

SECOND 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



NO. 15A TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2005, 1:30 p.m.

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, Hon. Graham	NDP	Saskatoon Sutherland
Allchurch, Denis	SP	Rosthern-Shellbrook
Atkinson, Hon. Pat	NDP	Saskatoon Nutana
Bakken Lackey, 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
Gantefoer, 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, Hon. 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 Desire Conservation Dark
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 Bagina Dawdnay
Yates, Kevin	NDP	Regina Dewdney

[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

PRESENTING PETITIONS

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Cypress Hills.

Mr. Elhard: — Mr. Speaker, today I rise to present a petition on behalf of constituents of southwest Saskatchewan concerning the condition of Highway No. 21 from south of the Cypress Park turnoff to the junction of Highways 21 and 13. The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take immediate action and make necessary repairs to Highway 21 in order to address safety and economic concerns.

As in duty bound your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, these three pages of petitions, signed fully and completely by individuals from the constituency of Cypress Hills, many other communities in southwest Saskatchewan, as well as tourists from Manitoba, Alberta, and other points around Canada. I so present.

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Kelvington-Wadena.

Ms. Draude: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased to rise again today on behalf of people who make Barrier Lake their summer vacation spot:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause this government to take the necessary action to develop a long-term lease to Revoy's Marina to include a turnabout for access to the marina, a place for boat trailers to be stored, and the seven seasonal camping spots be maintained to ensure the safety of this area.

The people who have signed this petition are from Wadena, from Moose Jaw, from Wynyard, from Humboldt, and from Tisdale. I so present.

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Humboldt.

Ms. Harpauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a number of pages of petitions by citizens who are concerned about the condition of Highway No. 5. 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 upgrade and widen Highway No. 5 from Humboldt to Saskatoon.

And the signatures, Mr. Speaker, are from Kamsack, St. Gregor,

Rama, Corman Park, Viscount, Esterhazy, Prince Albert, Meacham, Kelvington, Bruno, Fort Qu'Appelle, Wadena, Norquay, and Biggar. I so present.

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Arm River-Watrous.

Mr. Brkich: — Mr. Speaker, I have a petition for citizens who want to improve SaskTel's cellular service in rural Saskatchewan:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the provincial government to take all the necessary actions to install the technical equipment necessary to ensure that residents along Highway 19 and the Outlook area in Saskatchewan are protected by reliable cellular phone coverage.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Signed by the good citizens from Saskatoon, Lucky Lake, Strongfield, and Loreburn. I so present.

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Biggar.

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have another petition to reinstate the SGI [Saskatchewan Government Insurance] licensing office in Handel. 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 reinstate the Saskatchewan Government Insurance licensing agency in Handel.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Signed by the good citizens of Handel and Wilkie and district. I so present.

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Saskatoon Southeast.

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, it gives me pleasure to rise today in the House to present a petition dealing with the widening of Highway No. 5. I will read from the prayer for relief:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary action to upgrade and widen Highway No. 5 from Humboldt to Saskatoon.

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

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by citizens that go from St. Benedict, Yellow Creek, and to the Saskatoon area. I so present, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Batoche.

Mr. Kirsch: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I once again rise to read a petition for the repairing of Highway 368. And the prayer

reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take immediate action and make necessary repairs to Highway 368 in order to address the safety and economic concerns.

As is duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

And, Mr. Speaker, it is signed by the good people of Lake Lenore, Annaheim, and Humboldt and Muenster. I so present.

READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

Deputy Clerk: — According to order the following petitions have been reviewed and pursuant to rule 14(7) are hereby read and received as sessional paper no. 33 and addendums to previously tabled petitions being sessional paper nos. 4, 7, 13, 22, 26, 31, and 32.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Chair of the Standing Committee on the Economy.

Standing Committee on the Economy

Mr. Yates: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I stand today to table the fourth report of the Standing Committee on the Economy.

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Regina Dewdney.

Mr. Yates: — Thank you very much. I would move seconded by the member from Biggar:

That the fourth report of the Standing Committee on the Economy be now concurred in.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member for Regina Dewdney, seconded by the member for Biggar:

That the fourth report of the Standing Committee on the Economy be now concurred in.

Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The motion is carried. The Chair of the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies is recognized.

Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies to report that it has considered certain estimates and to present its fifth report.

The Speaker: — Again I recognize the member for Saskatoon Fairview.

That the fifth report of the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies be now concurred in.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member for Saskatoon Fairview and seconded by the member for Cannington:

That the fifth report of the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies be now concurred in.

Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The motion is carried.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS AND QUESTIONS

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Last Mountain-Touchwood.

Mr. Hart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I shall on day no. 20 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister Responsible for Sask Property Management: what is the appraised value of the Echo Valley Conference Centre?

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I have a number of guests to introduce. I'll do them in pairs if I may, Mr. Speaker.

I want to welcome first of all to your gallery someone who needs little introduction in this House, former member of this legislature, former minister of Government Relations and Intergovernmental Affairs; currently, Mr. Speaker, the mayor of the community of Fort Qu'Appelle.

I would like all members to welcome back to the legislature today, His Worship Ron Osika, and his very good wife, Barbara Osika.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — And, Mr. Speaker, seated just behind Ron and Barbara Osika, Sharon Husnik and Linda Balaberda. Sharon has worked and served the city of Saskatoon, people in Saskatoon for many years out of the Saskatoon cabinet office. And it's very good to have Sharon here and her cousin Linda. And I would ask all members to welcome these two individuals.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — And finally, Mr. Speaker, seated just beside Mr. and Mrs. Osika, Ms. Kendra Sali who works in my

office here at the legislature and my wife, Betty. Welcome again to the legislature.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Melville-Saltcoats.

Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to join with the Premier today in welcoming back an old friend and Barb here today. Ron and I were elected at the same time, in '95 with some of my other colleagues, actually under the Liberal banner before musical chairs happened to take part in the legislature here.

And I'm also very much appreciative of the fact that Ron won the mayoralty race for Fort Qu'Appelle, being that when Saltcoats and Melville constituencies were combined that I take great pleasure in congratulating Ron for being mayor of Fort Qu'Appelle and very appreciative of the fact that I'm here.

So I want to welcome an old friend here today and very good to see him and Barb here again. I ask everyone to welcome him.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Athabasca.

Hon. Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I want to join our Premier in welcoming the former member to the Assembly today. And he did call my cellphone before he arrived. We are still very good friends.

And I'm quite excited, Mr. Speaker, because he's in the city today to buy me my Christmas gift. And if anybody knows how well the former member of Government Relations treated many of the northern towns and villages, and southern towns as well, they know he's a very generous guy. So I'm quite excited and looking forward to that gift.

Plus the message to my colleagues across the way that I think he'll be back. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Estevan.

Ms. Eagles: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to all members of the Assembly, I'd like to introduce two people that are very special in my life. Two of my four sisters are here today, seated in the east gallery: Edna Irwin and Audrey Thompson.

They're in town for a couple days to do a little bit of shopping, and we're going to do a little bit of catching up. So I ask all members to join me in welcoming them.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Yorkton.

Hon. Mr. Serby: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. In the west gallery, I note that one of the constituents . . . and actually my neighbour from the Canora-Pelly riding, but my neighbour from where I live, Ms. Isabel Muzichuk. She's a long-time health professional in the province and is retired from her work and is currently involved in doing strong advocacy work across the province for those of us who are busy developing intensive livestock in Saskatchewan.

So I want to welcome her to the Legislative Assembly today and to encourage her to do the work that she's doing in making sure that the environmental standards and the health standards in the province are well protected as we're busy working away on the intensive livestock file. Thank you very much.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Cypress Hills.

University of Regina Business Students' Dinner

Mr. Elhard: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last night I had the pleasure, along with my colleagues — the members from Canora-Pelly, Kelvington-Wadena, and Saskatoon Silver Springs — to attend the 32nd annual University of Regina business students' dinner.

At last night's event, the Faculty of Business Administration awarded the first ever URBusiness Leadership Award to keynote speakers Gavin and Shaun Semple of The Brandt Group of Companies. The Semples delivered to all in attendance an inspiring message of entrepreneurship, innovation, and the importance of being a customer-centred business, the most significant element in building a successful business enterprise.

Also acknowledged at last night's event was Kenneth Levine for the generosity he has shown to our community through the largest individual donation in the university's history.

The accounting firm KPMG was recognized for its significant financial contribution towards student scholarships and the leadership provided by individuals associated with that firm.

Mr. Speaker, Regina and indeed the province were well represented by community and business leaders at last night's event, which made for a very enjoyable and productive evening for both the business leaders of today and tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker, to close, on behalf of the official opposition, our congratulations to Co-Chairs Sheenah Ko and Kristie Korbo and their organizing committee for hosting this excellent event.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

[13:45]

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Athabasca.

Northern Roads Initiative

Hon. Mr. Belanger: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm so proud to stand today and speak about this government's recent northern roads announcement. This past summer, Mr. Speaker, the Premier, and other members of this government caucus got the opportunity to travel through our vast North and to speak to northerners. And, Mr. Speaker, in every community that we visited, we heard concerns about the state of transportation infrastructure. And this new initiative is a direct response to those concerns.

Mr. Speaker, included as part of our northern roads initiative was the announcement of a all-weather road linking La Loche to Fort McMurray. Mr. Speaker, this was the first of many steps linking the North with more economic development. There is more great news on the way, Mr. Speaker. And I am very proud of the way our northern residents worked with this government to make some of this roadwork a reality.

But, Mr. Speaker, the current Conservative MP [Member of Parliament] from northern Saskatchewan seems to be trying to convince people that he is the one doing all this great, fantastic work. Well, Mr. Speaker, northerners are very intelligent and are very capable of seeing through the words of a politician desperately trying to keep his job while this government is busy doing its job, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Belanger: — I ask all my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating this fantastic government and the Saskatchewan northern people at the local level for working together and working hard over the last 12 to 15 years to make northern Saskatchewan a more prosperous place to live and to do business. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Kelvington-Wadena.

Kelvington Golden Hawks Win Provincial Volleyball Championship

Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, ability is what you're capable of doing. Motivation determines what you do. And attitude determines how well you do it. The Kelvington Golden Hawks boys' volleyball team may not have heard this quote, but regardless they have learned that ability, motivation, attitude, and hard work can and does produce winners.

This weekend for the second year in a row, the boys' volleyball team captured the SHSAA [Saskatchewan High Schools Athletic Association] 3A boys' volleyball provincial championship. Kelvington was the host of the 12 teams from throughout Saskatchewan who competed in this championship tournament.

Not only did this team win the championship for the second year in a row, but half of the team was also on the hockey team which won the provincials this spring. Teachers say, as well as being athletically talented, this team is also highly academically

inclined — a winning combination to say the least.

The final game between Kinistino and Kelvington was watched by a crowd of over 400 people. And what a close match it was. Both teams were deserving of the gold.

In the past I've spoken about small towns in Saskatchewan putting on big-town quality events, and this was again the case in this event. Not only did this community host 11 other teams, but they put on a breakfast and lunch for teams, coaches, and officials on Friday. As well Kelvington High School held a first alumni association gathering with a breakfast Saturday morning and a banquet Saturday night.

Mr. Speaker, I'd ask the Assembly to join with me in congratulating Kelvington Golden Hawk provincial volleyball champions: Steven Standish, Scott Standish, Matt Melrose, Charlie Patrick, Logan Boyes, John Mason, Evan Ericson, Tanner Swartz, Drew Ross, and coaches Dan Blatchford and Barry Mason on a job very well done.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Regina Walsh Acres.

Year of First Nations and Métis Women

Ms. Morin: — Mr. Speaker, 2005 has been proclaimed the Year of First Nations and Métis Women in Saskatchewan. One of the initiatives associated with this special year is the symposium on First Nation and Métis women that's being held here in Regina tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker, this event is about highlighting accomplishments, raising awareness and providing professional development for employees of executive government and Crown Corporations. Mr. Speaker, symposium participants will be from executive government and Crown employees including senior policy analysts, human resource officers, and project development staff.

Key speakers and panellists are from both Métis and First Nation communities, and the symposium format will allow for audience questions and comments through interactive panels.

Mr. Speaker, the symposium will increase participants' awareness of Aboriginal women's issues in the fields of economic security, health, safety, and leadership, and assist them in developing informed and effective policies and programs to meet the needs of First Nation and Métis women, families, and communities.

Mr. Speaker, the 2005 Throne Speech articulated our vision to improve social and economic outcomes for First Nation and Métis people. This symposium is just one more way of ensuring that that vision becomes a reality. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Saskatoon Silver Springs.

Saskatoon Church Campaigns to Stock Food Bank's Shelves

Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we heard the troubling news last week; child hunger is at a crisis stage in Saskatchewan. More than 11,000 Saskatchewan children rely on food banks, the highest in the country. Mr. Speaker, it's news that didn't sit well with me, or I'm sure with any member of this House. When you hear news like this, the question that comes to mind is, how can we make a difference as legislators or as individuals.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Circle Drive Alliance Church in Saskatoon for making a difference. Reverend Eldon Boldt and Robin and Morgan Bellamy are conducting a six-week campaign to help stock the shelves of the Saskatoon Food Bank. Last Saturday morning they invited me to help with their blitz of this Eastview area of Saskatoon. I accepted the invitation and brought along my eight-year-old son, Carter. Dozens of kids and their parents canvassed the community and loaded food onto a 1944 fire truck driven by Keith Sawatsky.

Mr. Speaker, it was a great learning experience for me, and it gave me an opportunity to talk to my son about food banks and why they exist in our province. Bob Pringle from the Saskatoon Food Bank and Learning Centre is asking all MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly] to support four things: increasing the food allowance for people on social assistance, reinstate the bus pass which was in place and was cut, cease clawing back the national child benefit, and allow those who are working to retain more of their earnings through the tax system.

Mr. Speaker, I leave the last words here to my son. He said, dad we should think about food banks every day; then no one would be hungry. True words indeed, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Saskatoon Fairview.

Working to Ensure Safe Communities and Neighbourhoods

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Mr. Speaker, the 2005 Speech from the Throne makes plain the vision that we have for Saskatchewan as we move into our new century. That vision includes working to ensure our communities and neighbourhoods are safe, criminal activity is not tolerated, and gangs are not welcome in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, this year our NDP [New Democratic Party] government will invest \$745,000 with ongoing funding of more than 2 million annually to expand suppression of gang activity. Nine RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police] investigators will be added in Regina, Saskatoon, and Prince Albert to work with municipal police forces to deal with the gangs.

The RCMP will add one new criminal intelligent analyst in Regina, Saskatoon, and Prince Albert. One investigator will be added to the Prince Albert municipal police forces and an officer will be put in charge of the program, alternating between the RCMP and municipal police services involved. Two new gang-targeted prosecutors will be posted in Regina and Saskatoon.

Mr. Speaker, this strategy is the province-wide implementation of a project that began in early 2005 in Regina by Criminal Intelligence Service Saskatchewan to which the province has contributed \$78,000. During the pilot period, 50 search warrants were executed resulting 112 persons charged with 361 Criminal Code offences. Mr. Speaker, more than \$500,000 in drugs, cash, and stolen property were seized.

Mr. Speaker, this strategy is making a positive difference in our communities. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Cannington.

Carnduff Hosts Provincial 4A Boys' Volleyball Championships

Mr. D'Autremont: — Mr. Speaker, the 4A provincial volleyball championship boys tournament was played in Carnduff this past weekend, and there was teams from across the province. Shaunavon was there from the Southwest, and La Loche was there from the North and lots of places in between, Mr. Speaker.

The school and the community put on a strong effort to present a very good tournament, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to congratulate the committees and the schools for the hard work that they did for the provincial 4A volleyball tournament.

This year was almost a repeat of last year, Mr. Speaker, with a game, Oxbow Black Knights facing off against the Lumsden team for the championship. And the scores were, the first game 25-20 for Oxbow; second game for Lumsden 25-23 which are almost identical scores to last year, Mr. Speaker. And the final results were Oxbow 25-20.

So again the second year in a row, the Oxbow Black Knights are the provincial 4A boys' volleyball championship. And, Mr. Speaker, it's unusual for a high school team to have championships back to back. The only, the only one on the teams that was a repeat, Mr. Speaker, from last year was the coach, Cal Rosenthal. So congratulations to Oxbow.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — So why is the member for Martensville on his feet?

Mr. Heppner: — I wish permission to do an introduction, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — The member for Martensville is requesting leave for an introduction. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave has been granted. The Chair recognizes the member for Martensville.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mr. Heppner: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to my colleagues for that permission.

I'd like to take this time to introduce to all members of the House, Mr. Ken Orban who is the program coordinator of the Saskatchewan branch of the Canadian Cancer Society. And he's sitting in the east gallery, and I would ask for him just to give a wave. Thank you.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

ORAL QUESTIONS

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Leader of the Opposition.

Duration of Collective Bargaining Agreements

Mr. Wall: — Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question's for the Premier. When Professor Vicq released his report on the business tax review process and recommended that business taxes in this province become more competitive with other jurisdictions, he also noted at various times that the other thing we could be doing in Saskatchewan is ensuring that we have more flexible labour laws in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, section 33(3) of The Trade Union Act says that no collective agreement in this province can last for a term of more than three years. Even if the union and the employer agree through collective bargaining to a contract that goes beyond three years, The Trade Union Act, the government of the day, the NDP government, says, no it's not on; it's not allowed.

Mr. Speaker, the question to the Premier is this: why does the government need to prevent unions and employers from negotiating collective bargaining agreements for the term they deem fit?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Labour.

Hon. Ms. Higgins: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Section 33(3) does in fact limit the length of a collective agreement to three years. If there is a choice by the parties involved to negotiate a longer agreement, they may do so. You see quite often there will be a three-year, a two-year deal signed consecutively. But what this also does is leave a 60- to 90-day open period prior to the end of the first agreement.

So what happens in some cases is employers and the unions that represent the employees will request a continuous five-year agreement for business reasons. When it's mutually agreed to, Mr. Speaker, this government agrees with it.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, the problem with this government in terms of its approach to the economy is represented in the length of that minister's answer and how complicated, needlessly complicated, the process is under the NDP.

IPSCO and its union, the United Steelworkers of America, have collectively bargained in a free and open manner — collectively bargained a four-year contract. Shaw Pipe and the Construction and General Workers Union have also collectively bargained a contract that lasts more than three years, Mr. Speaker. The government has introduced a Bill to exempt IPSCO and Shaw Pipe from section 33(3) of The Trade Union Act in order to allow for a longer contract, and the Saskatchewan Party will support this Bill, Mr. Speaker. But more importantly we would like the minister to provide a more direct answer to the question: why do we need this provision in the first place?

Professor Vicq is right. We need flexible labour laws that are fair to employee and employer. And part of that fairness could come, Mr. Speaker, if this government said, whatever these two parties negotiate in a collective bargaining process, we're going to let that happen. We support that. Will she stand up and make a commitment to change this provision of The Trade Union Act?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Labour.

Hon. Ms. Higgins: — Mr. Speaker, this has been in place for many years. It began during the years of high inflation where there was a lot of ups and downs within the economy, where long agreements may be signed that weren't desirable to either side. It can work both ways, Mr. Speaker. The limit of three years was felt to be reasonable and was put in place, has been for a number of years.

Mr. Speaker, when the Leader of the Opposition talks about unfair labour laws, labour regulation, he's also referred to occupational health and safety as being red tape — excessive red tape. Mr. Speaker, that's why the people of Saskatchewan and the working people in this province have an uncomfortableness with that conservative opposition because they will not say what they actually mean. They talk in bland and vague statements.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, the minister's defence of not doing anything about this provision of The Trade Union Act is that it's been in place for a number of years. Sometimes, Mr. Speaker, that is the most powerful argument for change you can possibly have, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

[14:00]

Mr. Wall: — That government proves it every single day.

Mr. Speaker, this is actually, we think, an intrusion in the collective bargaining process. Here we have two parties who have collectively bargained an agreement — IPSCO and their unions. They have worked hard on agreement in order that that company might bid successfully on a contract, Mr. Speaker. Part of the nature of that deal is its length. It's longer than the required, NDP-stated three-year term of a contract.

So again the question to the minister is this: what it is the reason, what are the possible reasons she could have for a blanket provision that this NDP government would step in and limit it to three years and not allow free collective bargaining to occur in the workplace, Mr. Speaker?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Labour.

Hon. Ms. Higgins: — Mr. Speaker, I would urge the member opposite to look at the big picture. You don't go about changing legislation purely because of one circumstance, Mr. Speaker. This is an agreeable situation for the Steelworkers of America and IPSCO to have a longer agreement that does not have that open period. It's more appropriate for their business. It's more appropriate for the business they do. The parties have agreed.

But, Mr. Speaker, to say it works in one place does not mean it works right across the province. Mr. Speaker, legislation that's there works well in a vast majority of the places. And the Leader of the Opposition should look clearly at situations across the province and not just focus on one issue.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, the minister talks about the big picture. She says that we should look beyond this local issue. Mr. Speaker, we have done that. And you know what we found? There is no such provision with respect to federal labour legislation. There is no such restriction imposed by the BC [British Columbia] government. There's no such restriction imposed by the Alberta government. There's no such restriction imposed by the Manitoba government.

Do you know what all of those places have in common, Mr. Speaker? They've got a better job-creation record and population record than this government has had in years, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Wall: — That's the big picture that we're talking about here.

Here's a small step of good faith that the government could take both with unions and employers to say, you know what? We're the NDP government, but maybe we don't know best. Because really that's the attitude that they have, Mr. Speaker. They always know best; big government, Big Brother is watching.

Mr. Speaker, the Bill that the government has introduced today

is reason enough for this provision to be scrapped from The Trade Union Act. Will the government do that today, Mr. Speaker?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Labour.

Hon. Ms. Higgins: — Well, Mr. Speaker, this new Leader of the conservative Saskatchewan Party likes to say like he's put on a new face. This is the kinder, milder, gentler, more centre ... oh, more up party, I think is the term of the moment, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, but every so often those spots begin to show. He talks about occupational health and safety, he talks about labour legislation as being excessive red tape — legislation that preserves equity, that gives consistent standards across workplaces. Now, Mr. Speaker, the spots start to show on The Trade Union Act.

Mr. Speaker, the working people of this province deserve to be treated fairly. They have worked hard to have legislation put in place that provides a level playing field for employers and employees in this province. And, Mr. Speaker, the working people in this province do not trust that Leader of the Opposition, that conservative opposition, and they will not trust them.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, working men and women, unionized working men and women who have worked hard for the collective bargaining rights they have, have requested that this government exempt them from this particular provision, Mr. Speaker. It's union working men and women and employers who have come together to say this is needless.

I want the Premier to stand up on his feet, Mr. Speaker. I want the Premier to find the courage to stand up and explain what is the point of this legislation. When all of these provinces in the country, when the Canadian labour code doesn't have any such provision, and when all of those places have a better job-creation record and a better population growth record than that Premier has presided over, will he stand up and say that he is not creating an atmosphere of flexible labour legislation like Jack Vicq, unions, and employers say we need in the province of Saskatchewan?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Labour.

Hon. Ms. Higgins: — Mr. Speaker, in my previous life I have sat at bargaining tables. I have been involved in a variety of processes around different sizes of bargaining units, different negotiations that have taken place. Mr. Speaker, I bring with me my previous experience. And the day that member has any experience at a bargaining table, I'll take his advice. But until then, from a person who has worked for governments and

political affiliated all his life, and that's what he's done, Mr. Speaker, he doesn't have any . . .

The Speaker: — Order. Order. Order. Order please members. Order. The Chair recognizes the member for Wood River.

Revenue Sharing with Municipalities

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a note, Mr. Speaker. That's the same member that was going to teach me about airports. So I'm not sure where she was going there.

Mr. Speaker, I understand that yesterday the mayors of Saskatchewan's 13 cities met with the Premier and Minister of Government Relations. Those mayors are looking for a new revenue-sharing deal after all the years of funding cuts from that NDP government. Specifically they're looking for a \$10 million increase this year and 20 million next year.

Could the Premier please tell us the result of that meeting? Did the Premier agree to new revenue-sharing dollars for Saskatchewan communities?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister for Government Relations.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the question and we appreciated the opportunity yesterday to meet with the mayors of Saskatchewan cities. The meeting did discuss revenue sharing and a number of other matters affecting the cities in the province.

I can tell the members opposite that it was a very productive meeting, a very forward-looking meeting. And there was recognition that the Throne Speech recognized the growing nature of Saskatchewan cities and the need for this province to continue to work with them on revenue sharing and other issues.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Wood River.

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Mr. Speaker, it's a little more than ironic. The Premier just spent \$300,000 buying flags and running ads to tell the Saskatchewan people that he can't get the money Saskatchewan deserves from Ottawa. Meanwhile he's doing exactly the same thing to Saskatchewan communities.

Municipalities have been hit by huge revenue-sharing cutbacks from that NDP government. For years they've been asking for some of the funding to be reinstated and for years that Premier has ignored them.

Mr. Speaker, why is the Premier giving municipalities the same unfair treatment that he's getting from the feds?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Government Relations.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Again I appreciate the question but I wish it was based in fact.

Mr. Speaker, everybody in Saskatchewan, the mayors included — opposition members excluded perhaps, Mr. Speaker — understand that over the last three years or the last four years ... In three of the last four years we've had greater than 10 per cent increases in revenue sharing, a 54 per cent increase actually over the course of that period of time — \$30 million, Mr. Speaker, \$10 million in each of the three of the last four years. A significant recognition of the contributions municipalities make and a commitment in this Throne Speech to work with the municipalities to ensure that there is a revenue-sharing deal in place for the future.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Wood River.

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Well, Mr. Speaker, they claw back millions of dollars from the RMs [rural municipality] and then give them a little bit of peanuts and say, aren't we being good.

Mr. Speaker, just two weeks ago the NDP announced that they had nearly \$1 billion in extra revenue. Municipalities are looking for about 1 per cent of that money, Mr. Speaker — 1 per cent. That money could be used for city streets, rural roads, keep our community safer, even to lower property taxes. Instead, the Premier has decided to keep that money for his election slush fund.

Mr. Speaker, the Premier can no longer plead poverty. He can now afford to increase revenue sharing. Why won't he do so now?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister for Government Relations.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Two things. The first one is that out of the additional revenues the province received last year, we committed nearly \$40 million to the new infrastructure program: the Saskatchewan share of the federal-provincial cost-sharing program on infrastructure — \$40 million — which amounts to approximately \$10 million of additional money per year for the municipal sector in Saskatchewan.

Secondly, Mr. Speaker, we have convened a working group that includes representatives from the urban and the rural sector to discuss the intricacies of revenue sharing. That working group is currently in place and functioning. We will have a report back from the working groups next week, Mr. Speaker, in time to prepare for our budget presentations going into the spring.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Wood River.

Property Tax Relief

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Well, Mr. Speaker, yesterday we learned this NDP government loves to appoint NDP hacks to deal with government relations. Well, Mr. Speaker, perhaps they need a hack in the education portion of property tax because things are not looking good for this tainted NDP government.

Fifty, fifty — five zero — RMs have now banded together in an ongoing tax revolt against this government. That's almost 20 per cent of all RMs, Mr. Speaker; as the *Leader-Post* called it, a critical mass.

I've said the Premier's words before, Mr. Speaker, and I'll use them again:

... is there any wonder ... [there's] a tax revolt ... brewing in this province?

When will the minister of high property taxes live up to the words of his Premier and stop making people revolt in this great province?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Government Relations.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Again, two things. First and foremost, I hope the members opposite are not supporting or encouraging anyone in this province that chooses to disregard the laws of the province of Saskatchewan.

Secondly, Mr. Speaker, I remind members opposite that we have a short-term program in place, a program that is to bridge us to a long-term program. We are working with the sector. We are committed to providing long-term property tax relief, Mr. Speaker, and we will do that.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Wood River.

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Well, Mr. Speaker, the Premier talks about getting a fair deal from the Prime Minister. And as I mentioned before, isn't it ironic that this is exactly what the revolting RMs want from that Premier: a fair deal — a fair deal, Mr. Speaker. Now with 50 RMs revolting, the Premier's hypocrisy comes to light. The Premier wants to be treated . . .

The Speaker: — Order. Order. Order. The member ought not to make disparaging remarks about other members in House, remarks that are uncomplimentary or demeaning. And I would ask the member to refrain from doing so. The member for Wood River.

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Well, Mr. Speaker, the Premier wants to be treated fairly yet he won't treat the RMs fairly. What goes around comes around. To the minister of high property taxes: will he treat the RMs and people of Saskatchewan with fairness and provide meaningful tax relief now?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Cannington.

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe that the member's question was a very good one as to why will the Premier not do what he has already stated he would do. He said at the RM convention that the status quo on property taxes was not on and yet we sit here today with the Premier doing nothing about this.

Mr. Speaker, I think that the NDP government ... If I were on their side I would apologize to the people of Saskatchewan for not following through on the very promises that I made campaigning, that the Premier made at the SARM [Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities] convention, Mr. Speaker.

So since the minister is stuck in his seat . . .

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Order. Order. Order please. Order please. Order. Order. Order. Order please. Order on both sides. Would the member from ... Order please. Would the member for Cannington go directly to his question.

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When will this NDP government and this Premier finally meet their promises on property taxes?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

[14:15]

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister for Government Relations.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And it astonishes me, Mr. Speaker, that regardless of how often we commit ourselves to the work that's necessary ... And in answering the question that the members opposite just can't, can't grasp the concept that we are indeed meeting our commitments.

We are meeting our commitments to the education property tax file. We provided \$110 million in property tax relief, and we are working with the stakeholders to ensure that we can provide long-term, sustainable property tax relief. Mr. Speaker, we are meeting that commitment.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Martensville.

Raising Awareness of Prostate Cancer

Mr. Heppner: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, prostate cancer is now the most common form of cancer in men. One in seven Canadian men will get prostate cancer in his lifetime. Over 20,000 men each year are diagnosed with that

cancer in Canada. I was one of them.

Mr. Speaker, the good news is prostate cancer can be beaten. The key is early detection. The Canadian Cancer Society recommends that all men over 50 should be tested for prostate cancer as part of an annual checkup.

Mr. Speaker, what specific steps is this government taking to raise awareness about prostate cancer and the need for men over the age of 50 to be tested annually?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thank you for that question because it allows me to talk about the cancer agency of Saskatchewan, the work that they do very ably in conjunction with the Canadian Cancer Society and with people across this province.

The member is exactly right that prostate cancer is something that is not necessarily always treatable, but when it's detected early you can end up dealing with it in a much better fashion than if you ignore it. And, Mr. Speaker, I know that working together with the cancer society in a number of different areas, working together with various prostate cancer support groups in communities across the province, we will continue to make sure that this issue is at the forefront.

Mr. Speaker, it goes hand in hand with, often, the breast cancer discussion and prostate cancer. They're both things that we need to work hard on.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Martensville.

Mr. Heppner: — Mr. Speaker, I was lucky. My wife told me to get tested. I really didn't want to. No one really likes someone poking around down there, but that test probably saved my life. And since that time, I've been telling every male who will listen about the need to get yourself checked out.

Later today I will introduce a Bill to recognize September as Prostate Cancer Awareness Month. I am pleased, Mr. Speaker, that the government has agreed to support this Bill, but I'd like to see them doing more. I'd like to see Saskatchewan Health launch some sort of public awareness campaign to let men know how important it is to be tested for prostate cancer. Will the minister do that, Mr. Speaker?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We on this side of the House are very pleased to support this Bill that's being introduced by the member. We are concerned about this and many other forms of cancer, but we agree with the emphasis that is placed on this.

We have traditionally had September as the Prostate Cancer Awareness Month, and this will confirm that in legislation. We will take the opportunity today in the public discussion that we've had here today and in this legislature and will build on that in whatever ways that the Canadian Cancer Society and the cancer agency think are appropriate. And this is something that we're very supportive of.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Martensville.

Mr. Heppner: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Canadian Cancer Society has truly been doing an outstanding job throughout this province, and I'll say more about that in my speech a little later on.

Mr. Speaker, this government spends millions of dollars each year on advertising. The Saskatchewan Party supports advertising that has a compelling purpose, such as public safety. I'm convinced lives would be saved if more men over the age of 50 started having an annual prostate exam. So it seems to me that this would be a worthwhile advertising campaign.

Will the government consider an annual advertising campaign, maybe in September during Prostate Cancer Awareness Month, to tell men over the age of 50 to start having the prostate checked regularly?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We will seriously consider the member's specific proposal which will build on the work that is being done by the cancer agency and by the cancer society and other groups in this province.

I know that the people who are involved with the prostate cancer support groups are very willing to spend time with others, men in the community, to explain some of the things that go on because I have talked to a number of individuals who are involved with that.

What we can do publicly can build on what's already happening in the community. All of these things are important because we want to deal with prostate cancer.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Why is the member for Moosomin on his feet?

Mr. Toth: — Mr. Speaker, with leave to introduce guests.

The Speaker: — The member for Moosomin has requested leave for introductions. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave is granted. The Chair recognizes the member for Moosomin.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mr. Toth: — Mr. Speaker, I'd like to invite all members to bid welcome to a former premier of this province, a gentleman who is no stranger to this House. Sitting behind the bar in the Assembly on the government side of the House, the Hon. Grant Devine.

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

The Speaker: — Why is the Leader of the Opposition on his feet?

Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, I'm seeking leave to introduce a guest.

The Speaker: — Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave has been granted.

Mr. Wall: — Well, Mr. Speaker, I want to join with the member for Moosomin, but on behalf of the official opposition, and I'm sure perhaps the government members as well, I want to join in welcoming the former premier, Grant Devine, to this Assembly.

He spent a number of years I guess on both sides of the Assembly. I haven't asked him, but I have a feeling I know which side he preferred. We might share that in common actually, Mr. Speaker, although for me I lack that experience so far. But I want to join with the member for Moosomin and on behalf of my colleagues welcome the former premier, Grant Devine, to the Assembly today.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — And why is the Premier on his feet?

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — With leave, Mr. Speaker, to join in the introduction.

The Speaker: — Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thanks, members. I am very pleased of course to welcome a former premier to the legislature.

I must say, Mr. Speaker, I was surprised that former Premier Devine was sitting over here on our side of the House. I expect that the former premier is here to participate in the unveiling of the portrait of another former premier, Roy Romanow. I welcome him here to this ceremony.

We only months ago unveiled Mr. Devine's portrait in this legislature. And just to conclude my words of welcome I want to make sure that all members understand it'll be many, many years before you unveil my portrait.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 203 — The Prostate Cancer Awareness Month Act

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Martensville.

Mr. Heppner: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that Bill No. 203, entitled An Act to raise awareness of Prostate Cancer in Saskatchewan be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member for Martensville that Bill No. 203, The Prostate Cancer Awareness Month Act be now introduced and read for the first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried.

Deputy Clerk: — First reading of this Bill.

The Speaker: — When shall the Bill be read a second time? The Chair recognizes the member from Martensville.

Mr. Heppner: — By leave, now.

The Speaker: — The member for Martensville has requested leave for second reading to proceed now. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave has been granted. The Chair recognizes the member for Martensville.

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 203 — The Prostate Cancer Awareness Month Act

Mr. Heppner: — Mr. Speaker, it's been quite a long time since I thought of this idea that we should do this basically for the benefit of all the people in Saskatchewan. And in my speech this afternoon I'm going to share a few personal things, a few public things, and my hope for what this Bill will all accomplish in time.

As I said earlier on in question period, it was probably about a year ago that my wife sent me to the doctor and said, you're going to get a checkup. And that didn't happen just that quickly. There was quite a long debate over that. And as usual the case in our house, I lost, but I'm glad this time I did.

A few things I want to mention on that particular road to my treatment. So after she had won that argument, I called my family physician, and I had to wait a substantial period of time before I got in and had the particular check. Then he sent me to an urologist in Saskatoon. And I found out at that point I believe, that at the time that I went, there were only eight urologists in Saskatchewan — five in Saskatoon, three in Regina.

And so basically the province is more or less divided in half. And the people in the southern half are going to come to Regina; the people in the northern half are going to go to Saskatoon. That makes sense. It's a scary proposition, Mr. Speaker, if you live in the southern half of the province, to know that there are only three people there to go ahead and do that final analysis.

And it's particularly scary, Mr. Speaker, when you realize that one in seven, one in seven ... And I don't think that hits us enough. That doesn't hit us enough. You walk down the streets in your community, your city. And you look at the men and you start counting — one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, and just keep going. That's what the situation is.

Look around this room, Mr. Speaker, and as you start doing the counting, you suddenly find out that one in seven is sure getting a lot of people — one in seven. I know some of you are doing that right now, and you're only looking at the other side. Well remember there's a few on your side that count as well.

And then to have to come to Regina. And say for all of us, if you live in the southern half of the province, there are only three. If you're in Saskatoon, you're somewhat more fortunate; you had five urologists.

So then I made an appointment with my urologist. And it took quite a long period of time — I wish I would've kept exact days — but weeks and in some cases months to see my urologist. So when we had that settled, then I had to go to the cancer clinic. And I'm going to talk a little bit about the cancer clinic.

I've experienced, I think in my life, too much with doctors and nurses. Great people, but you know, I want to meet you on the golf course, out hunting, fixing my car — I don't want to have anything to do with you in your profession. But when you walk into that cancer clinic you meet a totally different group of people than you do anywhere else in the health system. They are by far the most kindest, understanding people in the health services you're going to find. They really are.

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

Mr. Heppner: — And I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, it's needed. Because you park in Saskatoon at RUH [Royal University Hospital]. And then you walk over a little bit to the east and you step down a little bit and here you have this sign over top of the door you're walking into — cancer clinic. You don't want to walk in there because it just sort of brands you right there. This is now your new world. But the people in there are just excellent.

So I'm at my specialist over there and we set another timeline. I don't know how many times you've added on the timelines, but it gets to be quite long, quite a few of those. And here's a person who's dealing with cancer saying, this stuff can kill me. It can kill one in seven if it's not treated. So the importance of shortening those lists and those lines is very, very important, Mr. Speaker.

[14:30]

In talking with my urologist I got to pick what treatment I

wanted and I took radiation. Now I'm not a medical person but I found out that there are many different treatments for prostate cancer.

In fact is, I had an individual yesterday in this building walk up to me and said, I'm one of you as well. He had gone to Alberta to try and get a particular treatment, couldn't get it there; went to British Columbia to try and get it, couldn't get it there; came back to Saskatchewan and had to settle with a different treatment.

So the one thing that I'm hoping that when we're through with all of this, that those lineups will be shorter, those lineups will be shorter.

And I'm going to digress a little bit here to one or two of the things that have been said already. There is a lesson, men — I'm sorry, ladies, you're not included in this right now — there is a lesson to be learned from the women.

Years ago women did not talk about breast cancer. You might sort of pick it up here, you know. It'd be almost like gossip. But no one just spoke about it. Well I've attended a number of their meetings just because I'm a cancer survivor. And they talk very openly about it. They're very organized about that. They have excellent support groups. And they've managed to push government in many areas. How many, I don't know. But I have no doubt they've met with the Minister of Health many times and pushed him many times to do various sorts of things. Why else would we have longitudinal studies and all sorts of things happen throughout the province?

And while that's going on, Mr. Speaker, we as men have sat around and tried to be tough and avoid the situation. Because once in a while one of our wives wins that, or maybe you find the odd man who has enough common sense to go there and get the test done on his own. I don't think you find too many of those. But when we come out of those tests, we usually make them a whole lot worse than they really are. All you have to do is get a group of men together and one of them has had one of those tests in the last month. And he will go on and on and tell you about how awful it is. And by the time he's done there is no way the other one in seven that should be going is going to show up. There's no way.

I'm hoping that this Bill will go part of the way, with hopefully government putting some money into it to publicize it to the point that this isn't something men are afraid of, to the point that they'll go and get it done the way they get their teeth cleaned. And I'll tell you it takes a whole lot less time than to get your teeth cleaned. So you may as well go. So there's something very definitely to be learned from the women and what they've done. And I think we have to go ahead and basically carry on and set up similar programs in similar ways.

The amazing thing is the support that is out there. After I made my little statement in the House here about a year ago, I couldn't go anywheres and somebody would come up to me and say, me too. I could go down to Tim Hortons. I could go down to Princess Auto. I could buy gasoline. Somebody would come up and say, here's my story. We need to be more organized in that, men. We need to be more organized so that those stories, so that that personal help is there and you don't sort of have to find it by accident.

I think one of the very first individuals that came to me ... There was a birthday party for a young lass who had just turned 50 at a little place north of Laird, in a little hall that's out in the middle of nowheres, has very few amenities but they decided to have this 50th birthday party there. And so by the time that's over with I had spoken with four or five men who had come up to me and said, me too. And they all wanted to tell their story.

And there's many stories to tell because, as the minister sort of intimated, no two cases are exactly the same. Your physician may choose to treat you differently. You may make a different choice than someone else makes. And your side effects which you're almost for sure going to have, there's about 100 of them. There's about 100 of them. And then on top of that if you take radiation like I did, they plug you full of hormones.

So when I hear women off in a corner someplace talking about hot flashes I can sit down there and have a conversation with them. You make a whole new circle of friends, Mr. Speaker, a whole new circle of friends. You're never quite sure where these side effects are going to kick in and when they are. I had the good fortune of not having very many right after my radiation. I'm having a few more right now, including hot flashes.

So I said, what do I want to do with my life or in my life that I haven't done yet? Well I wanted to go hunting. So my son and I went up to the Coppermine River, and we had just a fantastic caribou hunt. And I pretty well kept up with everyone that was there. It was a fantastic time. And to have that extra time given to me, I appreciated that very much. So I did get my caribou — brought him home by the way on Saturday and hung him on the wall. That created another story between my wife and myself, but we won't go there.

I also had the good fortune of getting a wolverine. The one I got isn't very big. It is fairly small, but you know they're feisty little creatures and have a fair bit of fight in them. So I've got him stuffed as well. I've named him after the Premier.

But we've talked a bit about the public situation, the one in seven -20,000 men in Canada. And I'm hoping that this Bill will alleviate some of that hiddenness in the whole thing.

Politically I guess there's three things I look for from the government's side, and I've mentioned one already. Maybe I've mentioned all three of them. One is to provide more doctors. Five doctors for all the men over the age of 50 in Saskatchewan, with our demographics, is not good enough. Second thing I hope from the government is to provide those doctors. What that will automatically do is end up shortening the waiting list. And then to go ahead and increase that public awareness in a major way.

There's really three parts to this. You know there's those of us as men, as patients, who get the checkups done. There's government that plays a major role in all this, and the Cancer Society.

And I have to go back to those people. It's just amazing. I'm going to be there at Christmastime to make sure that they get a

card, and I don't give out Christmas cards, Mr. Speaker. Even you won't get one. But it's one of those groups that I really appreciate so much what they've all done for us.

Mr. Speaker, my hope then is, for both breast cancer and prostate cancer, that as we move ahead, we'll move ahead faster in providing the treatments for both men and women in their different situations. We need to do that. It's out of the closet. Women are talking about breast cancer in very open ways. We as men have to do that. I'm hoping that this Bill will do that, Mr. Speaker.

I could go on for a long time and relate a whole lot more personal experiences, but I don't think it's necessary. I think that the Bill speaks for itself. I think people here understand the need for what it intends to do as well.

And therefore, Mr. Speaker, I move second reading of the Bill No. 203.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member from Martensville that Bill No. 203, The Prostate Cancer Awareness Month Act be now read a second time. Is the committee ready for the question? The Chair recognizes the member for Regina Dewdney.

Mr. Yates: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm extremely pleased this afternoon to stand on behalf of my colleagues in government and support the Bill put forward by the member from Martensville.

The member spoke very eloquently about his personal situation. And it is a situation, as he's indicated, one in seven of us will face at some point in our lives. And he also spoke very eloquently about the terrific job that women have done in raising awareness of breast cancer in our society and, Mr. Speaker, he is right. It is our responsibility and it is our hope that we can all raise awareness of prostate cancer so men in our community take the same precautions that women today are starting to take. And that in fact through awareness we can help men in our communities, our fellow citizens, those of which many of us may well face that situation at some point in the future, to deal with this very serious issue at the earliest possible opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, this particular Bill dedicates a month as a special month of awareness to this cancer and, Mr. Speaker, it is a very important Bill. It is very significant that the members of this Assembly should unanimously support it. And, Mr. Speaker, we all should thank the member for Martensville for bringing this forward and giving us the opportunity to support this issue. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion moved by the member for Martensville that Bill 203, The Prostate Cancer Awareness Month Act be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The motion is carried.

Clerk: - Second reading of this Bill.

The Speaker: — To which committee shall this Bill be referred? The Chair recognizes the member from Martensville.

Mr. Heppner: — I move that Bill No. 203, An Act to raise awareness of Prostate Cancer in Saskatchewan be moved to the Committee of the Whole.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member for Martensville that this Bill be referred to the Committee of the Whole. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried. This Bill stands referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Deputy Clerk: — Committee of the Whole.

The Speaker: — It's my understanding that leave to go to Committee of the Whole immediately. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave is granted. I do therefore leave the Chair for Committee of the Whole to proceed.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Bill No. 203 — The Prostate Cancer Awareness Month Act

Clause 1

The Chair: — Call the question on clause 1. All those in favour?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried.

[Clause 1 agreed to.]

[Clauses 2 and 3 agreed to.]

[Preamble agreed to.]

[14:45]

The Chair: — Therefore Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan, enacts as follows: The Prostate Cancer Awareness Month Act. Agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. I ask the member to move to report the Bill without amendment.

The Chair: — The member has so moved. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. I recognize the member from Melfort.

Mr. Gantefoer: — Madam Chair, I ask that the committee rise and report progress.

The Chair: — And ask for leave to sit again, I believe.

Mr. Gantefoer: - Okay, and ask for leave to sit again.

The Chair: — The member has asked that the committee rise, report progress, and ask for leave to sit again. It is the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt that motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried.

[The Speaker resumed the Chair.]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of committees.

Ms. Hamilton: — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the committee to report Bill No. 203 without amendment and ask for leave to sit again.

The Speaker: — When shall the Bill be read a third time? The Chair recognizes the member from Martensville.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 203 — The Prostate Cancer Awareness Month Act

Mr. Heppner: — By leave, Mr. Speaker, I move that this Bill be read a third time and passed under its title.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member from Martensville that this Bill be now read a third time and passed under its title. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried.

Deputy Clerk: — Third reading of this Bill.

The Speaker: — When shall the committee sit again? The Chair recognizes . . .

Ms. Hamilton: — Next sitting, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: - Members have called for a standing vote on

the motion. The member is requesting leave for a standing vote on the motion upon which we have just voted. It would be on third reading of this Bill. He has requested leave, and we've already voted. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave has been granted. We will then proceed to the third vote. The question before the Assembly is the motion moved by the member for Martensville that Bill No. 203, The Prostate Cancer Awareness Month Act be now read a third time. Those who favour the motion please rise.

Oh, just a minute. Just a minute. Pardon me. Pardon me, I'm just jumping the gun a little bit. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The motion is carried. Call in the members for a recorded vote.

[The division bells rang from 14:48 until 14:52.]

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion moved by the member from Martensville that Bill No. 203, The Prostate Cancer Awareness Month Act be now read a third time. Those in favour of the motion please stand.

[Yeas - 54]

Calvert	Hamilton	Lautermilch
Van Mulligen	Taylor	Serby
Atkinson	Cline	Sonntag
Crofford	Prebble	Forbes
Wartman	Belanger	Higgins
Thomson	Nilson	Beatty
Hagel	Junor	Harper
Iwanchuk	McCall	Quennell
Trew	Yates	Addley
Morin	Borgerson	Wall
Toth	Elhard	Heppner
D'Autremont	Krawetz	Draude
Hermanson	Bjornerud	Stewart
Wakefield	Chisholm	McMorris
Harpauer	Gantefoer	Eagles
Bakken Lackey	Cheveldayoff	Huyghebaert
Brkich	Weekes	Kerpan
Morgan	Hart	Kirsch

The Speaker: — Those opposed to the motion please rise.

[Nays — nil]

Deputy Clerk: — Mr. Speaker, those in favour of the motion, 54; those opposed, nil.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I declare the motion carried unanimously.

Deputy Clerk: — Third reading of this Bill.

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

The Speaker: — Members, before we proceed to orders of the day, I would like to table at this time the business and financial plan for the year ending March 31, 2007, from the Office of the Provincial Auditor.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Government Whip.

Mr. Yates: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm extremely pleased today to stand on behalf of the government and order questions 555 through 562 inclusive.

The Speaker: — Questions 555 to 562 have been ordered.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Government House Leader.

MOTIONS

House Recess

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would like to move, seconded by the member from Yorkton:

That pursuant to rule 4(1), this Assembly shall recess until 4 p.m. today so that all members may attend the ceremony for the unveiling of the official portrait of Premier Roy Romanow.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member for The Battlefords, the Government House Leader, seconded by the member for Yorkton, and pursuant to rule 4(1):

This Assembly shall recess until 4 p.m. so that all members may attend the ceremony for the unveiling of the official portrait of Premier Roy Romanow.

Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried. This House stands recessed until 4 p.m. Notice of a five-minute bell will be given.

[The Assembly recessed for a period of time.]

The Deputy Speaker: — Order. The House has now resumed proceedings under orders of the day, second readings.

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 20 — The Collective Bargaining Agreement Expiry Date Exception Act

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

Hon. Ms. Higgins: — Thank you very much, Madam Deputy Speaker. I rise in support of Bill 20, the collective bargaining agreement expiry date exemption Act. I am confident that all hon. members will support this legislation.

The legislation before us will provide for two collective bargaining agreements that run longer than three years. Those contracts are between IPSCO and the United Steelworkers of America, Local 5980, and between Shaw Pipe Protection Ltd. and the Construction & General Workers Union, Local 180.

Members will know that section 33(3) of The Trade Union Act effectively limits the length of collective agreements to three years. While an employer and a union may bargain a longer contract, The Trade Union Act allows either party to reopen bargaining after three years unless legislation is passed to support an extended agreement.

IPSCO and the United Steelworkers of America both agree that a five-year term is the best choice for their industry's specific situation, so too does Shaw Pipe and the Construction & General Workers Union. And so the parties have asked this government to respect their wishes and support their decision to enter into a five-year contract.

That is what the Bill before us, Bill 20, does. We believe an exemption to section 33(3) of The Trade Union Act is warranted in these two cases.

For the employees, IPSCO, and Shaw Pipe, the five-year contracts ensure a longer period of labour relations stability for their Saskatchewan operations. For the workers, the contract enabled by Bill 20 provides stable, well-paying jobs. For Saskatchewan this contract increases the viability of the industries and holds out the promise of future growth. I am sure every member of this Assembly will agree that it is our duty to do all we can to encourage this important Saskatchewan industry and the jobs that it provides.

We do not believe it is appropriate or reasonable in the circumstances before us to deny this request — a joint request by both employers and by both unions. And so it's my pleasure to invite all hon. members to support this legislation.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I move second reading of Bill 20, The Collective Bargaining Agreement Expiry Date Exception Act. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Deputy Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Labour that Bill No. 20, The Collective Bargaining Agreement Expiry Date Exception Act, 2005 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: - No.

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

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

pleasure today to rise and speak on Bill No. 20, an Act regarding certain collective bargaining agreements and repealing of The IPSCO Inc. and United Steelworkers American, Local 5890, collective bargaining agreement Act, 2002.

Mr. Speaker, as the title of the Bill suggests, we've been here before. In 2002 we moved a special motion exempting the employees and the management of IPSCO from the restraints imposed on all workers in this province of subsection 33(3) of The Trade Union Act.

Madam Speaker, I believe that it's important to state from the outset that we certainly will be supportive of the request by IPSCO and the United Steelworkers of America Local 5890 as well as Shaw Pipe Protection Ltd. and the Construction & General Workers Union Local 180 in their request for having a contract that exceeds the three-year limitation of The Trade Union Act.

In saying that, Madam Speaker, it seems to me that we should learn from the fact that we're here three years after having to create and pass a Bill with a similar exemption in 2002 — as the Leader of the Opposition raised the issue in question period today, Madam Deputy Speaker, and questioned the logic of why not just change The Trade Union Act so we're not doing this every three or four years. And as the Act suggests and in the wording of the Act, it is repealing the Act with IPSCO and its employees in 2002 and now re-engaging IPSCO and expanding that to Shaw Pipe Protection Limited as well. So now we have two major companies that are asking for the same exemption to The Trade Union Act.

Wouldn't it make sense, Madam Deputy Speaker, instead of having to do this every three or four years at the request of companies and their unions, that just simply changing The Trade Union Act so it isn't so limiting and creating this impediment to logical, free, and open collective bargaining between company and their employees for contracts that would be longer than the mandatory maximum of three years in The Trade Union Act.

Madam Deputy Speaker, it seems to me that it would be a whole lot more sensible, send a lot better message if Saskatchewan would enact legislation similar to the Government of Canada, similar to the Government of British Columbia, similar to the Government of Alberta, and indeed, even similar to the Government of Manitoba that basically allows and creates the atmosphere for free and open collective bargaining between companies and their employees for contracts for whatever length of time that suits their needs.

And so in order to potentially make that point, but more importantly in order for our Labour critic, the member from Canora-Pelly, to have an opportunity to assure himself that this is perhaps going to be the last time we have to do this and have discussions with these companies and their employers, at this time I would move to adjourn debate.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Melfort has moved to adjourn debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt

the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 2

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Beatty that **Bill No. 2** — **The Film Employment Tax Credit Amendment Act, 2005** be now read a second time.]

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member for Kelvington-Wadena.

Ms. Draude: — Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. I'm pleased today to rise in the House to discuss the Bill No. 2, the film employment tax credit.

This is something that we've heard about for a number of years, and people have very strong opinions on, whether the government should be investing money in this area or not. And there's two very sound arguments, or there are sound arguments on both sides of the fence.

This Bill is actually brought forward because of the government's decision to actually do a review of the role of government in the film industry. And just to start, Madam Deputy Speaker, I just wanted to indicate to people that the evaluation team was all government members, and the industry stakeholders didn't have any business people on the committee. There was union people, and there was people from SaskFILM and people who were formally with some of the production companies, but there wasn't anybody with the economic background or a business background participating in the actual review.

The observations that were brought forward by these people, who obviously had a real intense interest in it, were interesting. The first statement that jumps out to anybody who reads it says the film industry is not viable without government investment. Now that's the kind of thing that sends shivers down the back of most business people because if you have a business or an industry going that knows it needs to have the government putting money into it to stay alive, it does send . . . it does make you wonder why you would be doing it.

We also know that ... The conclusions also suggest that Saskatchewan labour supply meets demand. There will be less need to deem out-of-province labour ... and it would increase returns to the province through income tax contributions.

The other point that the review looked at, or the other issue they looked at was the sound stage. Now this 84,000 square foot facility was something that brought a lot of notion that . . . there was a lot of interest by the public in this facility when it was being built, and the government had said that it was going to make a lot of money for the province. But now we have . . .

After a number of years we've learned that there isn't any money made from the sound stage. In fact it's losing money.

The sound stage costs have regularly outstripped revenues and even in years such as 2004-2005 where it operated at 69 per cent capacity. The review committee said that, based on the revenues for this fiscal year, 2004-2005, when the facility operated at 69 per cent capacity, it will still lose between 600,000 and \$700,000. Madam Deputy Speaker, that is an enormous amount of money, and we have to look at the other side of the story to determine if this is something that the people of Saskatchewan feel that they would like to put their tax dollars into.

[16:15]

In 2002-2003, the net profit of the sound stage was negative \$1,051,145. That is not a mistake, Madam Deputy Speaker; that's what the net profit was in 2002-2003. This year it's estimated it'll be at a negative \$878,000. So when we're looking at the film tax credit, we have to keep that in perspective when discussing where the industry should be going.

The average cost for the tax credit every year is about \$5.3 million, and this cost is increasing. The performance expectations is really conflicting because the industry performance, the industry itself isn't sure every year where it is going to be going to and is an inconsistent method of tracking the industry activity.

There was success stories, success stories that we are all proud of in our province. We have *Corner Gas* which we are familiar with and the whole country is familiar with. And I think I heard the other night that it's the number one comedy show or half-hour show, sitcom. And it has brought a lot of recognition to the province, and we're proud of it.

A lot of us have a very . . . We're proud to be Saskatchewanians and we like people to know it. We don't want to be known as a have-not province, but we do want to let people know that we do have a lot to offer.

The return on investment for it, for the film employment tax credit in '98-99 was point four million dollars and is an average since then of point zero five negative, point zero six negative. And it's kind of scary when we look at how much money it's costing us to keep the industry in Saskatchewan.

The years that ... In 2002 when we had some of the lowest production, we actually lost less money. In fact we made point five million. And that in itself makes you wonder why you'd want to have more productions when you lose money the more you have.

The main concern is the percentage of the film financing was made up and the tax credit is increased from 11 per cent to almost 17 per cent. And there's few controls in place to ensure that the return on investment is maximized.

The infrastructure is necessary to support production in Saskatchewan, the sound stage infrastructure, and it has triggered growth in production volumes. But the main concern We do know that we need to have trained people in this industry. We have to be able to ensure that the film companies that come into the province have or are going to be able to count on Saskatchewan for professionals to supply the help that, the personnel for the films that they are making.

So today the program, the film tax credit Act that we're looking at today has a number of components. The film credit will go to 45 per cent from 35 per cent, and it'll provide an additional 5 per cent for productions that employ Saskatchewan residents. It also includes government equity in a film and revenue from broadcasting licences from the SCN [Saskatchewan Communications Network].

Currently government assistance is subtracted from the total eligible costs of a film before the calculation of a tax credit, so tax credits are not paid on work that's already been subsidized from the government. However, Madam Deputy Speaker, there is a list of types of funding that doesn't count as government assistance in the current Act, such as investments by Canadian Television Fund or any broadcast licence fee from the Canadian Television Fund.

What is concerning is the direct equity investments by the Government of Saskatchewan in a film where the government expects a return on investment or legitimate usage. Broadcasting fees paid by the SCN or Department of Learning are currently treated as forms of government assistance. This film tax credit amendment Act would treat these things as though they were not defined as government assistance.

So this kind of information leads to many questions that I am sure that the government is prepared to answer. And as we bring this Bill forward into committee and have an opportunity to discuss with the Minister of Youth, Culture and Recreation where this industry is actually going in the government's eyes, maybe the people of the province will have a better idea of what the actual goals are of the government.

When we find the government trying to shrink an industry, that seems kind of ... It's hard to understand why that would be the goal of the government. And in the press release that was put out a number of weeks ago, that was exactly what was stated.

But at the same time, we know that the industry itself is not sustainable without government intervention. And all of us know that to ensure that Saskatchewan has the cultural aspects of our life defined and the people can know who we are, it adds a lot of dimension, not just to the lives of people in our province and our family members but across Canada.

So there's a lot of questions that I will be interested in hearing the answers from when we go into committee. So at this time, Madam Deputy Speaker, I move that this Bill be moved into Committee of the Whole.

The Deputy Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the Minister of Culture, Youth and Recreation that Bill No. 2, The Film Employment Tax Credit Amendment Act, 2005 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready 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: — Carried.

Clerk Assistant (Committees): — Second reading of this Bill.

The Deputy Speaker: — To which committee shall this Bill be referred? I recognize the Minister for Culture, Youth and Recreation, the Provincial Secretary.

Hon. Ms. Beatty: — I move that Bill No. 2, An Act to amend The Film Employment Tax Credit Act be referred to the Standing Committee on the Economy.

The Deputy Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister for Culture, Youth and Recreation that Bill No. 2, The Film Employment Tax Credit Amendment Act, 2005 be referred to the Standing Committee on the Economy. Is the Assembly ready 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: — Carried. This Bill stands referred to the Standing Committee on the Economy.

Bill No. 28

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wartman that **Bill No. 28** — **The Veterinarians Amendment Act, 2005** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. I'm very pleased to enter into the debate on Bill No. 28, An Act to amend The Veterinarians Act, 1987.

Madam Deputy Speaker, the amendments to this Act have been a concern to the vet association where they've been asking for legislation that allows them to deal with delinquent members more easily. And there's something that I really want to emphasize in that statement, Madam Deputy Speaker, and that is to deal with members more easily.

This Act will give the association more teeth to deal with members who are found guilty of professional conduct. The professional conduct committee will also now be able to apply to the courts to obtain an order prohibiting members from performing practices that are under investigation by the committee and may seek prosecution against the individual pending the outcome of their investigation. Again, Madam Deputy Speaker, that refers to members.

This Act also strengthens the fine that may be levied against individuals as some of the fines had not been increased in a number of years. And again, Madam Deputy Speaker, this refers to members. And I think this is very important to understand that we support that concept of this Bill that the vet association wants to have a broader self-governing aspect of their members.

But now we get into some issues with this Bill that I find quite troubling. The association, again the vet association, has had problems with individuals who are not qualified as veterinary technologists or veterinarians performing veterinarian procedures outside of the scope of the veterinarian body.

Now where that creates some concern, Madam Deputy Speaker, is how much control and how much authority is the committee — the veterinarian committee — going to have on people outside of their members? And that's why this is very, very critical on the wording.

For an example, can they go out and stop somebody from dealing with their own animals on the ranch? And that is of a concern to many, many people. And I'll give you an example. If I wish to pregnancy check my own cows, is that going to be in disagreement with this Act? Will this Act give the vet committee the authority to be able to come and tell me that I cannot preg check my cattle? And it sounds like this Bill is giving them the authority. So this is kind of directive, I would suggest, if some body can tell me that I cannot preg check my own cattle.

So now I want to take that one step further. I'm not very good at doing this but my neighbour is. My neighbour is very good at doing it. So is this Act going to preclude my neighbour from coming over and helping me preg check my own cattle?

And I see the Agriculture minister shaking his head that it doesn't but I would suggest, Madam Deputy Speaker, that this has already happened in the past where an individual I know, and I know quite well, has been taken to court for doing exactly that, for preg checking other people's cattle.

And if it gives this body the authority to go out and do that, this is kind of a challenge to everybody that's a rancher in this province of ours because it goes beyond the scope of just preg checking also. How many of us that have been associated with ranching have not helped the birth of a calf? Now if this authority is granted to this veterinarian body where they can deal outside of the scope of their members, does that mean that a heifer that is down and will likely die unless the calf is assisted in coming out, can they come and challenge the individual for pulling a calf?

And I know again, like I say, those of us that have been around ranching have all participated in such things as pulling calves or assisted birthing of calves.

How about C-sections [Caesarean section]? Now a C-section obviously is a little bit more technical, but again where a lot of our ranches are is out in country where there might not be a veterinarian for 50 miles, maybe 100 miles. And if you are going to save an animal by performing a C-section — and I do know an awful lot of ranchers that have the ability to do that and have done it — now are they going to be taken to court and taken to task over their, what I consider, their right to save one of their animals by performing a C-section?

So I think there's an awful lot in this Bill that it is not said and it's not clear enough. But the underlying implication is that this Bill will give the authority to the vet association, as it says, to deal with individuals that are, under their view, are not qualified technologists or veterinarians. So I think this is an extremely sensitive issue when it comes to looking after your own herd of cattle.

There's another aspect of this Bill that is also very, very troublesome. And I've received correspondence from an individual whom I know is a equine dentist, and his training ... He has taken training for a long period of time to become a professional equine dentist. Now this province does not recognize equine dentistry and other jurisdictions do. Now this individual that I've spoke to is what I say is a professional equine dentist. And he's taken the courses, the classes. He has the expertise, and he's certified as an equine dentist.

Now this Bill, it places dentistry under the practice of veterinary medicine. But this individual is not a veterinarian. He is an equine dentist. And this Bill would preclude this individual from operating in this province. So in fact what we would be doing is chasing an equine dentist out of this province if that clause stays in this Bill.

[16:30]

Now here's a situation where an individual has specialized. His specialty is equine dentistry. How many veterinarians have a specialty of dentistry for horses? And I know this individual and he says he makes a lot of his living because he goes and corrects the dental work that some veterinarians have tried to do on animals, on horses, and the horses in some cases are in far worse shape. So they call in the equine dentist and he fixes the problem that was created by somebody that was not a professional at doing it although they were a certified veterinarian.

So this is again a situation where we have somebody that's a professional at what he does, and we are saying in this Bill that, sorry you're not going to be allowed to do it because under this Bill you are not a veterinarian. And I think that's actually very, very wrong, Madam Deputy Speaker. So this is one aspect of the Bill that I think really needs to be removed.

And it talks also in this ... The main concern in its use is controlled drugs considered necessary for humane dentistry to take place. Well, Madam Deputy Speaker, I mean if you're a professional as an equine dentist, you've taken all of the courses and administered the drugs while you've taken the courses. I guess what's not understood by the author of the Bill is that there is such a thing as professional equine dentists although in Saskatchewan we have actually chased most of them out. I believe we're down to one in this province now. And if this Bill passes I know this individual is going to be forced out of the province himself because this Bill would preclude him working in the province of Saskatchewan. And so therefore there's going to be a huge demand for equine dental work because we won't have anybody in the province that is fully qualified to be able to do it.

So, Madam Deputy Speaker, with those concerns I would be remiss if we did not do a little bit more research on this Bill and find out the extent of the authority of the veterinarian committee as to how and what they can deal outside of their members. And that's why that was extremely important to identify when they want to deal with their members. That's fine. That's self-policing; I think that's great. There should be more of that. But when they want to deal outside of the purview of their members, I think we have a problem, and I've identified those, and I would just like to repeat them again.

With equine dentistry I think is a huge issue. But also with being able to pregnancy check your own cattle, pull a calf, assist at birth of your own cattle or your neighbour's or helping out a friend doing it, and even such things as C-sections, if this Bill is going to preclude that, one, we've got a huge problem in policing it. And I don't know who and how we would because I know a lot of the ranches that I associate with, you're miles from the nearest town even. So I don't know how it could possibly be policed.

So with that, Madam Deputy Speaker, at this time I would like to adjourn debate on this Bill.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 25

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Higgins that **Bill No. 25** — **The Workers' Compensation Amendment Act, 2005** be now read a second time.]

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member for Canora-Pelly.

Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you very much, Madam Deputy Speaker. Madam Deputy Speaker, it's a privilege to join in the debate on Bill No. 25, the first opportunity that I've had since this Bill has been moved into adjourned debates. And I want to indicate, Madam Deputy Speaker, for the record that the Bill was given second reading yesterday and is now before us for the first time one day later.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I had the privilege yesterday of talking with a number of the guests that we had in the Assembly representing the firefighters associations right across this province. There were in the Assembly a number of people who came to ensure that they heard, I guess, the minister put forward the statements that she did about the reason for Bill No. 25. Madam Deputy Speaker, I listened to the firefighters after the House adjourned and had the opportunity to talk to the president, Mr. Gerry Huget, and had the opportunity also to communicate with him by fax and send him some information. He responded in turn by sending back some information that I had requested from the firefighters association.

Madam Deputy Speaker, it's clear that the firefighters association is lobbying the government to enhance the coverages that are currently there that have been in place now for about three years regarding certain diseases and the presumptive period that is included with those diseases. Madam Deputy Speaker, they are the advocates of course on behalf of 700-plus professional firefighters, full-time firefighters who deal with providing that service in many different locations across the province.

Madam Deputy Speaker, in discussing Bill No. 25 and the changes put forward, it was referenced by the Minister of Labour for the government that they were copying other jurisdictions. And in fact the Manitoba jurisdiction was one that they had looked at very closely, and most of the changes were copies of Manitoba.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I have in my hand The Workers Compensation Act revisions to the Act of the province of Manitoba, and the Act is not quite as broad as the recent changes put forward by the minister. And in asking the president of the Saskatchewan Fire Fighters Association where the additional conditions that the minister was putting forward, where they were coming from, he wasn't quite clear because he was sure that they were in fact put forward in the Manitoba Act.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I want to also indicate that the regulations that the province of Manitoba has enacted to support their workers' compensation Act were put into force on October 31, 2005, so very current regulations that the province of Manitoba has enacted to ensure that the conditions that the Manitoba professional firefighters are facing are up to date.

Madam Minister, what we will be looking for as an official opposition from the Minister of Labour to ensure that the conditions that are comparable in Saskatchewan and Manitoba, that the addition of a primary site testicular cancer is added to the Saskatchewan Act. And it is not currently within the Manitoba Act. So that is a clear difference between the Saskatchewan Act and the Manitoba Act.

Now the minister responded in her speech during second reading. And she's indicated, Madam Deputy Speaker, on November 28 as I indicated, which was yesterday, she states, and I quote from *Hansard* on page 439 yesterday, she said:

... these amendments are based on the most current scientific research available ...

Now, Madam Deputy Speaker, that would tell me that the most recent research on testicular cancer should be something that the minister would have provided as . . . in briefing notes to this Assembly so that we would understand. And indeed the Professional Fire Fighters Association, the many fire people across the province would understand why that one was being added to the list of cancers that are currently put forward by the

amendments to this Act. But that wasn't the case.

So those will be things that we're going to look for in discussion as we move into committee.

Madam Deputy Speaker, one of the other concerns that I had, and I indicated this to the Minister of Labour a number of days ago when the first draft of this legislation came out, was the fact that in the legislation that we see before us they have listed the officials and I imagine the various representatives from Justice — have listed under the section called "listed disease", in quotation marks, they refer to listed disease as point number (x) and point number (x) under listed diseases is:

an injury to the heart that manifests within 24 hours after attendance at an emergency response.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I asked the Professional Fire Fighters Association yesterday whether there was concern from their association whether or not this is legally correct to be listed under the section of nine previously listed diseases which are all cancer diseases. And we know that cancer is listed as a disease. It doesn't matter whether it's lung cancer or whether it's non-Hodgkins lymphoma; those are all cancers. But they have also indicated then that number (x) would be an injury.

Now the reason I bring that to the attention of the Assembly, Madam Deputy Speaker, is the Manitoba Act which in its preamble and its explanatory notes clearly indicated that they wanted to broaden the coverages that were there for professional firefighters, and they wanted to add a number of cancers to their list as well. And they added three of the cancers as I've already indicated that the current Minister of Labour wants to add to this Bill.

But they then indicated, and I quote from their explanatory notes, they said that heart injury within 24 hours after attendance at an emergency response is also presumed to be an employment-related accident. It doesn't say an employment related disease, Madam Deputy Speaker.

So there is some question there. And I know that the firefighters indeed want to be assured that there isn't some, you know, unintentional wording that has been put in place that would not prevent cases from going forward because a heart injury is listed in the Bill as a disease.

And, Madam Deputy Speaker, the Manitoba workers' compensation Act has created section 4(5.6) in which they call it a presumption re heart injury to firefighters. So it's clearly not within the section of cancer and all of the other diseases that are listed. It's placed into a separate section.

So those are the kinds of things, Madam Deputy Speaker, that I want the Minister of Labour to clarify when in fact we have that opportunity in committee.

My final point that the firefighters are also concerned about, along with the official opposition, is that the Bill refers to the creation of regulations. It refers to, in subsection 3(b) it indicates that there will be prescribed in the regulations a period for . . . a minimum period as defined.

And again then on the second page under subsection 4, it says, "prescribing a minimum period for a worker to have been a non-smoker" within regulations. Madam Deputy Speaker, that of course is always a concern when we see that the government says, you know, trust us. We are going to put in place an Act, and down the road we're going to develop regulations that will ensure that this Act can be enforced.

The concern that I have, Madam Deputy Speaker, is that the period of time, the latency period that is defined for various diseases is different. And I look at the regulations of Manitoba, and I hope that the Minister of Labour is true to her word when she said we're going to be mirroring the example of Manitoba when there are ... For instance, the minimum period of employment for primary site brain cancer is 10 years. The primary site for kidney cancer is 20 years. The primary leukemia and its latency minimum period is five years.

And the list goes on, Madam Deputy Speaker, and it identifies the nine cancers that have been identified . . . I'm sorry the eight cancers for Manitoba because Manitoba has one less cancer and does not have testicular cancer identified here.

And it clearly identifies the minimum period of time that someone can be designated as a non-smoker. And I didn't realize, Madam Deputy Speaker, it's relevant to the number of cigarettes or the number of cigars that people have smoked per day. And for instance, Madam Deputy Speaker, if you were a smoker in past and you smoked one to nine cigarettes per day and now you've stopped smoking, you will not be considered a non-smoker for six years.

[16:45]

If by chance you were a smoker that smoked 40 or more cigarettes per day and you now have become a non-smoker, you will not be considered a non-smoker — and this is relevant to lung cancer and the minimum period — you won't be considered a non-smoker for 28 years.

So, Madam Deputy Speaker, there is precedence set by Manitoba. These are regulations that Manitoba has seen fit to implement as I said very recently, on October 31, 2005, and they are, I'm assuming, accepted by the fire fighters association of Manitoba as well.

My final comment, Madam Deputy Speaker. In speaking with Mr. Huget yesterday, Gerry said that the fire fighters association has been involved, back when the Act was first created, in developing the regulations, and he does not see that changing. And in fact hopes that they will be involved again and that ... will develop the regulations to ensure that when this Bill is finally ... when it finally comes into force, which will be on proclamation, that those regulations will have been put in place for the purpose of serving the firefighters.

And that's what this whole Act is all about. It's there to ensure that the service that is provided by firefighters right across this province, that if there are diseases or if there is an injury to someone's heart as a result of being involved in, you know, a traumatic experience within 24 hours, that indeed there is coverage for those individuals. So, Madam Deputy Speaker, it's clear that when you start to look at the number of claims that have come forward in that short two-plus years period of time, it does affect those employees directly. And what we can do as a society, as a legislature to ensure that those workers are protected . . . And in fact, Madam Deputy Speaker, I would say that their families are protected. Because that's what this Bill will do, is ensure that there is compensation if someone is, you know, subjected to a disease while on the job.

So, Madam Deputy Speaker, we look forward to the Minister of Labour's comments at committee where we will have the opportunity to see whether or not there is a balance between what Manitoba has done and is doing, and why there are certain changes to the Saskatchewan Act that are not similar to Manitoba. And we'll have that opportunity to question the minister during committee. Thank you very much.

The Deputy Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the Minister of Labour that Bill No. 25, The Workers' Compensation Amendment Act, 2005 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready 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: — Carried.

Deputy Clerk: — Second reading of this Bill.

The Deputy Speaker: — To which committee shall the Bill be referred? The Minister of Labour.

Hon. Ms. Higgins: — Madam Deputy Speaker, I move that The Workers' Compensation Amendment Act, 2005, Bill No. 25 be moved to the Standing Committee on the Economy.

The Deputy Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Labour that Bill No. 25, The Workers' Compensation Amendment Act, 2005 be referred to the Standing Committee on the Economy. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried. This Bill stands referred to the Standing Committee on the Economy.

Bill No. 24

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Quennell that **Bill No. 24** — **The Cost of Credit Disclosure Amendment Act, 2005** be now read a

second time.]

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

Mr. Kerpan: — Thank you. Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I say I've waited with bated breath now for two days to give this very profound speech on Bill No. 24, which I've been studying here at my desk for a quite lengthy time.

Madam Speaker, I fear though, I fear the clock is against me, Madam Speaker, and I will not be able to get everything that I wanted to say about this Bill although I know members opposite will listen with bated breath to hear of the words that I have to say about this particular piece of legislation.

Madam Speaker, this Bill No. 24 sort of reminds me about a couple of other pieces of legislation that have come before the House early in this session. It's another Bill that was sort of brought forward back in 2002 and didn't work very well, was never implemented because it didn't coincide with the way the federal government dealt with the cost of credit and the disclosure of the cost of credit.

And so it reminds me ... much similar like the equalization issue or the other Bill that my colleague from Melfort was talking about earlier this day when he said that, you know, what comes around seems to come around again and again and again with this government. It seems as though that the government never had their ducks in a row when they brought this legislation forward back in 2002 because they couldn't get Ottawa to change their regulations so that they would coincide with the provincial government's. So now we're dealing with a piece of legislation that we probably would not and should not have had to deal with if it would have been handled properly in the first place.

Now, Madam Speaker, the Bill itself is intended to protect consumers against unfair credit practices and to give, you know, consumers comparable information that they would need to make credit decisions. Every one of us, Madam Speaker, on either side of this House would certainly agree that that kind of information is very necessary before one makes purchases of any kind — whether it be for small items like putting gasoline, for instance, gasoline purchases on your credit card or buying big-ticket items like cars or houses or television sets or shoes, you know, whatever the case may be.

Because you know at the end of the day, Madam Speaker, all of us in this society that we live in nowadays, we need to usually ... in many cases not very many of us have the ability to pay cash for those types of major purchases. Unfortunately that's not the case any more. And so you need to know up front, you know, what the cost of that credit is, what is it going to cost you to carry that purchase over any length of time until one could pay for it.

Now of course, Madam Speaker, as we all know that, you know, MLAs ... There was discussion last spring about, you know, about the MLA pay schedule. And you know decisions were made and so on and so forth. And now it seems as though, it seems as though that it's even more important that we know

that we as MLAs and consumers in general know exactly what the cost of that credit will be.

Madam Speaker, Saskatchewan is one of five provinces who are attempting to harmonize, you know, this type of legislation so that the cost of credit disclosure would be compatible with federal-regulated lenders as well as provincial-regulated lenders.

You know, we'd like to know, Madam Speaker, in this Bill, on this particular Bill, what discussions actually took place between our government — the provincial government — and the federal government over this issue, and what were the stumbling blocks that did not allow these types of things to be harmonized back in 2002 when this particular piece as legislation first came before the House.

There is also a section in this legislation, Madam Speaker, that deals with unsolicited credit cards. Again that's an important issue. And it's an issue that consumers in Saskatchewan and right across the country and right across the world face nowadays. It's not unusual to get mail on a regular basis in your mailbox with people who are asking you to take credit. They want to give you free credit.

An Hon. Member: — You don't have to take it.

Mr. Kerpan: — Now understandably . . . That's correct. My colleague says you don't have to take it, and that's true. But in many cases, many cases people want to have that extra credit just as a feeling of safeguard — you know, a comfort zone, a buffer zone — in case you ever have to buy a new pair of shoes for instance and you need that credit card limit raised. It's important, Madam Speaker, that you know what the cost of buying that particular pair of shoes or that suit would be — very important.

Now, Madam Speaker, my time is running short. And I know that, you know, this House wants to, needs to come back to committee later tonight. But there are some things that we know we certainly want to discuss and to investigate on the details of this Bill. And so at this point in time, Madam Speaker, I would move that we adjourn debate on this very important Bill.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Carrot River Valley has moved to adjourn debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried. I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. In order to facilitate the work of the policy field committees later this evening, I would move that the House do now adjourn.

The Deputy Speaker: — The motion before the Assembly is that the House do now adjourn. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried. This House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 1:30 p.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 16:56.]

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