's the case.

And if we have this kind of legislation, we can feel more safe and secure because it's much less likely that we're going to have break and enters and stolen property when we make it more difficult to dispose of that property through pawnshops. And this government feels very strongly that we're going to give this tool to the police.

**Mr. Huyghebaert:** — Mr. Minister, by introducing this Bill as pawn property and I understand that your comments, but it would almost seem that you're tunnelling to pawnshops and pawnshops only as being the medium for fenced articles, if you wish.

Is there consideration that your government is going to expand this to other businesses that may be operating in fenced property or stolen property? For an example, if your concern is — and the figures that you gave differ from the point five per cent — is this going to drive stolen property to other jurisdictions and other businesses? And I think we all know that there's other businesses that actually fence property if the property is stolen. But this Bill doesn't cover that.

Is it the direction of the government to expand this legislation into other businesses? And I'll give you the example of jewellery stores. Stolen property may end up in a jewellery store. Is that going to be a requirement under your legislation?

Second-hand stores, and there's a host of other businesses that may be the outlet, if you wish — and you're relating it to stolen property — and I'm wondering if you're considering expanding the legislation into other jurisdictions and other businesses or if it's just a pawnshop one that we've tackled right now and leaving it with pawnshops?

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — Yes, it is contemplated that this sort of requirement may go to other dealers in second-hand property. The legislation itself contemplates that the requirement of reporting second-hand property brought into a business being reported to the police. That requirement of reporting to the police can be imposed by regulation on other businesses as well.

The idea of this legislation, as I've said, we've had a three-year pilot project with Regina and Moose Jaw. And yes, we contemplate that as we work with the community and work with the police, if the community and the police advise us that this should be expanded to other areas, we will consider expanding it.

We're going to start with the pawnshops and if the police advise that there are problems, in their opinion, with stolen goods going through other sorts of businesses and that a requirement for reporting should be imposed on those businesses, the legislation contemplates that. We would not do so without consulting with the community, consulting with those businesses, perhaps doing a pilot project in other areas and proceeding.

And I agree with the member, Mr. Chair, that this deals with one area where there's a problem. We're advised by the police that there is in fact a significant problem. And it may not deal with every area where a stolen good may be sold, I'll grant the member that. But that it doesn't deal with every single area is not a reason for tackling some of the areas. And we're going to take it one step at a time. We have a proven system that has worked in Regina and Moose Jaw.

And the member says, well somebody could take something out of the jurisdiction. Well that's true. But the point is it makes it more difficult to move stolen property. If you have to produce identification when you bring the property in, if that property is identified to the police in real time in a way that lets them see if such property has been stolen, and if it makes it more difficult to get rid of stolen property or fence stolen property, that's what we're trying to do.

And we can't control people who may go to Edmonton or somewhere else, but perhaps at some point we should have a national system.

But we do live in an age when we can do things that cut down on crime using information technology. And to have somebody at the police station sitting with boxes and boxes of pieces of paper and they don't even have time to enter them into any system, and by the time it gets entered the stolen property is sold to somebody else, doesn't make any sense at all. And we're moving on it.

**Mr. Huyghebaert:** — Well I can understand the point of view, but I also understand the point of view from the owners of some of the businesses whereby they do record the information, they do ask for identification, except in a lot of cases it's on paper. And I understand.

And that's why my comment earlier was: is the onus going to be on pawnshops rather than the policing services? And it would appear that your legislation is putting more onus on the

pawnshop operators than on the policing services because you want real-time service and the police can't . . . don't have the time to enter it, so you're suggesting that the pawnshop people are the ones that are going to have to enter it.

And my question, Mr. Minister, is this: that there are pawnshop operators — and you've alluded to it about four times now — of the pilot projects, that they obviously have computers in their system. There's an awful lot of pawnshop operators that I would also suggest do not have computers. Will this legislation force pawnshop operators to become computer businesses; where they would be, by legislation, have to have computers in their pawnshop before they could operate a pawn business?

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — Yes, it is a computer system. And I would be surprised, by the way . . . it's certainly not out of the question, but most people do have computers in their offices, their businesses, and their homes for various reasons. They may do their accounting.

Mr. Chair, pawnshops are required now to record information on paper and give it to police. This says that they will record the information on the computer and they will e-mail it to the police so that the police are advised of the item that has gone into the pawnshop.

And when the member asks, well will the pawnshop owners have some responsibility? You bet they will and I'll tell the member why. Because policing does not just fall on the shoulders of the police; policing falls on the shoulders of all of us in the community. And if there is a way that members of the community can assist the police in solving and preventing crime, that is a good thing. Policing is a responsibility of all the members of the community.

And so if the member says, do the pawnbrokers have some responsibility to report to the police items that have come into the pawnshops? You bet they do under this legislation because we're going to have a shared responsibility. And we're going to make sure that if somebody brings a second-hand item into a pawnshop, that the pawnshop owner knows that the police are going to know that item is there, the police are going to seize it if it's been reported as stolen, and they better make sure they know who brought it in, and care better be taken.

And I have to say, Mr. Chair, we will be unapologetic about that requirement because we are going to work with the police and we are going to prevent crime.

**Mr. Huyghebaert:** — Well it's everybody's idea to prevent crime. Again, I throw back, in this particular case it's directing and forcing owners, and I may disagree with the member that not everybody does have computers. I've talked to various people that do not have computers for whatever reason. I think we even have people within this legislature that are not computer literate.

So here we are now going to direct people to . . . And I assume it's at their own expense; I would very much doubt there would be government money for them to buy computers for their business or to take computer courses.

My next question, Mr. Minister, is this legislation going to



direct which software pawnshops are going to have to use?

(16:30)

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — The answer, Mr. Chair is no, the legislation does not say where the software should come from. And that would be something that would be tendered by municipalities in conjunction with their police services. They would contract with someone to provide the service.

**Mr. Huyghebaert:** — Then I'd ask the minister how do we, and how does he, know that the software programs will be compatible with the police service, that he has expounded on about four or five times here that they have instantaneous service at their fingertips, if there's no compatibility in the computer programming and software?

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — The regulations will specify that software will have to be compatible with the specifications in terms of what needs to be reported to police. And so the tender would specify that the software had to be compatible so that the system would work.

And I would point out once again that this system has been working in Regina and Moose Jaw for three years. There also is a pilot project in Saskatoon that is underway and working as well.

**Mr. Huyghebaert:** — Will the minister and staff be consulting with the stakeholders again prior to establishing regulations?

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — Yes, we will.

**Mr. Huyghebaert:** — A final question, Mr. Deputy Chair, to the minister. Will it be in regulation, or where does the costing of \$1 per transaction come from?

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — No, the reference to \$1 per transaction is not in the legislation or the regulations, Mr. Chair. That is a maximum that has been set in Regina and Moose Jaw, a maximum charge of \$1 per transaction. That will be determined in the tendering process and that will be determined at the local level, what the fee should be to pay for the operation of the system.

**The Deputy Chair:** — That concludes the questioning on Bill No. 30.

### **Bill No. 35 – The Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation Amendment Act, 2003**

#### **Clause 1**

**The Deputy Chair:** — I recognize the minister and ask the minister to introduce his officials.

**Hon. Mr. Lautermilch:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chair. To my right is Wanda Lamberti, who is the executive director of finance and administration for the Department of Government Relations and Aboriginal Affairs. Behind Wanda is John Reid, the executive director of Aboriginal policy and operations. Keith Comstock is the policy manager, policy development branch.

And as well I have from the Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority, Jim Engel, who is the executive director of policy and planning; and Fiona Cribb, who is the manager of policy and legislation for the Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority as well.

**Ms. Bakken:** — Thank you, Mr. Chair. First of all, I realize that this Bill is changing First Nations Fund to First Nations trust, and if you could please explain, Mr. Minister, what actually is the difference between the First Nations Fund and the First Nations trust?

**Hon. Mr. Lautermilch:** — Mr. Deputy Chairman, really, the fundamental difference between the fund and the trust fund is that the trust will be directly responsible to the FSIN.

The trustees will operate more independently from the provincial government but they are, however, going to be bound by a series of accountability provisions which are not at this point part of the current statutory requirements.

The old fund had required six trustees that would be named by the FSIN. The trust fund would have seven trustees . . . fund named by the FSIN. Under the old fund, there were no qualification requirements. And under the trust fund, specific qualifications — business experience or education, that they cannot be holding elected office — and conflict of interest provisions respecting trustees are included in the new trust fund.

As well, the filing of financial statement was the practice with the government with the old fund. Under the new trust fund, they are responsible to provide to government detailed audited financial statements and policy and procedure audit; an annual report which will include a list of all recipients and the amount each received; the management letter issued by the auditor for each audit, and as well the response to the management letter; a report that determine whether monies received by the First Nations trust are expended for the purposes outlined in the 2002 framework agreement; and as well, access to documents that are submitted to the First Nations trust by recipients of funding from the First Nations trust if required for auditing.

As well, under the old fund no specified accountability to First Nations beneficiaries was in that. Under the new trust fund, the First Nations beneficiaries will receive an annual report and additional access to records of the trustees.

Under the old fund the audit could be by appointed auditor which may include the Provincial Auditor. And under the trust fund the audit . . . may audit if appointed . . . the Provincial Auditor may audit if appointed by the government as its agent.

**Ms. Bakken:** — Thank you, Mr. Minister. I believe you mentioned that the First Nations beneficiaries will receive an annual report. Who are you referring to when you say beneficiary?

**Hon. Mr. Lautermilch:** — That refers to the recipients of the funding.

**Ms. Bakken:** — Thank you, Mr. Minister. I realize that. But how broad based is that?

I guess the concern today amongst First Nations people is that the funds are flowing through the Community Initiatives Fund, as well as the thirty-seven and a half per cent that is allocated through the gaming agreement. But there is very widespread concern amongst First Nations people about where those dollars are going. And they repeatedly ask of their leadership — whether it's at the reserve level or at the level of the FSIN — for an accounting of the dollars, where they're spent, and they in many cases fail to receive this accountability.

What I'm asking is: when you say beneficiaries, who are you referring to specifically?

**Hon. Mr. Lautermilch:** — Well the beneficiaries could be and the purposes for the money from the, from the fund and for what it could be expended . . . And I'll list them for you so that you'll have an idea who the beneficiaries could be.

There are two new purposes that are included in this fund, and that is for governance activities and for treaty protection. The other purposes are for economic development, for social programs, for justice initiatives, for education and education facilities, the development and operation of recreational facilities, senior and youth programs, cultural and spiritual development, the development and maintenance of community infrastructure, health initiatives, or other charitable purposes.

**Ms. Bakken:** — Thank you, Mr. Minister. And I appreciate the list that's I believe included in the framework agreement . . . or the agreement in principle.

My question however is: how does the individual First Nations person in this province have an accounting of the dollars — first of all, the amount of dollars that are available through the trust fund, who receives those dollars, and how they are spent? And how do they know if they are eligible for receipt of some of those dollars and whether they actually never receive them?

That is the concern, is that they believe that they are eligible for receipt of some of these gaming dollars and yet they do not see them and they do not receive any accounting when they ask of their leadership.

**Hon. Mr. Lautermilch:** — Well, Mr. Chairman, I guess the amount will very much depend on the amount of gaming revenue that flows through the casino operations because it's based on a percentage. That amount would go to band councils, band members, for building recreational facilities, all of the list of things that we talked about here for economic development, social programs.

And band members certainly have the opportunity to apply to the chief in council with a proposal, with a program, or with enough thought as to how in fact that money might best be used under the guidance of the list of initiatives that I shared with you a bit earlier. So clearly band members have the opportunity to approach your band council and the chief, and that's how the system would operate.

**Ms. Bakken:** — Mr. Minister, is there a certain amount of dollars that are allocated to each Indian band in Saskatchewan or how is it awarded to them? Do they each receive so much and then they make the determination at the band level how

they're going to allocate it on their reserve? Or is it a total dollar value and they have to apply to the First Nations trust?

**Hon. Mr. Lautermilch:** — Mr. Chairman, and to the member opposite, I'm told that that would be determined by the trustees of the fund. I'm also told that it's put out based on a population and a pro-rated basis.

**Ms. Bakken:** — Thank you, Mr. Minister. Well which is it? Is it on population? If so . . . If the total value of the trust is say approximately \$10 million and there's X-number of First Nations people that are eligible, do they each receive so many dollars for their reserve? Or does the First Nations trust decide 20 per cent is going to an individual band and only 2 per cent to another? How is this determined?

**Hon. Mr. Lautermilch:** — Well I think it's fair to say that the FSIN could change the system that they use at any time. Right now what they do is give a base of \$10,000 in terms of base funding, and the rest of it is delivered on a per capita basis. But that would certainly be their decision, not government's.

**Ms. Bakken:** — Mr. Minister, you said the FSIN now are the ones that make the decision. A few moments ago you said the First Nations trust. Is it one and the same?

**Hon. Mr. Lautermilch:** — Well it would be the trust fund appointed by the FSIN.

**Ms. Bakken:** — So then it is the board members of the First Nations trust fund that actually make the decision. They give a base amount — just for clarification — a base amount of \$10,000 for each band in Saskatchewan, and after that the dollars that go to the band are strictly allocated according to population and distributed accordingly.

**Hon. Mr. Lautermilch:** — That's what I understand their policy is, yes.

**Ms. Bakken:** — Well, Mr. Minister, could you tell me then if First Nations persons are living off-reserve, how are the dollars allocated to them?

(16:45)

**Hon. Mr. Lautermilch:** — Well they would, as a member of the band, have the opportunity to apply for funding for a project as any other on-reserve band member would.

**Ms. Bakken:** — So, Mr. Minister, then just for clarification, if they're living off-reserve, they are still considered to be members of the individual bands and they receive . . . the band receives dollars for them. Whether there's 500 living off-reserve or 1,000 off-reserve, the dollars are divided and they receive part of that?

**Hon. Mr. Lautermilch:** — Mr. Chairman, I'm told that the profits generated by the Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation are distributed as follows: that 50 per cent goes to the General Revenue Fund; 25 per cent goes to the First Nations Fund; 25 per cent goes to the Community Initiatives Fund, including \$2 million for the Métis Development Fund annually. That is funding for both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal.

Profit generated by the Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority are distributed as follows: 37.5 per cent to the General Revenue Fund; 37.5 per cent to the First Nations Fund; and 25 per cent to the community development corporations, if their associated casino is on-reserve, or the Community Initiatives Fund, if the associated casino is off-reserve.

**Ms. Bakken:** — Thank you, Mr. Minister. My question however was, the dollars that are generated through the Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation, when they're allocated to the bands, does that include the members of the band that live off-reserve?

**Hon. Mr. Lautermilch:** — I'm told that the allocation is based on the total band population which includes on- and off-reserve.

**Ms. Bakken:** — Thank you, Mr. Minister. So just for clarification, members of the band that live off-reserve then are eligible to apply for funding under the regulations that have been outlined?

**Hon. Mr. Lautermilch:** — Under the policy of the people who manage the allocation of the funds, the answer is yes.

**Ms. Bakken:** — Thank you, Mr. Minister. So when the dollars flow to the band, are they required to give an accounting to the members of the band of how they are spent? Who receives the dollars, how much, and for what purpose?

**Hon. Mr. Lautermilch:** — Mr. Chairman, that would be up to the band council who are elected by band members.

**Ms. Bakken:** — Well, Mr. Minister, the money is flowing from the Government of Saskatchewan because they are the sole owners of the Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation. The dollars are generated from Casino Regina and Casino Moose Jaw.

And you're bringing in a new Bill. The main problem around the dollars that are generated and flow to First Nations trust and now First Nations Fund — or pardon me, the other way around, will now be the First Nations trust — the major concern amongst First Nations people, on- and off-reserve, is accountability of these dollars.

So what is the purpose of bringing in a Bill that changes the name if there is not any further accountability measures put into this Bill? How does this better serve the First Nations people of this province?

**Hon. Mr. Lautermilch:** — To the member opposite, let me again read into the record the improved accountability processes that are in place in the new trust fund, and some of the requirements and the duties that the trustees of the First Nations trust will be required to act upon.

One, they have to ensure that the beneficiary of the trust provide a yearly report that demonstrates that all monies received from the trust was used for the purpose intended. That's new. Two, to maintain adequate records of all transactions and prepare annual audited financial statements. That's new. Prepare an annual report that includes, one, copies of the audited financial statements, a statement of risk management practice, and a report on compliance with such

practices, and a list as well of all recipients who received the money from the trust.

This is all new. This was not part of the old fund but it is part of the accountability process and the recording process in the new trust fund.

**Ms. Bakken:** — Thank you, Mr. Minister, and I appreciate that. The question is, who are they accountable to? You indicated that they are accountable to make a report, they're to file a financial statement, they're to reiterate where the dollars went and to be accountable for it. But who are they accountable to? That is the major question.

If they're just going to report back to the band leadership, which were the ones that gave the dollars out in the first place, how is that being open and accountable to the First Nations individual on- and off-reserve in Saskatchewan?

**Hon. Mr. Lautermilch:** — Let me read into the record, the accountability will be transparent. The trustees will be providing a copy of the annual report and the financial statements to each beneficiary, to the FSIN legislative assembly, and to the government. This department will be working very closely with them to ensure that those things happen.

In addition, the beneficiaries have additional authority to request from trustees, copies of minutes of meetings and other information — as an example, ledgers. The government will be able to access reports that the beneficiaries provide to the trustees as well as copies of the management letters issued by the trust auditor, and the trust's response to such letters.

**Ms. Bakken:** — Thank you, Mr. Minister. Again I ask, will this information be public? Will it be . . . Will the members of the First Nations bands, on- and off-reserve, have access to this information, and will the general public of Saskatchewan have access to it?

**Hon. Mr. Lautermilch:** — The answer would be yes.

**Ms. Bakken:** — And through what process?

**Hon. Mr. Lautermilch:** — Through the process I just articulated.

**Ms. Bakken:** — Well if I understand you correctly then, Mr. Minister, there will be a public document tabled in this legislature that will be open to the scrutiny of all citizens of Saskatchewan.

**Hon. Mr. Lautermilch:** — There won't be anything tabled specifically in the legislature but it will be public information as I indicated.

**Ms. Bakken:** — Mr. Minister, you indicated that there would be open disclosure of this fund. Now if that is not through the legislature, if it is not tabled through the legislature, how is it going to become a public document and open to the scrutiny of all members of the province of Saskatchewan, all people living here and in particular First Nations people who have been asking for this accountability for years?

**Hon. Mr. Lautermilch:** — In the same way the annual report of any oil company. These are all documents that we indicated will be made public. The accountability will go from the trustees who will be providing a copy of the annual report and financial statements to each beneficiary — to each beneficiary, which couldn't be made more public — to the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian legislative assembly, and to the government.

In addition the beneficiaries have the authority, the additional authority to request from the trustees the copies of minutes of meetings and other information, ledgers; the government will be able to access reports that the beneficiaries provide to the trustees as well as copies of the management letters issued by the trust auditor and by the trust's response to such letters. So the beneficiaries will have all of the information that I've just articulated for you.

Those will be documents that will be made widely public around this province, and I have no reason to assume that this increased accountability would not or should not be agreed to. As I indicated, this is much, much more stringent than the process under the old fund.

And I don't want to read the list of things that have tightened the accountability up because I've already read them into the record, so I don't think I should do that again. But I want to say that this will be a much more accountable process. I've indicated to you that there is transparency to the beneficiaries, to the FSIN, to the legislative assembly of the FSIN, and to the government.

We have no reason to assume that if a member of the opposition requested the information, that it would be made available. These are public documents. I'm sure dozens of people around this province would have all of the information that I've articulated here.

**Ms. Bakken:** — Thank you, Mr. Minister. Well, Mr. Minister, you've indicated that the beneficiaries will receive whatever information they require or that they ask for. How does that help the people that are on the outside looking in and are the ones that are concerned about where these dollars are flowing?

That's very fine to say, well the one that received the money and the trustees that awarded the money have this interchange of information. What about the people on the outside looking in that are asking where are the dollars from gaming in Saskatchewan going?

Because I live on the reserve or I live off-reserve in Regina or Saskatoon or P.A. and I fail to see one of these dollars and I have no way to access them, I have no way to receive accountability. I go to my leadership and I ask for an accounting and I receive none. I go to the government and I receive none.

What they want to know is, if you are going to change this Act, how are you going to make it so that the dollars are more accountable? How are they going to have an understanding of where they're going? And how are the First Nations people in this province going to benefit from this change in this Act?

**Hon. Mr. Lautermilch:** — Mr. Chairman, I would want to say that individual band members have the ability to contact their elected people, the same as people who live in the city of Regina have the opportunity to have access to their elected people. And that would be how the accountability process would work on a reserve, whether it was a reserve member who lived on-reserve or lived off of reserve.

The other component of this, I'd want to say, is that, you know, I mean they have their elections as we do in the province and as we do in this country and they have access to their officials through the electoral process. And I think the member would know that.

So I think what is written into this new agreement is a great deal more transparency. And this Act accounts for a great deal more transparency in all of the areas that I've indicated to you.

Mr. Chairman, I see that the hour is 5 o'clock, past 5 o'clock, and so I would therefore. . . And I'm sure we'll be coming back to these deliberations sometime shortly. So I would move that the committee rise and report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

The committee reported progress.

(17:00)

### THIRD READINGS

#### Bill No. 8 — The Youth Justice Administration Act

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I move that this Bill be now read a third time and passed under its title.

Motion agreed to, the Bill read a third time and passed under its title.

#### Bill No. 17 — The Land Surveys Amendment Act, 2003

**Hon. Mr. Lautermilch:** — Mr. Speaker, I move the Bill be now read a third time and passed under its title.

Motion agreed to, the Bill read a third time and passed under its title.

#### Bill No. 30 — The Pawns Property (Recording) Act

**Hon. Mr. Lautermilch:** — Mr. Speaker, I move that this Bill be now read a third time and passed under its title.

Motion agreed to, the Bill read a third time and passed under its title.

The committee reported progress on Bill No. 35.

The Assembly adjourned at 17:06.



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