



FIRST SESSION - TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

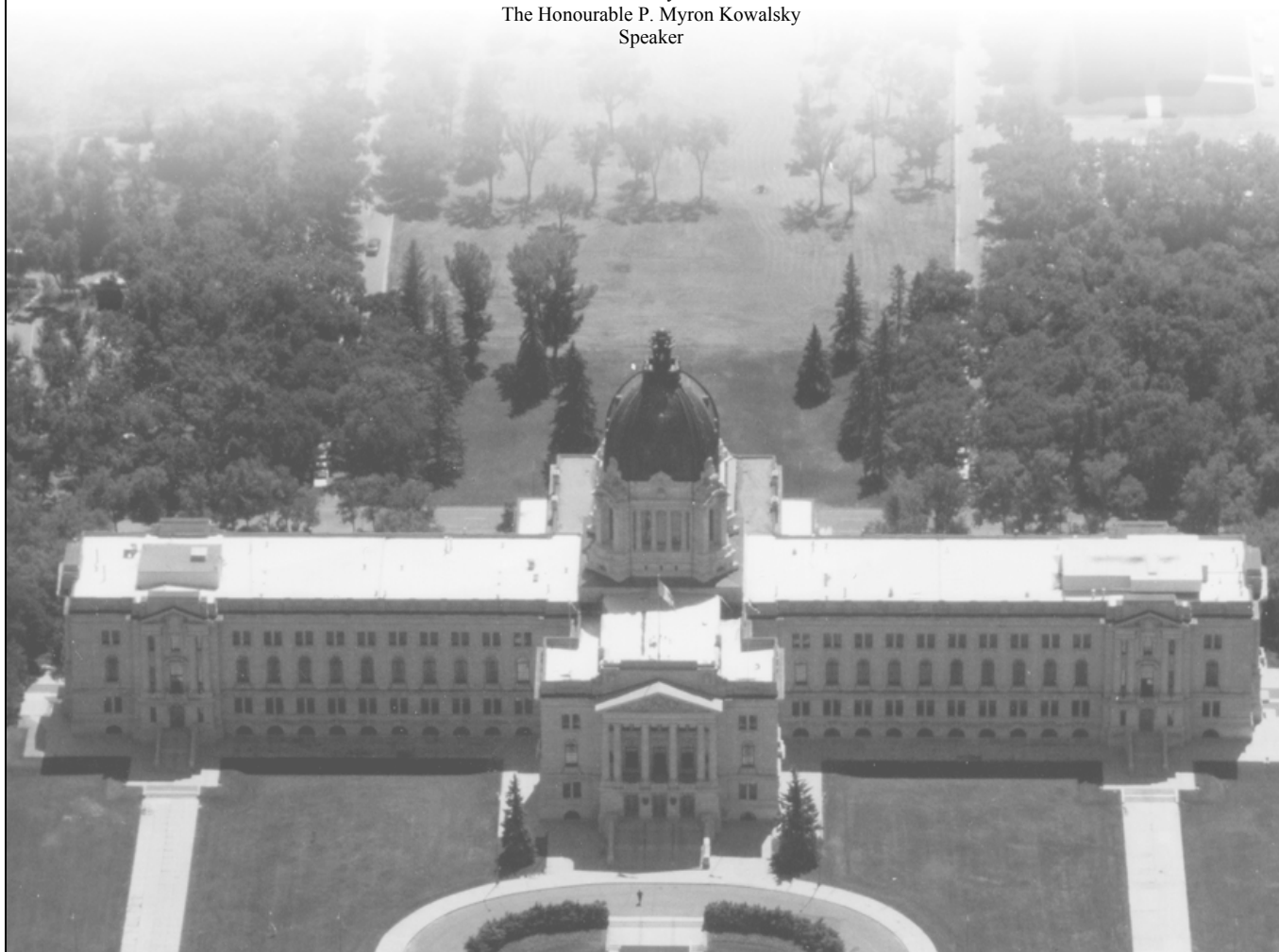
of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

(HANSARD)

Published under the
authority of
The Honourable P. Myron Kowalsky
Speaker



MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Speaker — Hon. P. Myron Kowalsky
 Premier — Hon. Lorne Calvert
 Leader of the Opposition — Brad Wall

Name of Member	Political Affiliation	Constituency
Addley, Graham	NDP	Saskatoon Sutherland
Allchurch, Denis	SP	Rosthern-Shellbrook
Atkinson, Hon. Pat	NDP	Saskatoon Nutana
Bakken, Brenda	SP	Weyburn-Big Muddy
Beatty, Hon. Joan	NDP	Cumberland
Belanger, Hon. Buckley	NDP	Athabasca
Bjornerud, Bob	SP	Melville-Saltcoats
Borgerson, Lon	NDP	Saskatchewan Rivers
Brkich, Greg	SP	Arm River-Watrous
Calvert, Hon. Lorne	NDP	Saskatoon Riversdale
Cheveldayoff, Ken	SP	Saskatoon Silver Springs
Chisholm, Michael	SP	Cut Knife-Turtleford
Cline, Hon. Eric	NDP	Saskatoon Massey Place
Crofford, Hon. Joanne	NDP	Regina Rosemont
D'Autremont, Dan	SP	Cannington
Dearborn, Jason	SP	Kindersley
Draude, June	SP	Kelvington-Wadena
Eagles, Doreen	SP	Estevan
Elhard, Wayne	SP	Cypress Hills
Forbes, Hon. David	NDP	Saskatoon Centre
Gantfoer, Rod	SP	Melfort
Hagel, Glenn	NDP	Moose Jaw North
Hamilton, Doreen	NDP	Regina Wascana Plains
Harpauer, Donna	SP	Humboldt
Harper, Ron	NDP	Regina Northeast
Hart, Glen	SP	Last Mountain-Touchwood
Heppner, Ben	SP	Martensville
Hermanson, Elwin	SP	Rosetown-Elrose
Higgins, Hon. Deb	NDP	Moose Jaw Wakamow
Huyghebaert, Yogi	SP	Wood River
Iwanchuk, Andy	NDP	Saskatoon Fairview
Junor, Judy	NDP	Saskatoon Eastview
Kerpan, Allan	SP	Carrot River Valley
Kirsch, Delbert	SP	Batoche
Kowalsky, Hon. P. Myron	NDP	Prince Albert Carlton
Krawetz, Ken	SP	Canora-Pelly
Lautermilch, Eldon	NDP	Prince Albert Northcote
McCall, Warren	NDP	Regina Elphinstone-Centre
McMorris, Don	SP	Indian Head-Milestone
Merriman, Ted	SP	Saskatoon Northwest
Morgan, Don	SP	Saskatoon Southeast
Morin, Sandra	NDP	Regina Walsh Acres
Nilson, Hon. John	NDP	Regina Lakeview
Prebble, Hon. Peter	NDP	Saskatoon Greystone
Quennell, Hon. Frank	NDP	Saskatoon Meewasin
Serby, Hon. Clay	NDP	Yorkton
Sonntag, Hon. Maynard	NDP	Meadow Lake
Stewart, Lyle	SP	Thunder Creek
Taylor, Hon. Len	NDP	The Battlefords
Thomson, Hon. Andrew	NDP	Regina South
Toth, Don	SP	Moosomin
Trew, Kim	NDP	Regina Coronation Park
Van Mulligen, Hon. Harry	NDP	Regina Douglas Park
Wakefield, Milton	SP	Lloydminster
Wall, Brad	SP	Swift Current
Wartman, Hon. Mark	NDP	Regina Qu'Appelle Valley
Weekes, Randy	SP	Biggar
Yates, Kevin	NDP	Regina Dewdney

The Assembly met at 13:30.

Clerk: — Hon. Members, it is my duty to inform you that Mr. Speaker will not be present to open today's sitting.

Prayers

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

PRESENTING PETITIONS

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member for Cypress Hills.

Mr. Elhard: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. In keeping with the continuing concern of individuals along the southern and southwest portion of Saskatchewan related to health care facility, I would like to present the following petition:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary actions to ensure that the Border Health Centre in Climax remains a 24-hour facility.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

This petition, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is signed by individuals from the communities of Climax, Shaunavon, and Frontier.

I so present.

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member for Rosetown-Elrose.

Mr. Hermanson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a petition regarding the Luseland and Doddsland ambulance services and the fact that the loss of these services will put residents of these areas at risk in emergency situations. Mr. Speaker, the prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary action to ensure that the Doddsland and Luseland ambulance services are not discontinued.

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

Mr. Speaker, the signatures, and there are a number of them, are from the communities of Plenty, Doddsland, Kelfield, D'Arcy, and Ruthilda.

I am pleased to present this petition on their behalf.

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member for Thunder Creek.

Mr. Stewart: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I rise to present a petition signed by citizens concerned with the possible closure or downsizing of the Craik Health Centre, and the prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon.

Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary action to ensure that the Craik Health Centre is not closed or further downsized.

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

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by individuals from the communities of Davidson, Craik, Chamberlain, and Bethune.

I so present.

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member for Weyburn-Big Muddy.

Ms. Bakken: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I rise today to present a petition on behalf of constituents of Weyburn-Big Muddy who are very concerned about their health care services. And the prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary action to ensure that facilities providing health care services in the constituency of Weyburn-Big Muddy are not closed or further downsized.

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

And the petition is signed by residents of Ogema.

I so present.

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member for Arm River-Watrous.

Mr. Brkich: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a petition here from citizens from the Arm River-Watrous constituency that are concerned about . . . want hearing, public hearings on closures and layoffs in the Saskatchewan health care system. The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government through the legislative Human Services Committee to hold public hearings in each of the communities affected by the changes recently announced by the Minister of Health prior to those bed closures, facility closures, and layoffs taking place.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Signed by the good citizens from the town of Davidson and Bladworth, I so present.

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member for Biggar.

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I have a petition from constituents who are against the closure of Biggar's rural service centre Environment office. The prayer reads:

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

the necessary steps to reverse the decision to close the rural service centre Environment office in Biggar.

Signed by the good citizens of Springwater, Biggar, Langham, and Sonningdale, I so present.

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member for Kindersley.

Mr. Dearborn: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I rise again today in the Assembly to raise concerns citizens have in west central Saskatchewan with health facilities. 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 action to ensure that Kerrobert Hospital is not closed or further downsized.

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

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by citizens of Kerrobert, Major, and Dodsland.

I so present.

READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

Deputy Clerk: — According to order the following petitions have been reviewed and are hereby read and received as addendums to previously tabled petitions being sessional paper nos. 107, 166, 167, 182, and 201.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS AND QUESTIONS

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member for Arm River-Watrous.

Mr. Brkich: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice I shall on day no. 57 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister Responsible for the Information Services Corporation: has ISC conducted any phone surveys in 2004? And if so, what company conducted the survey? What was the cost of the survey? And could you please provide the questions on the survey?

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member for Moose Jaw North.

Mr. Hagel: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. My pleasure, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to introduce a visiting senator from the great state of Ohio to you and, through you, to all members of the Assembly.

Members of the House will be aware, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that back, I think it was 1997, that the legislature of Saskatchewan began exchanges and visits with the Midwestern legislators' conference in the Midwest of the United States, and that next year — in 2005, our centennial year — as a result of Saskatchewan having becoming a member of the MLC

(Midwestern Legislative Conference), that the national conference will be held for the first time outside of the United States of America and will come here to Saskatchewan.

The gentleman I want to introduce to you is Senator Kevin Coughlin, and Senator Coughlin will serve as the Co-Chair, along with our own Speaker of the House, for that conference when it's held next year. Senator Coughlin is a state senator in Ohio; he's been a senator since 2001. He hails from Cuyahoga Falls and served as a state representative from 1997 through to his election as senator in 2001.

Back home he serves his legislature as the Chair of the State and Local Government and Veterans Affairs Committee, as well as the Vice-Chair of Human Services and Aging Subcommittee. And with the Midwestern Legislative Conference, Mr. Chair, he serves as the Vice-Chair of the Council of State Governments of the Midwestern Legislative Conference.

I think many of the members on both sides of the House have had a chance to meet Senator Coughlin and his colleagues, and I know we'll want to show a very warm welcome to him, to his colleagues, and through them to our colleagues in the Midwestern states.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member for Regina South, the Minister of Learning.

Hon. Mr. Thomson: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It too is my pleasure to introduce a visiting American legislator who has joined us as part of the Midwestern legislative exchange program that is underway.

I am particularly pleased to introduce — reintroduce to the House, as he was of course introduced yesterday — Representative Stephen Buehrer from Ohio. The representative and I have had a chance to spend some time together today. Regrettably, I spent most of the day in cabinet. I guess I shouldn't say regrettably, Mr. Premier; I thank you for that remarkable opportunity. I regret I could not have been in both places and spent more time with the representative. But indeed there was a good program put together today I believe for visiting legislators. And I've certainly enjoyed the exchange of ideas and views and really do think that this is one of the more valuable experiences that we can all share in with our partnership with Midwestern Legislative Conference.

So if you would join with me in welcoming Representative Buehrer here to the Assembly again today, I would appreciate it.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture, the member for Regina Qu'Appelle Valley.

Hon. Mr. Wartman: — Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity, and feel privileged to have the opportunity, to introduce and reintroduce to this House, Representative Dale Grubb.

Dale is from Indiana, and I've had a bit of time to spend with him today and really appreciate the work that he does. He had opportunity also to go and meet with officials from the Department of Agriculture and get a sense of some of the issues that we are dealing with in agriculture. He is a farmer by background, and is also caucus Chair in a government that has a very, very similar majority to what we have; I believe it's 51 to 49 in Indiana. So he recognizes what a benefit it is to have that large majority in dealing with issues.

It's been a pleasure to meet with him. I would've wished I could have had more time with him today, but on the other hand, I'm also very happy to be celebrating my daughter's convocation from university.

So I ask you to all to join me in welcoming our Representative Dale Grubb from Indiana.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member for Saskatchewan Rivers.

Mr. Borgerson: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's my pleasure to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly, 23 grade 8 students from Meath Park School in Meath Park — it's raining today in Meath Park, what one farmer in the area has called a billion dollar rain — and they're here to visit various sites in Moose Jaw and Regina.

I'd like to introduce — and if you could give us a wave — I'd like to introduce the two teachers accompanying this group, Ms. Bernice McNair and Mr. Nathan Noble. And they're accompanied by Mr. Mark Tendeck, as a chaperone.

I'd like to ask all members to welcome them here to Regina and to this Assembly.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member for Regina Wascana Plains.

Ms. Hamilton: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's my pleasure to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly, 8 young adults seated in the east side of the Speaker's gallery. They're here today from Ranch Ehrlo Society, Schaller School. And they're accompanied by, and I'll mention the same thing the previous member did because everyone looks so youthful up there . . . the teachers to wave when I identify them by their names — Rob Heidt and Scott Landry.

Mr. Speaker, I've had the opportunity to be present at the groundbreaking ceremony for Schaller School. It was an extremely windy day out there, and we were able to break ground using a horse and plough. That day I thought I might end up in Pilot Butte having that experience and then to also have the ribbon cutting experience when the school was opened not too many years ago.

The warm welcome I've always been extended when I tour or am out to visit Ranch Ehrlo and the Schaller School has always

been a welcoming and warm experience. I'm hoping to return the favour later today. And I know there'll be good questions once question period has been viewed this afternoon.

I ask all members to join me in welcoming the group from Schaller School, Ranch Ehrlo Society.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Deputy Premier, the member for Yorkton.

Hon. Mr. Serby: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I am pleased this afternoon to introduce to members of the Assembly, in the Speaker's gallery, friends of mine from Yorkton and those who I met earlier this afternoon from Africa.

In the gallery today is my good friend Maryann Federko, who is a SaskTel employee from Yorkton, has served on the labour council for a number of years. And she brought with her today to the Assembly her cousin, Mathew Tetla, who is beside her; Mathew's father Russum Tedla; and Mathew's mother, Legesit Tedla, both from Eritrea, South Africa.

Now Eritrea's easier for me to say because they're Ukrainian Orthodox. And so Ukrainian Orthodox makes it fairly easy for me to say those words or to pronounce your names. They're in Saskatchewan today to spend some time visiting.

And also both Russum and Legesit have been here since January, and they say that our weather is a little cooler than it is where they are in Africa, East Africa, but they say that it's really nice because there aren't any bugs during that time of the year.

So I want the entire Assembly to take a moment to welcome them. Welcome to Saskatchewan, to Canada, and enjoy your visit here, and the very best along the way.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

(13:45)

The Deputy Chair: — I recognize the member for Rosetown-Elrose.

Mr. Hermanson: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I too would like to welcome Ms. Federko, and also the group from East Africa to our Assembly today. It is a pleasure to have them in our presence. I hope that they enjoy the proceedings. It's a long ways from Eritrea to Saskatchewan, but we're glad you made the trip. We're very friendly people, and I know that you are very friendly people as well. We have much in common.

And we extend on behalf of the official opposition a very warm welcome to this group.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Northern Affairs, the member for Athabasca.

Saskatchewan Well Represented in the Stanley Cup

Hon. Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. All of Saskatchewan was glued to their TV sets last night to watch a Canadian team in a Stanley Cup final for the first time in 10 years. Led by the right winger, Jarome Iginla, and goaltender, Mikka Kiprusoff, the Calgary Flames came within a whisker of winning the championship, losing in game seven by one goal to the Tampa Bay Lightning. This was the fourth consecutive one-goal game in those final series.

Mr. Speaker, there are a number of Saskatchewan players on the Flames team this year: Lynn Loynes from Naicam; Rhett Warrenner from Shaunavon; Robyn Regehr from Rosthern; and assistant coach, Rich Preston, is from Regina.

Mr. Speaker, not only was Saskatchewan well represented in the locker room but also in the executive suites. President Ken King is from Hanley, and four of the owners have Saskatchewan roots — Byron and Darryl Seaman are from Rouleau, Murray Edwards is from Regina, and Bud McCraig is from Moose Jaw.

Cory Sarich of Saskatoon is the only Saskatchewan player on the Tampa Bay team, but the Saskatchewan junior hockey system is well represented on the Lightning squad. The hero of last night's game, Ruslan Fedotenko, played his junior hockey in Melfort and returns there every summer to visit with friends. Vincent Lecavalier and Conn Smythe Trophy winner, Brad Richards, were linemates at Notre Dame high school in Wilcox.

Mr. Speaker, the Flames enthralled and excited all of Canada over the past couple of months. I want to congratulate them on their Stanley Cup run, and to recognize the contributions made by Saskatchewan players to the Flames and to the Stanley Cup champion, Tampa Bay Lightning. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member for Arm River-Watrous.

Bladworth Cheers on Cory Sarich in Stanley Cup

Mr. Brkich: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last night in Bladworth, people were glued to their TV sets, just like most residents in Saskatchewan. The local tavern was also filled to capacity with hockey enthusiasts watching the final game of the Stanley Cup playoffs. But unlike most residents in Saskatchewan, Bladworth residents were pulling for Tampa Bay. There they were cheering on the local boy, Cory Sarich.

Cory was born and raised in Bladworth. He's a neighbour of mine, a fellow Croatian. Last night Cory fulfilled a dream that most kids only dream of, and that is hosting the Stanley Cup over his head in victory.

Ever since Cory was old enough to skate, his dream was to win the Stanley Cup. I can remember when he was about 12, maybe 13 years old, a parent asked him one time what he would like to be when he grew up, and he replied, a professional hockey player. And the parent says, you know, 1 in 10,000 kids only make it; really what do you want to be? And Cory just said, a

professional hockey player.

That speaks to his dedication and determination, and that has carried him all through his young life which led him through the ranks of the Saskatoon Blades, and also winning a world junior gold medal and now a Stanley Cup.

The residents of Bladworth will be looking forward to congratulating Cory this summer, and possibly seeing the Stanley Cup in the town of Bladworth. And I know that all members will join me in congratulating Cory on an excellent career that will be going on, and on winning the Stanley Cup. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member for Moose Jaw North.

World-Class Athlete and Role Model

Mr. Hagel: — Well, Mr. Speaker, I'd like the province to know about a young Moose Jaw woman who is a world champion by anyone's standard. She's heading to the Paralympics in Athens in September, and she currently holds a phenomenal seven world records. Her name is Lisa Franks, and I personally consider her to be an outstanding role model.

Mr. Speaker, many people would say that when sudden illness hit Lisa as a teenager, active in athletics and school activities, forcing her to use a wheelchair, that she was dealt a huge and unfair blow. Mr. Speaker, Lisa Franks decided that life goes on and that she was going to become a wheelchair athlete — and what an athlete she is.

As an 18-year-old sprint specialist in the 2000 Paralympics in Sydney, Australia, Lisa came home with four golds and a silver. Let me tell you about the silver, Mr. Speaker. When the race had ended, Lisa was told that the woman who beat her had crossed into Lisa's lane and would be disqualified if Lisa protested, thus giving her, her fifth gold medal.

Well, Lisa said her competitor was faster that day and deserved to win. And I say that day Lisa Franks became an outstanding role model. She received a silver medal on the podium but brought home a character gold.

Mr. Speaker, sprint specialist Lisa Franks holds the world record for female wheelchair racing in her division, for the 100-, 200-, 400-, 800-, 1,500-, and 5,000-metre events. Last month she defied athletic logic and set a new world record for the 42-kilometre marathon. What an athlete.

Mr. Speaker, I'm tremendously proud of Lisa Franks. She's a world-class athlete and a world-class role model. She's from Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, Canada. And I ask all colleagues in the House to join together in our best wishes for Lisa Franks at the Athens Paralympics.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member for Kindersley.

Great Weekend for Rodeos in West Central Saskatchewan

Mr. Dearborn: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It was a great weekend in west central Saskatchewan for rodeo, and I had the pleasure of attending both the Unity and Kindersley events with all their bravado.

These events took a lot of planning and hard work to get them to run as smoothly and professionally as they do, and I'd like to give special mention to all those behind the scenes who worked tirelessly in preparation for these rodeos. The announcers, clowns, bullfighters, outriders, entertainers, and chute and gate workers all contribute to make the rodeo an entertaining, safe, and organized event.

Cowboys who participated in these rodeos belong to the Canadian Cowboys' Association whose goal is to promote the sport of rodeo to new members, the public, and the sports media. The CCA (Canadian Cowboys' Association) has been a major stepping stone for the careers of many CFR (Canadian Finals Rodeo) and NFR (National Finals Rodeo) champions.

One of the biggest contributors to the rodeo is Labatt's, and on a local level the Kindersley rodeo was presented by the Kindersley Kinsmen and Kinettes as well as Kindersley senior and junior Klippers hockey teams. Unity's rodeo was presented by the western days committee from rodeo. And of course, who makes the rodeo but the cowboys and cowgirls who participate in each of the events. And these athletes are a mix of talent, expertise, and courage.

And I ask you to join me in applauding these men and women who provide such excellent entertainment for the people of our province.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Eastview.

Nutana Legion Celebrates 50th Anniversary

Ms. Junor: — Mr. Deputy Speaker, last weekend the Nutana Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion located in my riding of Saskatoon Eastview celebrated its 50th anniversary. Given that a primary purpose of the Legion is to perpetuate and honour the memory of those who fought and died on our behalf, it is fitting that this celebration coincided with the 60th anniversary of the D-Day invasion.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Royal Canadian Legion Nutana Branch No. 362 received its charter in June 1954 and since then has been actively involved in our community from the municipal to the national level, supporting programs for youth and seniors, donating to many charities, and of course providing support for veterans, their spouses, and families.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, last year Nutana Legion members kept track of the number of volunteer hours they put in from May until December. The final tally over those few months was 5,500 hours spent in the service of their community. It is that level of commitment and dedication to public service that

allows the branch to raise in the neighbourhood of \$40,000 every year during the poppy campaign and through the branch trust committee, to donate to Saskatoon's three hospitals, support the lung association, provide bursaries for post-secondary education, and help veterans in need.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'm extremely proud to be a member of the Nutana Legion Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion in my constituency, and I thank its members for the thousands of hours and thousands of dollars they spend every year on community service. And I congratulate them on the occasion of their 50th anniversary. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member for Lloydminster.

Paradise Hill Business Celebrates 75th Anniversary

Mr. Wakefield: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'm very happy to bring to this Assembly a success story from the Paradise Hill community. One of the positive things that's happening in this rural area is the 75th anniversary of Novlan Bros. Sales, an outstanding success story of a family business that is not only a credit to Paradise Hill, but an asset to the whole northwest region of the province.

Novlan Bros. serves the region with vehicle and truck sales as well as representing several major agricultural manufacturers. Novlan Sales is the most significant New Holland dealer in the province and consistently receiving the highest service and satisfaction awards from that particular company.

Clem Novlan, his two sons, Greg and Randy, along with their very supportive families have developed this business into a third generation operation, growing and expanding but always basing their success on friendship, service and satisfaction. The employees are recognized as a major part of their success, some working for Novlan's for more than 35 years.

Here's an example of a business with a commitment to the community, with active involvement and enthusiastic support for community facilities and initiatives, such as the retention and utilization of the Paradise Hill Hospital.

Novlan Bros Sales is an example of a successful story that has survived and prospered in the rural region with a role model for others.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member for Regina Northeast.

Saskatchewan Companies Listed in *Financial Post* 500

Mr. Harper: — Mr. Deputy Speaker, job numbers are up. Scotiabank is predicting a solid growth for Saskatchewan this year and there's more good news for our provincial economy.

Last week *The Financial Post* released its list of the top 100 . . . pardon me, 500 corporations in Canada and Saskatchewan was

very well represented.

Federated Co-op was the largest Saskatchewan company on that list with annual revenues of \$3.6 billion and a return on the shareholders' equity of almost 35 per cent.

IPSCO here from Regina was one of the top 10 general manufacturers in Canada last year, posting almost \$2 billion in revenue. And Canpotex, a Saskatoon-based offshore potash exporter, had \$1.3 billion in revenues.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Saskatchewan Crown corporations were very well represented on that list. SaskTel was ranked the sixth largest telecommunications company in Canada with almost \$1 billion in revenue. SaskPower was the 25th largest Crown, up from 27th in 2002.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to congratulate the management and the staff of all of these companies for their achievements. But I also want to pay special recognition to the dedicated employees of Saskatchewan Crown corporations who do, through their hard work, ensure our Saskatchewan Crown corporations' continued success.

Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

ORAL QUESTIONS

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Process for Out-of-Province Medical Referrals

Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Minister of Health gets indignant when we raise health cases on behalf of the people of the province here in the legislature.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, none of these people come to the Saskatchewan Party first. They often obviously approach their health care providers first. Sometimes they go to their districts. Sometimes they themselves go to the department or the ministers' offices. And sometimes they come to the opposition when they're frustrated or maybe even when they want to get a message out to the rest of the province.

Yesterday the minister said and I quote:

... it's always a challenge when these issues are raised in the House by the opposition first before they raise them with my office.

Mr. Speaker, Kathryn Wipf's case was first brought to our attention on May 27 in a letter from MP (Member of Parliament) Carol Skelton. Actually we only got a copy of that letter though because that letter was sent to our Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker, in light of what the minister had to say yesterday in this Assembly, will he highlight for all members here and for the Wipf family what action did he take after he received the

letter then on May 27?

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, the information did come to our office on the 27th, and it was immediately attended to, to make sure that the processes were in place. And the process was to make sure that the appropriate information from the Mayo Clinic was available to the people. That letter went out on June 1 to request the information. The information came by Friday and the process was approved.

Last week, Mr. Speaker, I think it was on the Tuesday when this issue was raised by the member opposite, I think we can all recall that he said he had just heard about this case in the morning in his office; now he says he heard about it the previous week.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Minister of Health will confirm for the Assembly, tell the people of the province, what does he think is appropriate then? Is it appropriate for the residents of this province, the taxpayers, clients of our health care system to come forward at their choosing to have their issues raised in the Legislative Assembly by the opposition — sometimes to get action, sometimes to let others in the province know that they ought not to trust this system if they're having difficulties.

Does he agree that that is proper, completely meet and right for the people of this province to do?

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, I think it's appropriate that when people have problems that they can raise those in any way that they wish, and if it comes through the members opposite that's fine. But what I don't always appreciate is the fact that the members opposite will hear about something and then wait a number of days or weeks and then surprise . . . in the House.

And, Mr. Speaker, I've instituted a policy this morning where my office will phone the government caucus office and ask them if they have any cases that are there . . . or the opposition caucus offices, Mr. Speaker. And we'll ask in the morning because that will give us a bit more time to get ready for some of these kinds of cases.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

(14:00)

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Wall: — Well we encourage the minister to ask if he wants and we will choose the best way to raise issues on behalf of the people of this province, help to get them either action or help them to get their message out to the rest of the province.

One question though that has not been answered in all of this by the Minister of Health, is the important question of the out-of-province referral system. Over the last number of months in this session we have brought forward more than just the Wipf case that highlight what is obviously wrong with the system; that either doctors aren't aware of the procedures, aren't aware of what role they can play, patients are unsure of the out-of-province referral system.

Will the minister now answer that question clearly and directly? Is he prepared to review for the sake of improving, the out-of-province referral system in the province of Saskatchewan?

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, one of the cardinal rules of a quality health care system, or a quality any kind of system, is continual review. When a problem arises you look at it see if there's an issue, and continue to do that. Mr. Speaker, we do that with this particular process.

What I would say, Mr. Speaker, is that under our Canadian . . . or under our Saskatchewan health care system, but as part of our Canadian health care system, we first look for providing the medical care and health care in the province of Saskatchewan because we think it's important that we provide as many services as possible for our Saskatchewan people.

Then we seek assistance from outside of Saskatchewan elsewhere in Canada. When there are situations where we do have to go out of Canada to the United States or sometimes even to Europe, those are extremely tricky cases, extremely difficult cases and, Mr. Speaker, we then rely on the medical professionals to take the best steps possible to get the best care for the people involved.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member for Melfort.

Emergency Room Services at Saskatoon Hospitals

Mr. Gantfoer: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Health. In April of this year the Saskatchewan Party asked for an independent inquiry into the staffing issues at Royal University Hospital emergency room after the firing of Dr. Jon Witt.

This government and the district's response was to hire an Alberta consultant, Dr. Larry Ohlhauser to evaluate emergency service at all three Saskatoon hospitals. To the minister: While the Saskatoon Health Region hasn't committed to releasing the Ohlhauser report to the public, will the minister indicate if it's his intention that these results be made public?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, these reports and work that is being done in Saskatoon is being done by the Saskatoon Health Authority. I know that they're doing that because of

public concern, and it would be my understanding that the findings of the report would be public for further public discussion and further illumination on whatever the challenges are. But I think it's going to take a while longer before these reports are ready and we look forward to seeing what the results are ourselves.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member for Melfort.

Mr. Gantfoer: — Mr. Deputy Speaker, the preliminary reports from this incident indicate that 88 patients died within 48 hours of being admitted to the emergency room at Royal University Hospital. Dr. Alan Drummond, the Chair of the Canadian Association of Emergency Physicians, says the public has a right to, and I quote:

. . . understand what the deficiencies in the system are and what steps are being taken to remedy those deficiencies.

With the minister agreeing today that it's his intention that these matters be made public, will he also indicate what remedies that he is going to propose when they're made public so that these deficiencies are dealt with in an open and transparent way?

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, as I said before, these are reviews that have been instituted by the Saskatoon Health Authority to address some of the concerns that have been raised in an attempt to make the system better, deal with any of the challenges that are there. And findings from these reports or others will be part of the public discussion. And I know we all look forward to seeing them at that time.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member for Melfort.

Mr. Gantfoer: — Mr. Speaker, earlier this year as well, the matter of the 88 potential deaths over a 48-hour period from being in the emergency room, these matters were referred to the College of Physicians and Surgeons, who indicated that they would:

. . . convene a panel of physicians with appropriate expertise . . . to ensure a thorough and objective assessment of each of these (88) deaths.

Mr. Speaker, it's our understanding that this panel that was contemplated by the College of Physicians and Surgeons is going to consist of one doctor to investigate these incidents. And the College of Physicians and Surgeons has not decided if the doctor's findings will be reviewed by a panel of physicians specifically.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, will the minister indicate if he feels that one doctor reviewing the work of the emergency room is sufficient or, indeed, is he going to insist that these findings be referred to a panel of physicians?

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, the College of Physicians and Surgeons has a long, long history of professional oversight and review of issues that relate to their medical profession. And they have the right and the responsibility to set up the appropriate investigative procedures. I think we should allow them to go ahead with their work and proceed and provide us with the information when they're done.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Wood River.

Green Economy and the Environment

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Well, Mr. Deputy Speaker, every day we hear the NDP (New Democratic Party) yammering on about its so-called green and prosperous economy. So it's little more than ironic that this government is now under attack by about the greenest guy in Canada, David Suzuki. Suzuki has joined with Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation in criticizing the NDP for its massive cuts to the Environment department.

He says, and I quote:

Saskatchewan is bigger than most countries in the world, . . . And here they are selling their natural resources down the river. I think there are politicians who should be put in jail for what they have done.

Mr. Speaker, if the NDP is creating such a green economy, why are they getting slammed by David Suzuki?

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of the Environment.

Hon. Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I appreciate that question because you know, actually, I appreciate the insights David Suzuki offers us. You know it's . . . he has lots to say in his work on . . . about sustainability within a generation is something we should be looking at.

But I found this interesting, especially from the opposite side. Last week we were talking about standards over here, and I think it was about health care. And I would ask that member over there, I heard a holler say, just change the standards. Is that their approach to a green environment, just change the standards, whatever it takes? I want to hear from that member over there.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member for Wood River.

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Well I think the member opposite has a problem of hearing because what I did say was who changed the standards.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is just another example of the Premier saying one thing in the election and doing something else the minute the election is over. The Premier went on and on about

his green economy, but the biggest cuts in his budget were aimed directly at the Environment department. In fact the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation calls this NDP government the biggest threat to fish and wildlife resources, ahead of chronic wasting disease, ahead of West Nile virus, and ahead of botulism.

Mr. Speaker, that's really something when the Wildlife Federation says the NDP is worse than botulism. Mr. Speaker, how can the Premier profess to have a green economy when the Wildlife Federation says this government is worse than botulism?

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of the Environment.

Hon. Mr. Forbes: — Well, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I find this very interesting. The last time the member got up, he was joking about forest fires up north. Now he's joking about the environment.

This is very condescending about what young people think is very important in Saskatchewan. And if those folks over there would pay attention to what's going on in Saskatchewan and then have some insights and opinions about things that are really happening. For example, I have not heard a single question about our release of the *Caring for Natural Environments*, our biodiversity action plan that takes us to 2004-2009.

They laugh over there — they laugh. They think this is nothing but a big joke. They get around to reading the paper. They pick up some quotes like he's saying. And I have some real problems about the credibility over there on their stance, environment.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member for Wood River.

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Mr. Speaker, we talk about credibility when they're cutting the environmental budget down to the bone, after they're talking about their green and prosperous economy.

Mr. Speaker, I understand the Environment minister had a meeting recently with the Wildlife Federation and he began the meeting by saying something like don't confuse me with facts, I was told what to say.

Mr. Speaker, who's running things over there? The Premier claims to have a green economy, yet he's slammed by David Suzuki. He's getting slammed by the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation and his minister doesn't want to be confused by any facts. Mr. Speaker, will the Premier be replacing this minister with one who isn't quite so confused?

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of the Environment.

Hon. Mr. Forbes: — Well, Mr. Deputy Speaker, see, it's easy for those folks to talk about not being confused by the facts.

This is equivalent to what they talked about in terms of their environment during the election last year. Here, you see the blank sheet. This is their campaign literature, not one word about environment — not one word. I want to hear them talk about their plan.

They talk about credibility, talk about being confused. It's easy not to be confused when you got a blank page like what those folks work off of.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Deputy Speaker: — I just remind members that the use of props is not permitted in the House.

I recognize the member for Wood River.

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Well thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Well, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I don't believe I saw anything in the NDP's platform about making cuts to the environment.

Mr. Speaker, this is quite a record for a Premier who is promising a green economy. David Suzuki says some of his members should be in jail and the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation says the government is worse than botulism. How can the Premier claim to have a green economy when leading environmentalists are making these kinds of comments?

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of the Environment.

Hon. Mr. Forbes: — Well, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we value our working relationship with the Wildlife Federation, with Ducks Unlimited. In fact last week our Department of Environment got recognized . . . in fact there'll be an announcement about the Great Blue Heron Award for our work in environmental issues. So we've got a lot of good people working in Environment. We've got 1,500 people working in over 40 offices, 34 parks in this province. We've got a lot to be proud of. And I don't really appreciate the comments that are coming across that say, that imply these people are incompetent. No, we've got excellent people working on the environment here in Saskatchewan.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member for Melville-Saltcoats.

Education Portion of Property Tax

Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Mr. Deputy Speaker, on Thursday, June 10 SARM (Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities) is organizing a rally at the legislature to protest the NDP's lack of action on the issue of lowering property taxes.

At last year's SARM convention, the Premier promised to lower these same taxes. He repeated that promise in the election campaign. He repeated that promise again this year at SARM's convention in the spring. I don't believe, Mr. Deputy Speaker, this Premier ever intended to keep those promises. Mr. Speaker

The Deputy Speaker: — Order, order. I just caution the member that he cannot impute bad motives to any member in the House. I ask the member to restate the question.

Mr. Bjornerud: — Well, Mr. Deputy Speaker, maybe the Premier just forgot he made those promises because he told people of Saskatchewan: I will deal with the education tax on property. And it's not happening. He's had time; he had a budget. He told them, wait for the budget. The budget came, and the budget went. Where is the lower education property tax?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, in remarks to both delegates at SARM and to . . . in very, very public forums, I have indicated it is the priority of this government to deal with the matter of the funding of education in Saskatchewan. And particularly, the share of that funding which falls to the property tax base, whether it's rural or whether it's urban.

Mr. Speaker, Deputy Speaker, as I have indicated many times to SARM, and many times publicly, we didn't get into the circumstance we're in today overnight, and we are not going to get out of this circumstance overnight.

What we have done, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in this budget year — if members opposite would care to vote for this budget — is to provide 10 more million dollars in revenue sharing to our municipalities. That brings to a total of 30 new million dollars in the last three years. In this budget, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have put new dollars into K to 12 (kindergarten to grade 12) education of \$18 million. I believe that brings us to a total of \$96 million over the last number of years. We are investing in education and municipal support. But, Mr. Speaker, that's not sufficient to the task. What we have determined through the good work of the Boughen Commission is that we need some very fundamental restructuring to bring fairness and equity to the funding of education.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

(14:15)

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member for Melville-Saltcoats.

Mr. Bjornerud: — Well, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'd like to inform that Premier that it was that government that got us into the shape that we're in today. Nobody else. That Premier, that government.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Bjornerud: — Mr. Speaker, it's not going to change overnight. He's right. But let's start today. He made that promise to people all over this province. Not rural, not urban; he made that promise to everybody. It's not too late to start now.

So, Mr. Speaker, when will this Premier make . . . back up the

promise he's made last spring, during the election, this spring? When will he deal with this education tax problem in Saskatchewan?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, the member of Saltcoats wants to debate when this problem started. Well I can recall in 1986 when I first sought public office in this province, meeting with the boards of education of Saskatchewan and discussing the circumstance that had brought us to where about 60 per cent of education funding was coming off the property tax. That's almost 20 years ago, Mr. Speaker . . . Mr. Deputy Speaker.

And by the way, at a time when the member opposite and his friends were in government. But what were they doing? They were blowing the bank in deficits. They were blowing the bank in deficits and debt, which has handicapped much of what this province wanted to do for education or other public services over the last decade.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, for the first time in these 20 years we are taking this issue on, and we're taking it on with real determination and significance. It means some fundamental . . . It means some fundamental change to how we govern and deliver education to bring about fairness and equity in the system. These are not easy changes. This government has the determination and the courage to do it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, in the interim we have been adding resources to municipal funding and to K to 12 education. Is the work done yet? No, it is not, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Is the status quo on? You bet it is not.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member for Melville-Saltcoats.

Mr. Bjornerud: — Well, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I guess maybe I should apologize to the Premier because we can't blame him specifically for the last 10 years of downloading onto the people of Saskatchewan. But we can blame him for the last three or four deficit budgets that have been brought in in this province. We can put responsibility onto him for promising to deal with these problems and then backing away from the problem completely. SARM is coming to this legislature on June 10 and they would like an answer from that Premier.

And I guess the question today to that Premier is, will you consider starting to deal, Mr. Deputy Speaker, with the problem of high education taxes in this province? You saw that it was popular in the election. You made that promise. You made that commitment. On June 10 they're coming to see if you'll back up that commitment. Will the Premier do that, Mr. Deputy Speaker?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Now, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have made it, I think, abundantly clear that we have set this as a priority of this government, that we are willing to make the necessary changes to bring about fairness and equity, and that we are willing to take the necessary steps budgetarily to put this province in a situation where we can do more for property taxpayers, for the funding of education, for social programs.

This year, Mr. Deputy Speaker, you well know and the people of Saskatchewan know, we put a high priority on the funding of health care. A priority not shared over there or they would support us in our budget. We have put a high priority on education and municipal tax, but we need to make the fundamental changes.

Now if I may say, Mr. Deputy Speaker, our progress, our progress to helping the property taxpayer of Saskatchewan will be aided when we reach a fair equalization arrangement with the national government. We have made that commitment both to our municipal leaders and the people of Saskatchewan. The first call on those dollars, 30 per cent, will be for property tax relief. What we need is the able assistance of the opposition, particularly with their federal leader, Mr. Harper . . . with their federal leader, Mr. Harper, in determining their position on equalization and a fair equity for Saskatchewan.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member for Melville-Saltcoats.

Mr. Bjornerud: — Well, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we've certainly seen the priorities of that Premier and that government. Cutting long-term care beds, that seems to be a priority. Cutting agriculture programs, that's certainly been a priority. And raising taxes — every tax in this province — that's been the priority of that government. So for that Premier, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to say anything else is not on.

He says today the status quo is not on. He told SARM at their convention, the status quo is not on. And yet absolutely nothing has changed, Mr. Deputy Speaker. When will this Premier, when will this NDP government back up their words, especially of the last election and deal with the problems that this province has and tell the SARM delegates who are coming in here, who are going to fill the galleries, give them the answer they're looking for that he will start to deal with the education tax on property.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Deputy Chair, the member in his flights of rhetoric across the way says that nothing's been done. Nothing's been done. Absolutely wrong, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Ten million new dollars in revenue sharing this year, 30 million the last few years, another 18 million to K to 12 this year. The Minister of Learning tells me it's over 100 in the last several years.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is precisely this kind of questioning that is the reason that group of men and women are where they are

today in the opposition. Because you see they just can't have it all ways. They tried this in the campaign. They can't have it all ways. They say you should spend more in agriculture; you should spend more in education; you should spend more in health care; you should spend more on the highways; but in the meantime, you should cut every tax in sight. They promise to cut the taxes of course to their very, very wealthy friends. That was first on their agenda.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, it doesn't add up; it won't work; and the people of Saskatchewan know that and that's why they reject them. And the people of Saskatchewan equally know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that a good, solid plan over time is the way we solve the problems facing the people of Saskatchewan.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Yates: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I am extremely pleased to stand on behalf of the government and table responses to written questions no. 488 through 493 inclusive.

The Deputy Speaker: — Questions 488 to 493 have been submitted and tabled.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 71 — The City of Lloydminster Act

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member for North Battleford, the Minister of Government Relations.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Indeed, thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I rise today to move second reading of Bill No. 71, The City of Lloydminster Act.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I expect that you and all members of this Assembly are well aware of the city of Lloydminster's unique status in Canada as a border city. For anyone who may not be totally familiar with that term, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I will just provide a few words of explanation.

The city of Lloydminster straddles the fourth meridian, and has done so since the hamlet of Lloydminster was first settled in 1903. In 1905, when the provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta were created, the fourth meridian was selected as the new interprovincial boundary, and the village of Lloydminster was split in two. The Alberta portion of the divided community was incorporated as a village in Alberta on July 6, 1906, while the Saskatchewan portion was incorporated as a town in Saskatchewan in April 1907.

This peculiar situation resulted in the duplication of all municipal functions such as the creation of two separate

municipal councils, two municipal offices, and two fire departments. Common sense prevailed, and the two communities were amalgamated into a single municipality, the town of Lloydminster, by an order in council of both provinces on May 20, 1930.

On January 1, 1958, the town of Lloydminster received its charter as the city of Lloydminster and became the 10th city in both provinces. The community of Lloydminster has been considered as one municipal entity — albeit one that straddles a provincial border — since 1930. Providing for the administration and management of the municipality under this unique situation called for a rather unique solution.

Essentially since 1930 the following arrangement has been in place: the legislatures of Alberta and Saskatchewan passed two Acts which, for all intents and purposes, were identical. These Acts were appropriately called The Lloydminster Municipal Amalgamation Act, 1930 in Saskatchewan and the Lloydminster Municipal Amalgamation Act, 1930 in Alberta. The provisions of these two Acts enabled the Saskatchewan and Alberta legislatures to approve the creation and adoption of a document known as the Lloydminster charter, and it is this charter, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that sets out the specific powers and authorities under which the city of Lloydminster operates. Together then the two Acts and the charter fulfill the same function as, for example, The Cities Act does for the other cities in Saskatchewan.

Over the years the city of Lloydminster has grown and prospered in the same way that many other Saskatchewan and Alberta cities have. In 2001 when work began in earnest on The Cities Act here in Saskatchewan, city officials realized that because of its unique situation as a border city and the unique legislative arrangements the two provinces have in place as a result, Lloydminster would not be able to take advantage of the new powers and authorities that the rest of the cities in Saskatchewan would have once the new Act was in place.

With that in mind, Mr. Deputy Speaker, city officials contacted my department and proposed that Saskatchewan, Alberta, and Lloydminster undertake a comprehensive review and updating of the Lloydminster charter. This would allow Lloydminster to take advantage of the same modern legislative framework that other Saskatchewan cities have access to. Since that time, my officials have been working in co-operation with their colleagues in Alberta and officials from the city of Lloydminster to complete a major overhaul and rewrite of the Lloydminster charter and that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, brings us to the need for the Bill I am presenting today.

In effect, The City of Lloydminster Act updates and replaces The Lloydminster Municipal Amalgamation Act, 1930 and will pave the way for the completion and approval of the renewed charter. Once the new Act is passed and the new charter is approved, the city of Lloydminster will have Saskatchewan's approval for a new legislative framework, one that is updated and written in simpler language and is consistent with the types of powers and authorities granted to other cities in Saskatchewan under The Cities Act.

As the process of updating the charter was proceeding, it became clear that the way things were to be done under the old

Act were no longer practical or appropriate. For example, the new Act provides for a new and improved process for updating and amending the charter in the future. This process, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is we believe, a considerable improvement on the process set out in the old Act and also takes into consideration the good working relationship that Saskatchewan, Alberta, and Lloydminster have developed while updating the charter. The new Act also updates the language and modernizes the provisions in keeping with the approach taken with the charter.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is important, it is important to note that the Government of Alberta also intends to update its Act during the 2004 legislative session in order to maintain consistency between the two provinces. I am pleased to report that officials from Saskatchewan, Alberta, and the city of Lloydminster worked closely to ensure agreement with all provisions as proposed. Mr. Deputy Speaker, through the spirit of hard work and co-operation, the city of Lloydminster has met and overcome many challenges to become the vibrant and prosperous community that exists today.

It is in that same spirit of co-operation that today, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am pleased to move second reading of The City of Lloydminster Act. I encourage all members of the legislature to support this important Bill.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Deputy Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is a motion put forward by the minister that Bill No. 71, The City of Lloydminster Act be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member for Lloydminster.

(14:30)

Mr. Wakefield: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And I would like to take this opportunity to comment briefly on the amendments, as proposed by the minister. A lot of the comments the minister made certainly are appropriate and accurate. A lot of work has been done in trying to bring the two provinces together to address a very unique situation that he highlighted as being the city of Lloydminster.

Some of the complications that are very much involved in this city actually derive from the time when Lloydminster was primarily a Saskatchewan city and it was operated under the . . . many of the administrative jurisdictions of the Saskatchewan policies and Saskatchewan regulations.

But as time grew and the Alberta side of the city also grew, there was a need recognized that there needed to be a special recognition of some of the administrative complications that were starting to arise. With more and more people living on the Alberta side of the city, there was consideration, necessary considerations, for such things as a common taxing policy within the city, certainly the ability to administer a single, seamless administration for both education and for health. Those are the, primarily the functions of a seamless community.

Other functions however aren't quite as fortunate to fit into those clean categories. Social services is administered by both

sides of the . . . or provinces on both sides of the border for their own jurisdiction. There's other jurisdictions, such as justice; other kinds of taxation, depending upon where you live, is dependent upon what side you live in. For instance if I'm going to purchase an automobile or if I'm going to register that in the city of Lloydminster, it depends on the side of the city that you live in.

Having said that, there's still a requirement, and the minister highlighted it, and there is an agreement between the two provinces to make sure that Lloydminster, if at possible, can work in that seamless community to the most efficient way possible.

The minister highlighted also the fact that what we're trying to do in this amendment is to put enabling legislation in so that — complemented by Alberta legislation to achieve the same goals — that once the amendments are in place, the discussion on the charter items for Lloydminster can get underway. Because at that point I believe they then become order in councils . . . By signature of order in council, the Lloydminster charter can proceed. And certainly there is a need to operate both the charter and therefore this enabling legislation.

And so while I'm very supportive of the amendments as proposed by the minister — and we would very quickly like to get them into the committee so that we can pursue them — there's one or two questions that are still outstanding in my mind that I need to proceed, and before we proceed, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I move that we adjourn debate.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Lloydminster has moved that debate be now adjourned. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — That is carried.

Debate adjourned.

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 7

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Sonntag that **Bill No. 7 — The Automobile Accident Insurance Amendment Act, 2004** be now read a second time.

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member for Cypress Hills.

Mr. Elhard: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'm pleased to enter debate on this Bill today before us, Bill No. 7, An Act to amend The Automobile Accident Insurance Act.

In preparation for the discussion this afternoon, I had an opportunity to read through the second reading speech provided by the minister some weeks ago and reviewed some comments from interested parties who have called our offices, following

the introduction of this piece of legislation, offering suggestions and some concerns as a result of it.

By and large, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it seems that the legislation does what it's intended to do in many areas. It does provide a much clearer language. It uncomplicates the Bill in some ways, it provides clarification in others, and it tightens up some loopholes that exist in the current legislation. However there are issues that are related to this particular piece of legislation that I think need to be addressed in our time this afternoon, and if I might, I'd like a little latitude in talking to some of those issues.

As you know, and as the minister referred to in his second reading speech, we have two systems of insurance in this province. It's all under the auspices of SGI (Saskatchewan Government Insurance) and provided for in law. But we have both the no-fault system, which was introduced some years ago as a means, apparently, of controlling costs on behalf of the public auto insurance fund, and also, more recently, tort insurance which came into effect just a little over a year ago.

Now tort insurance is the type of insurance that is more commonly practised in most jurisdictions in Canada, and for that matter, in North America. There are some no-fault situations that have been developed in other jurisdictions, but it's a much more recent type of insurance provision.

And while it does meet some basic needs in the lives of people who have the misfortune to require insurance coverage because of accidents, it also has provoked a lot of uncertainty on the part of others. And it's certainly created apparently a lot of disappointment in the lives of people who have experienced trauma or tragedy or maybe difficulties as a result of an accident where no-fault outlines exactly what the provisions might be, but don't ultimately address the greater needs of the individuals who have been hurt or have had cause to make an insurance claim.

And I think the reality of the inappropriateness in instances where these circumstances might exist for certain individuals, the inappropriateness of the no-fault provisions has become clear in the number of complaints that have been directed toward SGI directly, toward the minister's office, certainly toward the office of the opposition.

But maybe more specifically you would see that in the report of the Ombudsman that just was released a few weeks back, where complaints against other Crown corporations by the public have either stayed relatively level or have even diminished in some cases, but complaints against SGI have escalated dramatically in terms of percentages. And it's almost in every instance related to the provisions of no-fault insurance.

When the Act was brought into force in the province, it didn't take into consideration some unique circumstances. And because of the limitations imposed on insurance settlements and claims as a result of the legislation, many people have not had their injuries attended to appropriately. And in other instances, individuals have been pushed through the system too rapidly and injuries have not been allowed opportunity to heal properly. And in some cases additional injuries have been incurred by the individuals who made the original claim.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, while the no-fault system may work reasonably well for most people, the exclusions are becoming more numerous. The people who feel that the system has actually been to their detriment, those numbers are growing. And I think that we need to consider exactly how appropriate no-fault is.

Now in view of those concerns and those issues that have arisen out of the years of no-fault, the possibility of tort coverage was introduced by the government of the day. And I understand that the take-up of customers of the tort provision has not been quite as numerous, not been quite as prolific as might have been expected. But I think there's a reason for that, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I suspect, and it's anecdotally been my experience, that when you walk into an insurance office and ask about car insurance, many times individual purchasers, consumers are not advised about the availability of tort coverage as an option.

And I don't think that that should be the case. I think that the onus is on SGI, having decided to and agreed to provide tort coverage, the onus is on SGI to make sure that their agents around the province fully inform consumers about that option when they come through the doors to buy insurance coverage. If that is not happening, that is a disservice to the consumers of the province, especially those who may not be familiar with Saskatchewan Government Insurance and the provisions of no-fault.

If people have moved to the province from other jurisdictions where tort is commonly applied or employed, the assumption might be that no-fault is almost the same as what they've been accustomed to in another jurisdiction. But it's not until they have an injury or a reason for a claim that they find out that the provisions of no-fault are unsatisfactory to their needs, or to the extent of their injury, or to the possible full rehabilitation of the individual who's been hurt in an accident.

So I would like to make the point today, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that having both systems in place, the onus is on Saskatchewan Government Insurance and their management and their regional directors to positively identify with the insurance needs of the consuming public, and in doing so make sure that the agents of Saskatchewan Government Insurance in every agency in every community around the province is fully informed of the options of both tort and no-fault, and basically compelled to provide that information to consumers.

The other thing we're finding is in too many instances when consumers walk through the doors of an agent to buy insurance, even if they are informed about the availability of tort, there's very little comprehensive knowledge on the part of the clerk often, or the agent who's handling that particular transaction. And they can't explain adequately the provisions of the tort option. They don't know the details, they may not know the limitations, they may not know all of the ramifications of going the route of tort insurance so they fall back to what is assumedly more comfortable, their familiarity with the provisions of the no-fault insurance.

So I would like to emphasize the fact that this is a product that is available to the general public. It was put in place under the aegis of public pressure and SGI has put in place a reasonably good optional plan in tort insurance. Now all they need to do is

make sure that consumers know about its availability when they walk through the door.

Having said that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in this particular piece of legislation, the reason I wanted to talk about the tort versus no-fault options is that there are changes in this particular piece of legislation that do address the relative benefits of the two programs. And some adjustments have been made to make tort provisions fall in line with no-fault and, I believe, vice versa as well.

The particular piece of legislation we have here today does do some positive things. It's important, I think, when members of the opposition are looking at legislation, if they find things in legislation that they can speak of in a rather positive tone, they ought to do that. And I think that we're prepared to do that in this particular piece of legislation because there are some just common sense applications that have been put in the legislation that I think the general public would certainly approve of and would say, well that makes sense.

And one of them, of course, is that insurance provisions will be restricted, especially to people who are involved in off-road activities such as racing or testing your skills against another driver or that type of thing. When people get involved in those kinds of activities, they must clearly understand that they're taking or undertaking that particular activity at their own risk and that a public insurance provider shouldn't necessarily be obligated to provide protection to people involved in that kind of sporting activity.

The other area that I thought was of, you know, practical and common sense was the provision that if you are pulled over and you sustain a 24-hour licence suspension because you are suspected of driving under the influence of alcohol, that will have an impact on the demerits that you as an individual driver accumulate. Up until this time, it was only a matter of people who were charged and found guilty of impaired driving that suffered those demerits and people who receive 24-hour suspensions were not impacted in any respect. And I think that it's only appropriate that some punishment suitable to the crime go along with that particular activity. And if you're found to be impaired enough that . . . or there's suspicion of impairment to the extent that your licence is suspended for 24 hours at a roadside occurrence, then you ought to have some impact on your insurability and your driver's licence and a demerit system that accompanies that.

(14:45)

So those are two areas I think that make perfect sense. There's other housekeeping elements to this particular piece of legislation that I won't go into.

But I think there are some concerns that just kind of jump out at me as a result of this particular piece of legislation too. It may not be that big a deal for the average person on the face of it, until possibly they're faced with a circumstance where this particular amendment or change might impact on them personally.

So one of them, as a matter of fact that just kind of bothered me on reading, is on page 3 of the Bill. It's under the prohibitions

section and it deals with suicides. And I know that there are situations where people who commit suicide are not insured. But this situation extends the non-insurability not just to the individual who committed suicide through the use of a vehicle, but it also extends to the insured's spouse or the insured's dependants when an insured individual commits suicide or attempts to commit suicide with a motor vehicle.

Now, Mr. Speaker, you know, I think we understand why insurance wouldn't be paid to somebody who attempts to commit suicide and fails. But suicide is usually a result of a serious problem, a mental problem. And I think by all standards today we have defined suicide as a mental health issue. And if it is a health issue as such, I don't think that it's right that the family, the family members, the spouse and the extended family of that individual should be penalized for the health issues that affected the insured.

And I really think that unless the government can show good reason why this particular clause ought to go ahead, I think there might be reason to reconsider the inclusion of this particular part of the legislation because you're penalizing the family members of an individual who is suffering from a mental health issue. And I think the legitimacy of this is in doubt in my own mind, and I think the average person would say, that's simply not right; it's not fair to penalize people for that particular situation.

I looked through the legislation in some detail earlier today and, while I think there are some questions that remain unanswered, we want to discuss a couple other provisions that we have some familiarity with as a result of conversations with individuals who are directly impacted.

There is provision in the legislation for changes to the way the appeals commission operates. And I think one of the things they've said, that if an appeal is made to the appeals commission and doesn't move forward within a six-month time frame, that that appeal can be dismissed and the charges that were attached to the application for an appeal would be refunded.

Well, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the appeals commission is an interesting part of this particular piece of legislation because it's been the experience of people who have gone through the appeal commission process that SGI itself is the reason the six-month time frame is not met. There is an onus on the people who are filing the appeal to move forward with it as quickly as possible, but there is absolutely no onus on SGI to move within that time frame. And in many instances we've been told that it's SGI that has not met the time frame in an appropriate manner. It has been SGI that has found one reason or another to delay the proceedings. And there's no penalty associated with that — that I know of — for the insurance company, if they don't meet the requirements of that six-month period. SGI has taken up to the six months to file their paperwork.

And you know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it's human nature I think to get put off by delay and delay, and ultimately people just get sick of waiting and they give up. And I think that in some cases SGI has played the waiting game in a deliberate attempt to out wait the applicant of the appeal process. And so I think that if we're going to have limitations on this, the limitations need to

apply specifically and directly to both parties in the appeal process. If it's good for the goose, it's good for the gander.

I think that's pretty simple logic, and I think it's fair and the people of the province would accept that kind of limitation. It's not fair to expect something of the appellant in this case if the respondent is not prepared to live with the same criteria.

I guess the other concern that has been raised . . . And I don't recall if it came directly out of this piece of legislation, but it does deal with the appeal process. As I understand it, if an individual takes a case to appeal, the individual is not allowed to have legal representation, or legal counsel, go before the commission in making their case at the appeal. But SGI is fully represented by legal counsel. And once again I don't think in the interests of justice or fairness the people of Saskatchewan would find that kind of arrangement acceptable.

The cards are basically stacked against the appellant in the first place. The person who's undertaken the appeal is doing so at their own initiative, at their own expense, and at their own jeopardy. And if they are not allowed to have the opportunity of legal counsel at their side, SGI should also not enjoy that right. And I think the unfairness of that is blatant and would be completely appalling and would offend the sensitivities and sensibilities of the people of Saskatchewan if they knew that that was the case.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I've pencilled in three or four other issues on this particular piece of legislation that I would have liked to have addressed today but I think my time is at an end. So I would move that we adjourn debate.

The Deputy Speaker: — It has been moved by the member for Cypress Hills that debate be now adjourned. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — That's carried.

Debate adjourned.

Bill No. 55

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Nilson that **Bill No. 55 — The Regional Health Services Amendment Act, 2004** be now read a second time.

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member for Melfort.

Mr. Gantefoer: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's a pleasure that I rise to speak briefly on An Act to amend The Regional Health Services Act, Bill No. 55.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the official opposition certainly understands that with the advent of the regional authorities and the structures that were set up in that regard, that there is some housecleaning proposals in this legislation that I think are valid and have merit. They deal with the replacement of vacancies created when members of the authority resign or happen to pass away. And it allows for the Lieutenant Governor to appoint

another person to fill that vacancy for a period of time for a new term.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, there also is some direction that regional health authorities should follow accepted accounting practices as set out by the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants. And I think that that is a good thing as well.

Mr. Speaker, there are some things that potentially have some significant ramifications for regional health authorities and for the health care system in Saskatchewan. They update the definition of registry . . . for diagnostic services registry to include diagnostics so that it makes a more comprehensive and complete definition.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, all of these things, including the ability of the cabinet, the Lieutenant Governor in Council to have the authority to set air ambulance fees, all of these things seem like housekeeping but they also have ramifications in terms of the reorganization of health care services in the province. And we know that the Department of Health has indicated that some of these services are going to be curtailed and are going to be diminished in communities who are very concerned about the outcome and the impact on their communities for this to happen.

And so, Mr. Speaker, in order to let these communities have the opportunity to give proper input on these issues, as other issues are also at their concern, I would move to adjourn debate.

The Deputy Speaker: — It has been moved by the member for Melfort that debate be now adjourned. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — That is carried.

Debate adjourned.

Bill No. 56

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Nilson that **Bill No. 56 — The Public Health Amendment Act, 2004** be now read a second time.

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member for Melfort.

Mr. Gantefoer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think Bill 56, An Act to amend the Public Health Act, is very timely in one particular way. I recall, and I'm sure members in the House remember that last week the first bird, a crow, was found in Regina, then tested positive for West Nile disease. And so we are again facing a summer where potentially this is going to be a very significant problem for our province.

This Bill and this legislation creates some additional responsibilities and authorities for the chief medical officer to have the authority to deal with emergency mosquito control measures. For example, this would allow this individual to order spraying or fogging programs to occur in municipalities — urban and rural, and parks, and things of that nature — if there is a real risk and clear threat to human well-being.

And so we think that it's an important piece of legislation and it is also timely in that if we are again facing the practicality of this legislation being required for the current summer season when the mosquito population, with all the moisture we're receiving across the province, is going to create an additional problem. We think it's timely that this legislation should be considered in committee and we are prepared to have that happen.

And so, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I will close my remarks by saying any concerns we have about the practical details we'll deal with in committee, and we want to see to it that this legislation is available as a further tool to safeguard the public health in a timely way.

The Deputy Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the minister that Bill No. 56, The Public Health Amendment Act, 2004 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly read for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Deputy Speaker: — Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — That is carried.

Clerk Assistant: — Second reading of this Bill.

The Deputy Speaker: — To which committee shall this Bill be referred? I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — I move that Bill No. 56, The Public Health Amendment Act, 2004 be referred to the Standing Committee on Human Services.

The Deputy Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Health that Bill No. 56, The Public Health Amendment Act, 2004 be referred to the Standing Committee on Human Services. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — That is carried. This Bill stands referred to the Standing Committee on Human Services.

Motion agreed to, the Bill read a second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Human Services.

Bill No. 54

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Nilson that **Bill No. 54 — The Tobacco Control Amendment Act, 2004** be now read a second time.

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member for Kindersley.

Mr. Dearborn: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's a

pleasure to rise today in the Assembly and speak to Bill No. 54, The Tobacco Control Act. There are many things in this Bill, Mr. Speaker, that the government needs to be commended for. Trying to prevent smoke, first-hand or second-hand smoke, from reaching young persons in the province is indeed a noble objective and we applaud the government's initiative herein, in doing this in this particular Bill.

This Bill proposes to ban smoking in all enclosed public places effective January 1, 2005 and also proposes to make some changes in sale of tobacco to prevent youth from smoking.

There are many aspects of this that we find on this side of the House very much in favour of, that bans of tobacco sales in youth facilities or facilities that youth frequent such as sports arenas, arcades, theatres, and amusement parks. This is a piece of legislation I think that most reasonable individuals would be able to agree with.

(15:00)

If there is a business that is catering first and foremost to a minority clientele, possibly it's not an unprudent thing to have tobacco unavailable for sale at those venues. Tobacco is also to be . . . sales in schools, health facilities, and special care homes will be banned; and there'll be a further situation, Mr. Deputy Speaker, which will allow municipalities to pass their own bylaws.

Mr. Speaker, there are some worries that we do have though around the Bill. And I have been lobbied by the fair air society, and have heard what they had to say. And they too have concern for children having to inhale second-hand smoke and the damage that this can cause.

One of the situations that could come as an effect of Bill 54 is, in the event that there's a totality ban on cigarette smoking in establishments such as bars, or establishments where you have cigar lounges — for example, there's such places in Saskatoon and Regina — that the persons smoking are still going to participate in that habit, but they're going to do it elsewhere.

And in small towns, Mr. Speaker, it often happens that your local bar is a smoky place. If this legislation were to come in and there is to be absolutely no smoke involved in these venues, aside from the business pain that it's going to cost . . . And let's remember, Mr. Speaker, that this is establishments we're talking about now that do not have . . . do not allow minors into them. But if there's not smoking available at all, there's a good chance that a mother and father with young children that go out on the town regularly on a Saturday night and drink and smoke, that they will instead hit the off-sale, invite their friends back to their home, and have a kitchen party where young persons will be in the house and susceptible to the second-hand smoke.

Unfortunately, though this situation is hypothetical and regrettable, it's also very much a possibility. And I would hope that we look into the ramifications that a complete ban would have.

The reality on tobacco is that it is not a prohibited substance at this point. I don't think that any member of this Assembly would state that it in any way is anything but harmful to the

health. However until it is a completely prohibited subject, it would seem to me that adults are able to make the choice around this. And if businesses that cater only to adults wish to cater to that clientele, and they have the ability to provide the correct technical infrastructure so that the work environment remains absolutely safe for any employees, there is . . . It is not acceptable, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that an establishment allow smoking in it and that a member of the public or of the workforce taking a job should be susceptible to second-hand smoke and all the adverse effects that it causes.

I am assured though, Mr. Deputy Speaker, by members of the fair air group, that such technology is available to completely remove smoke from a venue. The examples were given of the fans that are used in large casinos in Las Vegas, where you have 24-hour activity, lots of smoking, and you have employees in there.

We have a situation, Mr. Speaker, where in our own Saskatchewan there are mines in northern Saskatchewan where radium can actually be taken out of the air through technical means with fans and what not. So in this day and age the presentation of cigarette smoke or pipe smoke shouldn't be a daunting task to the engineers to be able to remove it from the air.

With that being said, Mr. Deputy Speaker, there is no doubt that smoking — all members, I am sure, of this House agree — that smoking should not be an acceptable practice in public places where children are present. That being said, secondly, smoking should never be subjected onto an individual having to take a job where their health may be in jeopardy. Those two points being factored in, Mr. Speaker, if there is the possibility of alternatives to be presented by businesses with the technical means to allow smoke to be ventilated properly, I think it is something that the government should look at.

Until tobacco is a prohibited substance, the reality exists that individuals may choose to do this from time to time. And in the event that they are restricted to doing this only in their homes, it could have a negative effect on children that are possibly in those homes, rather than parents going out to other jurisdictions, to a bar to enjoy an evening and tobacco products.

Mr. Speaker, the other aspect that is raised by this Bill that comes forth to us has to do with cultural sensitivity and jurisdiction between our First Nations and the province of Saskatchewan. It's a basic understanding, my understanding, that the First Nations have a long history of tobacco use, and that I would say that this government should be sensitive to those usages and should be respectful of those nations to make their own laws, governing their own citizens around this traditional substance that they have had in their possession far predating the Government of Saskatchewan or, in fact, the Crown in general in this country.

So with regards to that, Mr. Speaker, I hope that consultation would be made with First Nations leaders around the aspect of smoking and tobacco use for those people vis-à-vis the Bill 54 which is before us today.

Mr. Speaker, I would hope that we will see a free vote on this issue. I would hope that the lobbies that are put forward will be

listened to on all sides. I have heard many, many discussions and have received daily cards from the anti-smoking lobby. And I know that I am in agreement with very much of what they say, especially when it comes to the concern they have for the health of children and for the health of persons who choose not to smoke.

Mr. Speaker, at this point, I would move to adjourn debate on Bill 54, The Tobacco Control Act.

The Deputy Speaker: — It has been moved by the member for Kindersley that debate be now adjourned on this Bill. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — That is carried.

Debate adjourned.

Bill No. 59

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Nilson that **Bill No. 59 — The Ambulance Amendment Act, 2004** be now read a second time.

The Deputy Speaker: — I again recognize the member for Kindersley.

Mr. Dearborn: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Bill 59, An Act to amend The Ambulance Act, deals with changes that reflect regional health authorities and the provision of ambulance services that now rest with those regional health authorities, whereas before there were health districts. The province no longer has ambulance districts or ambulance boards as these were dissolved several years ago.

Under the regional health service administration regulations, an individual is disqualified from being a member of a regional health authority if he or she receives 50 per cent or more of his or her gross income through a contract with a regional health authority or health care organization, or director of a corporation that receives 50 per cent of its interest through contacts with a regional health authority or a health care organization. And this would possibly raise, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it . . . could there be a conflict of interest that could arise around this situation.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, ambulance operators will be prescribed as health care organizations under the regional health service Act and be treated similar to other organizations under a service agreement between regional health associations and HCOs (health care organization) and is envisioned that policies will set standard provisions relating to funding agreements, terms of contracts, renewals, etc.

Mr. Speaker, there are grave concerns in very much of Saskatchewan around ambulance service. I know that in the riding of Kindersley, I have been reading a number of petitions in, around the Luseland and Dodsland ambulance services. And last week, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I was able to attend a meeting in my hometown of Eatonia, Saskatchewan, where the

Heartland Health District had directed that there was a possibility that the ambulance would be cut. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I spoke at that meeting about The Ambulance Act and Bill No. 59 and worries that we had coming before the House.

Part of the rationale in Heartland's decisions to reduce ambulance service from 16 to 11 ambulances, I think in part relates to the Act, in that what they are claiming is we will have better service in rural Saskatchewan if we have higher qualified EMS (emergency medical services) staff operating fewer ambulances. And the hypothesis being that better trained staff able to operate defibrillators and whatnot will be able to reach you and then give you your initial care in a more timely and precise manner than local staff would.

Mr. Speaker, I find that the premise of this argument is completely wrong. Last January, Mr. Deputy Speaker, my youngest son had a seizure here in the city of Regina and EMS took six and a half minutes to arrive, and the care that he got was excellent.

In the presentation put forth by the Heartland Health District, had my son had this seizure at home, the ambulance service would have been called from Oyen, Saskatchewan. I can tell you . . . Or Oyen, Alberta, rather, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And I can tell you that it would have taken over an hour for that ambulance to arrive.

I find it very, very disturbing that on an ongoing basis we have an NDP government claiming that they are the saviours of health care and then seeing the realities in rural Saskatchewan of what they've actually done. We have the longest waiting lists in the country. We are having a reduction of service, bed closures — it doesn't stop. And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, this Act does raise some direct concerns for us around the distribution of how ambulances will be run and who at the end of the day will be in control of them.

This amendment, Mr. Speaker, will allow the minister to request specific financial returns and records from operators. And audit requirements will also be set out that require an independent auditor who is a CA (chartered accountant), CGA (certified general accountant), or CMA (certified management accountant) to audit ambulance operations once a year.

As a now-designated health care organization, operators will be subject to s. 34-37 governing funding agreements between RHAs (regional health authority) and HCOs, and upon request of either party the minister may appoint a mediator to assist in contract renewal disputes.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the integrity of the independent ambulance services could be at risk here in their ability to do long-term projections on their viability as a financial entity. We have very much great concerns which have been brought forth by constituents around community ambulance services. I know that there are many members on this side of the House whose communities have gone forth and purchased their own ambulances, and have run them very effectively.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, as you're completely enthralled with the speaking points I'm bringing forth to you, I would say that these people have a right to have ambulance care. These people

have a right to have timely ambulance service. Emergency service should exist anywhere in the province, not just if you happen to vote in a riding that is non-NDP. Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is appalling if we have a situation where more and more of rural persons are left with less and less service, less and less emergency service.

And I know that we have a number of colleagues who will be willing to speak to Bill 59, An Act to amend The Ambulance Act. So, Mr. Speaker, at this point I would move that we adjourn debate on Bill 59.

The Deputy Speaker: — It has been moved by the member for Kindersley that debate be now adjourned. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — That is carried.

Debate adjourned.

Bill No. 65

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wartman that **Bill No. 65 — The Agri-Food Act, 2004** be now read a second time.

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member for Last Mountain-Touchwood.

Mr. Hart: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'm certainly pleased to be able to enter into debate on Bill 65, a Bill that deals with the marketing boards and marketing development commissions and development boards.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this Bill was presented fairly late in our legislative calendar. I believe the first reading took place only a few sitting days ago. It is quite an extensive Bill. It has some 25 or 26 pages to it; it deals with the whole matter of governance and powers of development commissions, marketing boards and so on. It also deals with powers of government as far as the role they play, this government plays, as far as governance of marketing boards and commissions and so on. And so therefore it has a fairly wide ranging impact on quite a number of agencies and individuals and producers who are governed by these various agencies and boards, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

(15:15)

I noted in the minister's second reading of this Bill he talked about accountability, governance structure, grievance procedures, the power of the minister and cabinet to intervene in the operation of various marketing agencies that we have throughout the province. And so I think, Mr. Deputy Speaker . . . well in fact I know that we need to spend more time and really finding out what this Bill is all about.

We certainly need to take more time and conferring with those parties that are directly affected by this. And also those individuals and producers who are perhaps not covered by the current legislation but are looking at moving into that sector of agriculture that will . . . that is covered by this Act, Mr. Deputy

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

The Deputy Speaker: — It has been moved that debate be now adjourned. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — That is carried.

Debate adjourned.

Bill No. 66

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wartman that **Bill No. 66 — The Cattle Marketing Deductions Amendment Act, 2004** be now read a second time.

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member for Last Mountain-Touchwood.

Mr. Hart: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I certainly am pleased to be able to enter into the debate on Bill No. 66. This Bill deals with the mechanisms of collecting cattle check offs and the way we collect them in this province and forward those monies on to a national agency. And it has some impact on cattle that are . . . originate in one province and are being marketed in another province. And also the viability and the purpose of the national — a national beef agency, an agency that promotes the beef industry and impacts on the well-being of the beef industry.

This whole area of cattle marketing deductions and funding of a national beef agency was born a few years back in 1998 . . . the first Act was brought forward. And the minister tells us during second reading that there was a plan set out as to how provinces would participate in this plan. And things have changed and this Bill has been tabled to bring Saskatchewan's participation in a national program in line with other provinces.

And the minister, I noted in his second reading of the Bill, his speech said that he has consulted with various beef organizations in this province and that most of these organizations — in fact, all of the ones he mentioned — were certainly in agreement with the intent of the Bill. And I have no reason to doubt what the minister has told us.

But I see one, a bit of a problem in the consultation process. The organizations that represent the beef industry in this province, we think of the Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association and the cattle feeders and so on. They certainly do represent a segment of the industry and they do a very good job of that.

But I have to think of the beef producers in my constituency. Many of them, if not most of them, run a mixed farming operation. Beef can play a fairly significant part in their operation or it can play a minor part. We have cattle producers that are running 500 to 1,200 cows. And those larger ones, most of them, depend primarily and are engaged primarily in the beef industry.

But we have a whole range of cattle producers who have not only beef on their farm but they grow the various basket of crops; whether it's oilseeds and grains, and pulse crops and so on. And quite often, it's those producers, Mr. Deputy Speaker, who aren't involved in the provincial and national organizations, yet the decisions and the input from those provincial organizations affect them directly.

And I have found in the past — since the time I've spent in this House — that we have passed some legislation without really making an effort to consult those people. And certainly, those producers have a responsibility to get involved in the organizations and have their voice heard, but quite often their attention is split between many organizations.

A typical farm in my area could belong to the canola growers, could belong to the pulse growers, could belong to a beef organization, whether it's stock growers or cattle feeders, plus belong to a number of other farm organizations, and so their time is limited and their ability to have their voice heard is quite often limited.

And so therefore, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think we need to just take a little bit more time and a little bit more effort and try as best we can to hear that voice that isn't currently being represented by some of the provincial and national organizations. And so therefore, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would move that we would adjourn debate on this Bill.

The Deputy Speaker: — It has been moved that debate be now adjourned. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — That is carried.

Debate adjourned.

Clerk Assistant: — Committee of Finance.

The Deputy Speaker: — Committee of Finance. I do now leave the chair so the House can go into Committee of Finance.

COMMITTEE OF FINANCE

General Revenue Fund Environment Vote 26

Subvote (ER01)

The Deputy Chair: — Order. The business before the committee is estimates for Environment administration (ER01). Would the minister introduce his officials.

Hon. Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chair. To my right is the deputy minister of Environment, Lily Stonehouse. To my left is Alan Parkinson, associate deputy minister. Behind Alan is Bob Ruggles, assistant deputy minister. Behind myself is Dave Phillips, assistant deputy minister. Behind Ms. Stonehouse is Lynn Tulloch, executive director of corporate services. And to her right is Lily Stonehouse . . . or no, sorry, I

take that back. Donna Johnson, director of finance and administration. And behind the bar today is Wayne Dybvig, vice president of operations of the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority.

And at this point I'll be happy to answer any questions.

The Deputy Chair: — The question before the committee is subvote (ER01). Is the committee ready for the question?

I recognize the member from Wood River.

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chair. I just want to stand right now and thank the minister and officials for coming in on extremely short notice. I know we sat late last evening and, due to circumstances that are totally beyond our control, some of the other estimates had to be cancelled today. So I very much appreciate your coming back on extremely short notice.

And I'll have a number of questions, but right at the moment I have a few people that would like to get in and ask a few questions. So I'll ask the member from Last Mountain-Touchwood to have a few questions.

The Deputy Chair: — I recognize the member from Last Mountain-Touchwood.

Mr. Hart: — Mr. Chair, Minister, my questions will deal with the issue in the Qu'Appelle Valley surrounding the water level in the lakes, particularly Pasqua and Echo Lakes since they fall within my constituency.

I attended a meeting that some of your officials were at in Fort Qu'Appelle on the May long weekend, and there was officials from the federal government there. And I must say it was a very informative meeting, and I had a number of constituents that attended that meeting and they found the information presented there very valuable.

But also there is a number of questions I have out of that meeting. And I guess my first question deals with the interim agreement that was signed with the Pasqua and Muscowpetung bands on April 7. I understand that there was a sum of money paid to each one of the bands.

And I guess my first question would be . . . My notes-taking abilities that day weren't quite as good as they should have been and so I would like you to clarify the amounts paid to each band. Give me some sense of what the money was intended for. Was it simply a show of good faith which allowed the negotiations to continue? And I guess what part of those payments were provincial dollars that were used in that agreement?

Hon. Mr. Forbes: — Mr. Deputy Chair, in regards to the settlements along the Qu'Appelle lakes, Muscowpetung received \$145,000, and as well they asked that there be soil testing done this summer. And we're doing that. In fact the Department of Environment's doing that.

Pasqua received 31,500. The provincial share of that was 15,700. And they also asked for a summer student to be hired.

And that summer student was hired and they're doing water quality testing out there. And this is all part of the agreement to secure the operations on the structures.

(15:30)

Mr. Hart: — Minister, you said that the Muscowpetung Band received \$145,000. Was that all provincial money or was there a split? I would assume there would be a split, the same as there was for the Pasqua Band. And you can answer that, I'll just add another question on. And it has to do with an agreement that was signed with the Standing Buffalo First Nation which is also in that . . . well it's actually . . . they're located, or their land I believe, is all located along the Echo Lake.

And I understand that the agreement signed with Standing Buffalo is the final agreement. They've reached settlement, and I'm told that the final figure was approximately \$3.6 million. The question I have is: what was that \$3.6 million paid for? Was it compensation only, compensation for flooded land? Was there some other things that were covered by that payment?

These are questions that people in the area along the valley are quite concerned about and would like further information. So if you could provide us with details on the Standing Buffalo and just explain the share of the Muscowpetung payment?

Hon. Mr. Forbes: — Mr. Deputy Chair, I understand that this agreement that was reached between Indian Affairs Canada and Standing Buffalo is solely between those two groups. We weren't involved in this at all, so we're not privy to any of the details. We understand there were a number of elements that make up that agreement. But because we are not involved, we do not know.

But part of it, we understand, was about securing land because of the . . . related to the flooding that would occur. So I can't really be helpful on that. But I can say, in terms of the first question, that the provincial share was 70,000 of the 145,000.

Mr. Hart: — Thank you, Minister. I guess I have a bit of concern that you're not privy to the agreement reached with Standing Buffalo, because I think it's a belief of the people that are concerned about the issue that that agreement perhaps has set precedent for agreements with the other bands. And I think it's be fairly important that if you are a part of the negotiations with the other bands involved in this dispute all along the valley, that you should have the details of that agreement with Standing Buffalo so you know the implications of it. And if you would undertake to get some of the terms of that agreement and perhaps share them with us we'd find that very useful.

But what I would like to do is move on very quickly to another aspect of that whole negotiation process. I understand that there are a number of studies that need to be done and are currently underway to, first of all, determine the actual area that has been flooded as a result of, you know, the construction of the dams. And I'll restrict my comments to my constituency, in Pasqua and Muscowpetung, the First Nations who are impacted by the dam located in Fort Qu'Appelle.

And so as I said, I understand from the meeting that there are studies being . . . underway to determine the actual amount

being flooded. There are a number of other studies that are underway to determine economic impact and so on.

Could you briefly explain what studies are currently underway, and what other studies may perhaps need to take place, and who's involved with conducting these studies? Is it a combination of provincial and federal officials? Have private consultants been contracted to conduct the studies? And also, explain the funding mechanism to fund these studies that are taking place.

Hon. Mr. Forbes: — Right, thank you very much. Yes, so there's a number of studies that are happening out there. And what they're dealing with is, firstly, determining the boundaries of the reserves. They want to establish for the clear demarcation of the boundaries of the reserves, past damages since 1940 when the structures were built, and also loss of use in the future, as these structures are continued to be used. The funding comes from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, INAC, and they're funded under their specific claims budget line.

We have . . . Saskatchewan Watershed Authority have been involved in terms of developing the terms of reference and comments on process, and will be involved upon conclusion in terms of reviewing the results. As well, so will PFRA (Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration). Saskatchewan Watershed Authority and PFRA are involved in that type of thing. The actual people doing the work are consultants hired by the First Nations bands to do that, to complete the studies.

Mr. Hart: — Thank you, Minister, for that information. I guess I just have one more question surrounding this issue.

Has your government, the provincial government, reached an agreement with the federal government as to the sharing of the final cost of settlement of this issue? I would presume that all we need to do is look back at the Standing Buffalo, and you've just indicated that Standing Buffalo has . . . all the monies paid to Standing Buffalo in that final settlement was federal dollars.

But yet in the interim, this interim payment that was made to the Pasqua First Nation and Muscowpetung, there are significant, almost 50 per cent of them are provincial dollars. So what is the . . . first of all, have you got an agreement or some sort of protocol with the federal government that when final settlement is reached, what type of cost-sharing arrangement will you have between the two levels of government?

Hon. Mr. Forbes: — Mr. Deputy Chair, in terms of the protocol in the final senate, of course some of the numbers are confidential as we enter bargaining. But we have spoken publicly about what our direction is, and I'd be happy to share that.

The primary piece I want to emphasize though, right off the bat as we go through this, is that it's a federal First Nations issue, and we view that as a key overview of the process. So our protocol is if all the land claims are resolved, we will take over all five structures. The federal government will provide the provincial government compensation for taking over the structures. From that, we have agreed to subtract a contribution to the final settlement, and that could be up to 50 per cent of the settlement. And there is a maximum limit, but I hope the

member appreciates that that's a number that we do not want to share.

(15:45)

The Deputy Chair: — I recognize the member for Rosetown-Elrose.

Mr. Hermanson: — Thank you, Mr. Chair, and good afternoon to the minister and his officials. Glad to be able to ask a few questions. I want to focus in primarily on the chronic wasting disease issue, just so you can be gathering your information over there.

First of all, just a few general questions. Could you inform me as to, in the year 2003, how many cases of chronic wasting disease were identified in the province, and could you give me the numbers by species — like, for instance mule deer, elk, white-tailed deer, so on and so forth.

Hon. Mr. Forbes: — Mr. Deputy Chair, there are 22 white-tailed deer determined to have chronic wasting disease in 2003.

Mr. Hermanson: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chair. I was wondering for all species. I know there were mule deer as well, and elk as well.

Hon. Mr. Forbes: — Mr. Deputy Chair, I'm just looking through our book, the *Hunters' and Trappers' Guide*. We're trying to do the math on here, and generally — but we'll get more specific details on this — there were 22 deer harvested last year that had chronic wasting disease. But as we go through, we found that there were three mule deer in the Manitou Sand Hills; 29 mule deer, one white-tailed deer north of Swift Current; and one mule deer and one white-tailed deer northeast of Lloydminster. And that adds up, we believe to 35, and so we'll have to correct that and find out what's what.

Mr. Hermanson: — Okay, thank you. That is a bit confusing. I would appreciate that information, and could you then include any numbers that you have for the year 2004 and I'm sure that you . . . there's ongoing numbers.

The majority of those deer that have been found to have chronic wasting disease are from an area north of Swift Current emanating kind of from the Saskatchewan Landing Provincial Park. Can you tell me how you categorize the zones or the areas that . . . is there a specific zone, and if so, how big is that zone where the major problem is? I just want to know so I can ask you questions about that area — how you categorize a zone or an area where you've found chronic wasting disease.

Hon. Mr. Forbes: — I understand the zone or the area we're talking is primarily zone 13. It's 20 kilometres both sides of the park, Sask Landing Park, but more southwest towards Hazlet.

Mr. Hermanson: — Okay, thank you. Mr. Minister, because deer are migratory animals, I mean they cross the lake both summer and winter, but of course very easily in the winter they can cross on the ice. They move east and west up the valley. What is your department doing to monitor the spread of this disease?

I know that there are hundreds of deer in this valley, and they migrate significant distance. So do you have any handle on how the disease has spread out of that area around the Saskatchewan provincial park, and can you tell me to what extent you think it has emanated outwards from that region — from zone no. 13?

Hon. Mr. Forbes: — Well in terms of how we monitor . . . (inaudible) . . . there's a couple of things we're doing. First in the hunters' guide we've got a bit of a description of this and we're expanding the herd reduction area north of Swift Current to include zones 12, 13E, and 14E.

But I would like to draw attention to a workshop that's going to be happening in a few weeks in Saskatoon. And it's sponsored by the Canadian Wildlife Federation. And it's . . . Pre-eminent scientists are going to be coming together. These are disease experts on chronic wasting disease. And they'll be discussing and recommending approaches to further sampling and to the most appropriate approaches, management responses to this issue over the long term.

And so we're looking forward to hearing what they have to say about this as well, and we're happy they're coming to Saskatoon to talk about this issue.

Mr. Hermanson: — Thank you. Mr. Minister, to ensure that the chronic wasting disease is stopped, does there have to be a total elimination of the species that have the disease within an identifiable region, or is thinning the numbers out such as you've been doing in the past going to end the problem of chronic wasting disease?

Hon. Mr. Forbes: — Mr. Deputy Chair, our best advice is that to thin; thinning out seems to be an appropriate response to this. There was . . . Because prions are the carrier of this, this is important. There was a time when we thought it was carried animal to animal. But now we understand, science is telling us it may be carried in soil even. And so this is very important.

So this is why — getting back to that workshop in a few weeks — we're looking forward to hearing what they have to say about this as well. And we're keeping abreast of the best science on this. This is an important area for people here in Saskatchewan. And so we look forward to that. But that's our practice right now, and it's based on best science as we have it right now.

Mr. Hermanson: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chair. Mr. Minister, most hunters keep their deer that they have hunted for human consumption. Can you assure the hunters in Saskatchewan that will be hunting for deer this fall that the meat that they garner from their hunting will be safe for human consumption?

Hon. Mr. Forbes: — Mr. Deputy Chair, the member opposite raises a very important concern that hunters have. And we address that on page 2 of the hunting guide, so it's important that we have that information.

No scientific evidence exists that links this to . . . that it can be transmitted to people. But there cannot be any total guarantees on that either. So we're aware that people may have concerns. And so heads will be tested if hunters would like that. And that

has been the practice for the past few years, and we will continue that.

(16:00)

Mr. Hermanson: — Thank you. One more question. We know because the chronic wasting disease is a phenomena primarily in southwestern Saskatchewan and in southwest areas where a number of the staff reductions have occurred in your department, can you tell me how many fewer people are working on this problem in the area than were prior to the reduction in staffing in your department?

Hon. Mr. Forbes: — Mr. Deputy Chair, in terms of conservation officers, there will be nine in the area — there will be nine in the area as there was prior. There were some transfers but the overall net effect is that they will be remaining the same. We did lose one fish and wildlife biologist in that area.

Mr. Hermanson: — Thank you. Mr. Chair, that ends my questions, but I would ask leave to introduce guests.

The Deputy Chair: — Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Chair: — Okay. I recognize the member from Rosetown-Elrose.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mr. Hermanson: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chair. I'm pleased to introduce a number of guests in the east gallery. We have with us 15 grade 5 and 6 students from the Mildren Central School. They are accompanied by teacher Carson Loftsgard and chaperones Elizabeth Thomson, Cindy Driedger, Jeff Keith, and Curtis Jensen.

To my colleagues in the legislature, Mildren is a thriving community not too far from Rosetown. I'm very pleased that the students could come to the legislature. This isn't the most exciting time of the day in the legislature. We're actually doing something called estimates right now. We have the minister responsible for Saskatchewan Environment and officials with us in the House and we are asking questions. I was asking questions about chronic wasting disease. My colleagues will be asking the minister and his officials other concerns regarding Environment.

But this is an important function of your legislature. It's a chance for the opposition to hold the government accountable and also find out the information that we believe the public would like to know.

So I would like to welcome you to this session of the . . . or this particular component of the activities of the legislature. Welcome to the city of Regina. I'm looking forward to meeting with you in a few moments to discuss further the work that we do on your behalf here in Saskatchewan.

So would all members please give a warm welcome to the students from Mildren. Thank you.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

COMMITTEE OF FINANCE

General Revenue Fund

Environment

Vote 26

Subvote (ER01)

The Deputy Chair: — I recognize the member from Wood River.

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chair. And I'd like to acknowledge and thank the minister for a quick return to the questions that I brought up yesterday, and thank you to minister and your staff. There's a number of questions that I have associated with it, and I don't know if you would have the answers available for that. And I would like to deal with the first one is on Mr. Pinkowitz.

In your reply, Mr. Minister, you've stated basically that a conflict exists between the commercial fishing co-operatives and Mr. Pinkowitz on Primrose and other lakes in the regions. I'm wondering what the conflicts — you could identify as the conflicts — because it's my understanding from the enormous file that I have, that this has been going on for some numbers of years and if the conflict is there, there had to be some reason that created the conflict. And I'm wondering if you could explain as to what the conflict is and what the progress is at resolving it.

I understand that you're trying to bridge the conflict, but something created the conflict. And that's where I'd like to get more to the root of what created the conflict and why it's taken so long to resolve it. And I'm wondering if you could enlighten me a little on that.

Hon. Mr. Forbes: — Yes. I understand that Mr. Pinkowitz was a member of the co-op in the early mid-'70s, and then apparently he had left and returned to resume . . . returned several years later, attempted to resume fishing, and there was a difference of opinion regarding the bylaws and the applications, and that's where the issue seemed to have started. And we take this, the co-op process, very seriously. So this is an important one; the process is very important.

And I would offer to the member opposite perhaps a more fuller briefing privately about this. This involves individuals and we can talk more about that as we determine more information, and as we talk, and my response to the member opposite that we hope to resolve this, and that our . . . hope to resolve this in the next few weeks. But I would be happy to keep the member opposite informed.

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Well thank you, Mr. Minister, and I'd very much like to be informed. And I'm wondering if there's — and I appreciate getting together with you and discussing this — but I'm wondering if there is some fundamental flaw, if you wish, or concern that may have precipitated this whole problem. And I'm wondering if it's something that you could correct me on if I'm wrong, but was there a licensing issue that was devolved from SERM (Saskatchewan Environment and

Resource Management), that time SERM, now SE (Saskatchewan Environment), to the co-operatives for the issuance of fishing licence or is that a red herring in this whole case?

Because, and again I'm receiving some information that I . . . that I would like to know if it's factual, is that if the licensing authority has been devolved to a co-operative, my question, one, would be why. And the second would be, has SERM . . . if this is a case that SERM lost control of that and if that's part of the problem, if SERM still retains . . . or SE still retains the issuing rights directly, then maybe this has been an issue that has been flagged incorrectly for me. So I'd like your comments on that.

(16:15)

Hon. Mr. Forbes: — Mr. Deputy Chair, the issuing of commercial fishing licences is very, very important. And while it played a part in Mr. Pinkowitz's concerns, I would say — I want to be clear on this — that we still issue the commercial fishing licences. We work with the co-ops to determine who would be eligible for that. There was a concern raised by the Ombudsman in early December about processes and how we should tighten that up and work with the fishing co-ops to ensure their accountability and how they apply their bylaws and that type of thing.

So we appreciated their insights into the process, and so we take that very seriously. We understand and we organized a presentation by the Ombudsman at the recent fishermen's co-op meeting that was held about their application of bylaws, and ensuring fairness and that type of thing.

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Well thank you, Minister, for that. And again I'm very interested in following this, and so with, I believe you said by mid-July; and I hope that we will receive word by then that the situation is resolved and it's resolved to the satisfaction of all concerned.

The other issue that I brought up yesterday, Mr. Minister, was on the predation program, and I have here a reply. I have the pamphlet but it doesn't really answer a lot of the questions. It answers a little bit about how it works. But I think here's a problem, and we see this all too often where, who's doing what to who and when at what point.

For an example, in this particular one it would be very easy to suggest that it's funded by Ag, therefore it's not our concern. And you go to Ag and they say, hey it's managed by SERM so it's not our concern. And then human resources development, or whatever, will say it's really over to them, and they say well no, it's not ours. And then it's very easy to back out and say it's in the sheep development committee; that's who you need to go to.

So now, if you're having a problem with the system, if you have a problem with the system, where do you go? And we need a system structured so if there is a problem, that one can go to the person that's in charge and say, we're having a problem with the system, with the process. And I know you just spoke about process and we follow the process. The people that have identified this have a problem with the process. Where do

they go? And that's why I brought this up yesterday, and if you could enlighten me on that.

Hon. Mr. Forbes: — Well, Mr. Deputy Chair, in terms of the specific question, where do we go if we have a concern: right off the bat, to the local conservation officer.

But I think that the member opposite raises a good question and so we will take this up further. This is an important one, especially in terms of the number of deer that's out there more and more. So I will look into that further and get back to the member opposite as soon as I can. I'm not sure if we'll do in the next week or two, but it's one that I know people are concerned about and I appreciate the point.

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Thank you, Mr. Minister. And just for your own edification on this, this is a resolution that was passed by the RM (rural municipality) of Shamrock and just to bring you up to speed on this particular one, and I don't know if you've seen this particular file, but it's a resolution that . . . And I'll just read part of it here, and it says:

WHEREAS, livestock producers have had a significant number of livestock lost to predators;

(and) WHEREAS, the existing predator program is not working . . .

And that's what creates the concern. And I'd be very happy to leave this file with you if you would give me some assurances that it would be responded to in the fullness of time. And by fullness of time, within the next month or so. But I'd be happy to leave this with you if you would like this and then we'll look at a, for a timely response.

Hon. Mr. Forbes: — Appreciate that. And we'll get right back as soon as we can, within a month. And so thank you for that.

The Deputy Chair: — Recognize the member from Kelvington-Wadena.

Ms. Draude: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chair of Committees. And to the minister and to your officials, I appreciate the opportunity to ask a question and I appreciate my colleague allowing me to come in at this time because the issue that I'm dealing with is much the same as the one he just talked about. And that is an issue that is dealing with Crown land and maybe the confusion or the controversy between Ag Crown land and SERM Crown land and individuals that are tied up in the process and they end up with just frustration.

I'm going to send you the information over and I'm hoping that it won't take a month or two to deal with, because the issue has been before these landowners since late last fall, early winter. And they actually had an allocation of Crown land where there was a tiebreaker meeting scheduled for February 11.

But I'm just going to advise you that the question these young farmers are asking for is, what's . . . how do they determine when land is going to be allocated, trade, bought, or sold?

We're talking about five or six quarters of land that Sask Ag has put some up for lease and there's some land that has to be

traded for Crown land. And I know that it's an issue that can take some time, but six or seven months should be enough time.

And I think it's important to realize that we're talking about people's livelihoods here. And they're trying to make decisions on how they're going to adjust their future and what kind of, you know, land they're going to buy, how they're going to build their own financial successes. And a lot of it revolves around decisions government is making. And I don't think we have the luxury of saying, it's going to take some more time.

I know that when we're going over jurisdictions, that it's an issue where there's boundaries. But at the same time, government boundaries are supposed to be just half walls. They're not supposed to be full walls.

We're supposed to be able to talk to each other and there would be some reassurance to constituents to know that if they talked to the minister of SERM and there is a question dealing with Agriculture, that maybe you could chat in the hallway and see if you can't get it figured out.

So, Mr. Minister, I'm going to send this case sheet over to you and hopefully it's something that you can get back to me or to my constituents in a prompt manner. And I really do appreciate your time. Thank you.

Hon. Mr. Forbes: — Well thank you very much to the member opposite. I appreciate the opportunity to work on that file. And we'll do our best to get that going as quickly as we can. Thank you.

The Deputy Chair: — I recognize the member from Wood River.

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Thank you again, Mr. Deputy Chair. Mr. Minister, I've got a host of issues, but I want to try and prioritize them here. If you see me scrambling around it's not that I'm out of questions; I have many, many more. But there's some that have come up that I think are related to the last two that we've asked that are damaging maybe to the people's livelihood. And this one is actually maybe no different.

And, Mr. Minister, I believe this letter was sent to you from a Mr. Alex Maurice from MTM Bison Ranch. And although it might look like it's a year-old letter, I believe it was just a misprint on the date. It's March 18, 2003 it says, but received March 22, 2004 by us. So I'm assuming that the date on the 2003 was incorrect.

And I don't know if you're familiar with this particular one, Mr. Minister, but I wouldn't mind having it on record. And it has to do with lease fees. And the member is talking about south versus north in lease fees. And he's attached his property invoice.

But here's something for your department to think about, and I know he comments on the previous minister, your predecessor, and he basically says:

I had "wasted" my time by writing to . . . (the previous minister who was responsible because) he couldn't be bothered to respond.

And I know this happens. And I have — not with your department, but in other departments — I have letters that have been outstanding for months now. And I think it may be something within cabinet or caucus that maybe should be addressed from your side of the House.

But to continue on with this letter, Mr. Maurice explains:

My concerns are quite simply to appeal your present regulations which are to charge 4-500% (4-500%) more for leases in the north vs what the Southern ranchers pay for the same type of forage land for buffalos and/or cows.

And he goes on to say:

We have a higher than normal level of unemployment in the north and economic development is at a standstill, but some of us still take one these challenges to create some type of activity, and my punishment for this is to be told that because I'm a resident in northern Saskatchewan and there are no buffalo up here, then I will pay through every pore and/or orifice in my body! And the humorous side of this story is, one of our northern mla's doesn't even take the time to respond with one of his hockey anecdotes.

And he just goes on to say:

I'll await your response . . . regarding this double standard to lease fees.

And my question, Mr. Minister: have you seen this letter? Have you received this letter as yet? And if not, I'd be glad to forward this to you.

(16:30)

Hon. Mr. Forbes: — Mr. Deputy Chair, checking with the officials we believe we've responded to Mr. Maurice — we'll check with that for sure. There is a difference in the regulation rates between horses and cattle and other livestock, so we will have to take a look at this discrepancy. I understand that it would take an amendment to legislation to set this correct so we, we may look at this and see what we can do about that but it may take some time.

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Mr. Minister, if you have responded to it I would appreciate a copy of your response, if you may. And if it takes legislation to change some of these inequities then I would suggest that you look at quickly making a legislative change.

Mr. Minister, I believe you answered this question the other night but I wasn't here the other evening as you probably were aware when estimates were up — it was a week or so ago. And it has to do with the \$7 big game draw licence application fee. And I get numerous calls/complaints/concerns — you name it — on this particular one. And the question I believe you answered the other night, and please correct me if I'm wrong, but the question put forth as I understand it was: if you apply for big game draw and submit the \$7 and you're not drawn, is that \$7 returned to an individual if they're not drawn?

And it was my understanding that the answer is no, it's not

returned. And there's a couple of questions associated with this. One is, why not? And also how much money . . . I think your department must know how much, how many applicants there are in a normal year and how much money this will generate.

And then we have a tracking method about how many people might not apply because of an extra \$7 fee. And I know people that have applied year after year after year and have not been drawn. So it really is a disincentive for people and that's what I'm hearing — to have to send a \$7 fee in when they haven't been drawn for a number of years. And I think I'll just let you try and answer that right now, Mr. Minister, because there are follow-on questions possibly that will be generated on this topic.

Hon. Mr. Forbes: — Mr. Deputy Chair, the \$7 fee is actually a processing fee, a handling fee. And so we anticipate that will generate about \$123,000 of which 30 per cent of that will go directly into the Fish and Wildlife Development Fund, a very worthwhile initiative. What we really want to try to get people to do is to go towards the online draw. And that's much more efficient and it's a \$4 process fee and I think that's the way to go.

I would point out that both Alberta and Manitoba charge a \$7 fee in their application for their draw licences.

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Well thank you, Mr. Minister. It just strikes me as . . . We've operated this way for a number of years. At 100-and-some thousand dollars, I guess you could argue it's a processing fee. It's a tax or whatever.

The part that is frustrating for people is that they've gone, as I've mentioned, for years and maybe not have been drawn. And I'd submitted a written question as to who's been drawn and that's what I wish to do a comparison on. Because there's an awful lot of dis-concern with hunters about somebody being drawn two, three, four, five years in a row and others not being drawn for a long time. And that was the rationale for the written question of which I did not get a response. So I just want to make you aware of the concerns that people have.

And I believe in my area, the people that have talked to me, is they might not even apply any more. So it'll be interesting to track how many people would not be applying. And it's usually not the amount of the \$7; it's the principle of it, when you've got to put a \$7 fee along with your application and your chances of getting drawn are what percentage. So it's, like I say, it's almost like a tax.

So I'd just like you to be aware of the feelings of the people out there, and I think it should be tracked because I believe the harvest of some of these animals is going to stay the same. It's whether they're licensed or not that is a concern. And I think that should be a concern within your whole department considering the conservation officer cutbacks. And we've stated that openly before, that the more and more COs (conservation officer) that are cut back, the more and more likely it is to see such things as poaching.

Mr. Minister, as I just go through all of my notes here, I'd just like to send some of this over to you. It's for your interest more than anything and whether anything can be done, and it's from

citizens concerned about the shape of some of the parks. And I just send that over. It's some pictures.

But here's another one. And this resulted from an individual travelling in the Whitewood area and it was recent . . . It was after the budget because it was after the campfire fee. And the campfire fee was — I can't remember if it was your words or not — it's, we're doing it so we can use firewood and people are, in essence, are paying for firewood or they're paying for the campfire spot for a fee. I'm not sure exactly how we've referred to that yet.

But this individual that was driving the highway was very, very concerned, and I would like to leave this with you also. Because here we are, if we're charging for firewood or whatever the rationale is for the three bucks, here we have another government department burning trees — burning trees right near a roadway.

And you have to sit back and give your head a little bit of a scratch and say, here we want to preserve our wood, so how we're going to do it is charge three bucks, and right outside the park is a fire raging with some other government workers watching the fire and facilitating the fire to burn it down, to burn this tree stand down.

And I'd like to forward this to you, and I don't know if there's anything that can be done. But it really seems odd to the individual and to myself that here we're introducing another fee on one hand for one reason or the other — whatever, however you wanted to term it — and then at the same time we see a different government department is burning trees.

So, Mr. Minister, I'd just like to leave these with you. And I don't know if you'd have any comment on it, but I'd like to leave these with you, and there may be something in the future that you would see fit to respond to these people, or to do something with these.

Hon. Mr. Forbes: — Well I appreciate the opportunity to respond to that. And I think that whenever you introduce a new fee there's some education that needs to come along and, well, why is it that we've introduced this. And of course the big thing is to recover the cost of the wood, but to ensure people have a good time in the parks. And so I've been out actually visiting a few parks to see how things have been going, but we understand the fee's been well-received.

There's been some innovative approaches, you know. Sometimes families go out, and they camp together, and so this time what they do is they pick, as they often do, one common campsite that will serve as the camp kitchen and all of that, and they have a fire fee for that campsite. And so that seems to be well-received in the parks.

But I appreciate the comments opposite. It's one that we'll work on this year, and we evaluate how things have gone, and we look forward to hearing the different points of view on it.

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Well thank you, Mr. Minister, and I do hope you'll take that to heart. Another issue, and it's kind of a continuing issue, and it's with cutbacks. And you're probably going to hear more about this in the time that we have left.

I'm sure your office and your staff have been receiving similar comments, e-mails, letters, or whatever. And this one was from the Prince Albert area, and the individual went down to the Prince Albert SERM office to purchase a fishing licence as he had done for the past several years. To my amazement, I found out that SERM office was no longer issuing fishing licence. And he just says this is incredible — government department responsible for fisheries is not being able to issue a fishing licence. And it goes on, it goes on and on, and I'd be happy to send this to you if you would like a copy of it if you'd received it.

But I guess the question is, is this in fact true, that the Prince Albert SERM office does not any longer issue fishing licence, and if not, why not?

Hon. Mr. Forbes: — Well, Mr. Deputy Chair, many of the decisions that we made in the department preparing for the budget of course were driven by the constraints that we found ourselves in and the difficult choices we had to make. And so we had to determine the priorities where we would put our energies. And of course we felt it was best to focus on the issues that posed high-risk threats to the environment. Selling licences, while it serves an important function, is low risk to the environment.

And throughout the province, I should say, there are over 700 vendors that do sell licences. And it's pretty important that we support them. And that's the direction we thought we'd take. We understand there are 10 private vendors in Prince Albert that can sell those fishing licences. So I appreciate people have habits, and they go down, and they buy them from the local office. But we're asking them to take a look, and there are private vendors — as in the case of Prince Albert, 10 — that will willingly sell fishing licences to people who come in the door.

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Thank you, Mr. Minister. I'd understand that. I guess the question begs to be asked, is there people in the SERM office? And if there's people in the SERM office, are they so busy that they can no longer sit there for a few seconds and write out a fishing licence?

(16:45)

Hon. Mr. Forbes: — Mr. Deputy Chair, I would point out that it's interesting since I've taken on the duties of Minister of Environment how many fishing licences we do sell in the province. It's over 230,000 licences. So it's a fair bit of work.

And what we've done in our reorganization is, there are people in the office, but they've been redirected to higher priority issues. And so we think there is a win-win situation here. The private vendors are there. They're looking for the activity, and there's lots of fishing licences out there, and so this is the situation that we thought would work best.

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Well, Mr. Minister, it just seems odd to me because . . . and I appreciate it's in the private sector, but for somebody that's too busy that's in an office to write out a fishing licence . . . There's people in my hometown that run a hotel, and I would suggest that nobody's busier than people running a hotel, and yet they have time to write out a fishing

licence. And so it just strikes me as there's something else that caused this to happen, and I don't know what.

You'd have to explain as to the total rationale, rather than higher priority items, and do a time assessment management on each individual that they couldn't write a fishing licence out, and how many that they actually did in that particular spot.

But this goes on to another issue which is Cumberland House. And I would think you're probably getting tired of hearing about Cumberland House or maybe you're not. Or maybe you're not aware of all of the people up there that are just totally dismayed and concerned about the closure of the office in Cumberland House.

The reason I bring that up now is because it was a fishing licence experience. The individual that contacted me indicated that the only place in Cumberland House to buy a fishing licence was the Sask Environment office. Now please let me know if that's been rectified, but that was the case as of last week. So now you have to drive something in the vicinity of 200 kilometres — or I'm not even sure how far it is; it's been a long time since I've been up there — to Nipawin to get a licence. And the individual suggested to me when he got to Nipawin to get a licence they wouldn't even accept a credit card, so therefore they had to drive back to Cumberland House.

And I'm wondering . . . I'm really wondering how much thought went into this, rather than just . . . and I'm going to have a number of questions on the whole Cumberland House area. But even just such a small thing as a fishing licence that was done out of the SE office, and now people are driving away. And one may debate and say, well we didn't have that many issued there or whatever; it wasn't cost effective. That won't ring true when we get into the environmental issues of the delta, and maybe that was the rationale for it.

But when you start looking at an outfitting business and people coming into the area that may have a hunting licence but now they bag their catch, and now they want to do something else for the rest of their week. It impedes economic growth. It impedes even sustaining the economics of the area.

So I would like to ask again if that's been rectified, if you can you get a fishing licence in Cumberland House and the rationale for having that office closed.

Hon. Mr. Forbes: — I appreciate the question on Cumberland House. Cumberland House is a very important part of our province, and I appreciate the concerns that are raised. It's one that many people have raised, the people who live in the Cumberland House Delta and as well as our own MLA (Member of the Legislative Assembly).

In terms of the fishing and hunting licenses, we're working to address the access issues in Cumberland House as we speak.

Mr. Huyghebaert: — A follow-up on that, Mr. Minister. One, if it goes into non-SE hands — the issuance of licence — what rate does the vendor receive out of the licensing fee?

And also, I'm wondering if you could give me a timeline for the resolution of a place to have licensing in Cumberland House.

Hon. Mr. Forbes: — In terms of the timeline in terms of resolving the issue, it's an important issue for us as well, and so we wish to do that as soon as possible. It's one that we've been talking about a fair bit.

In terms of the commission, it's 50 cents for licences that sell for less than \$10; \$1 commission on licences that sell for between 10 and 49.99; and if it's over \$50, it's a \$2 commission.

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Mr. Minister, I was quite interested in that. I hadn't really looked at the dollars. But doesn't it seem interesting that the figures you just gave me and compare that to a \$7 administration fee for the application of big game, and I'm wondering if you can suggest that that's fair? Because one is processing at a different area at seven bucks that they don't even get back if it's not gone through, and yet on this one we give a buck here and two bucks there. And I just want you to consider that, that . . . and I don't expect you to answer whether it's fair because I know what you'll say.

But, Mr. Minister, I'm more concerned in the Cumberland House area, and I know we're running out of time. But this is a huge, huge issue as you have explained. And I'm wondering what kind of study was done prior to the announcement of the closure of the Cumberland House SE office because I'm sure you've received all of the correspondence.

The delta is a very fragile ecosystem. It's one of the largest deltas; it's the seventh-largest inland delta in the world. And there's just a whole issue of environmental concerns in the area from outfitters that are in there, to worrying about poaching. There's just a huge amount of issues. And I'm wondering what kind of a study was done or if a study was done or what caused the decision to be made for that office to close.

I disagree personally with the CO reductions throughout the province. The amount of money saved I think is negligible. There's other money in areas that could be saved. But when we get to some environmentally sensitive areas . . . and I'd like to think Saskatchewan, there's many areas of Saskatchewan that are environmentally sensitive. And we start reducing people in some of these areas but specifically to the Cumberland House that I've received a lot of correspondence on . . . I'd like to know what precipitated that decision, and what kind of a study was done prior to making that decision.

Hon. Mr. Forbes: — In preparation for the budget, of course there were huge pressures, financial pressures, and we were looking for systems that would be more efficient, so we went through a major reorganization, and we looked at where we should allocate our resources, particularly the conservation officers.

In consideration of the unique area of Cumberland House . . . and we are continually reviewing what we do in this province. Especially as you go through a reorganization, this is important to do. We looked at what was happening in the resources. And because of the strengths of the local people, in terms of hunting and trapping and that type of thing, we felt that it was best that . . . we felt confident that the issues, in terms of environmental management would be good there, and so we felt confident that we could allocate resources otherwise. So the processes we're

really focusing around . . . efficiency and how could we be strategic in our placement of our conservation officers.

The Deputy Chair: — I recognize the Deputy Chair.

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Mr. Deputy Chair, I would move that we report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

The Deputy Chair: — It has been moved by the Deputy House Leader that the committee rise, report progress, and ask for leave to sit again. Is it agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Chair: — Carried.

(17:00)

Mr. Huyghebaert: — I'd just like to thank the minister and officials for their answers today, and I know we've been going on a while, but I'd just like to thank you all.

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Deputy Chair of committees.

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Mr. Speaker, I request leave to report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

The Deputy Speaker: — When shall the committee sit again? I recognize the Deputy Government House Leader.

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Next sitting, Mr. Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: — Next sitting.

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — And Mr. Speaker, I would move that the House adjourn in order to facilitate the work of the Human Services Committee.

The Deputy Speaker: — It has been moved that this House now adjourn. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — That is carried. This House stands adjourned until 1:30 p.m. tomorrow.

The Assembly adjourned at 17:02.

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