



SECOND SESSION - TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

of the

**Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

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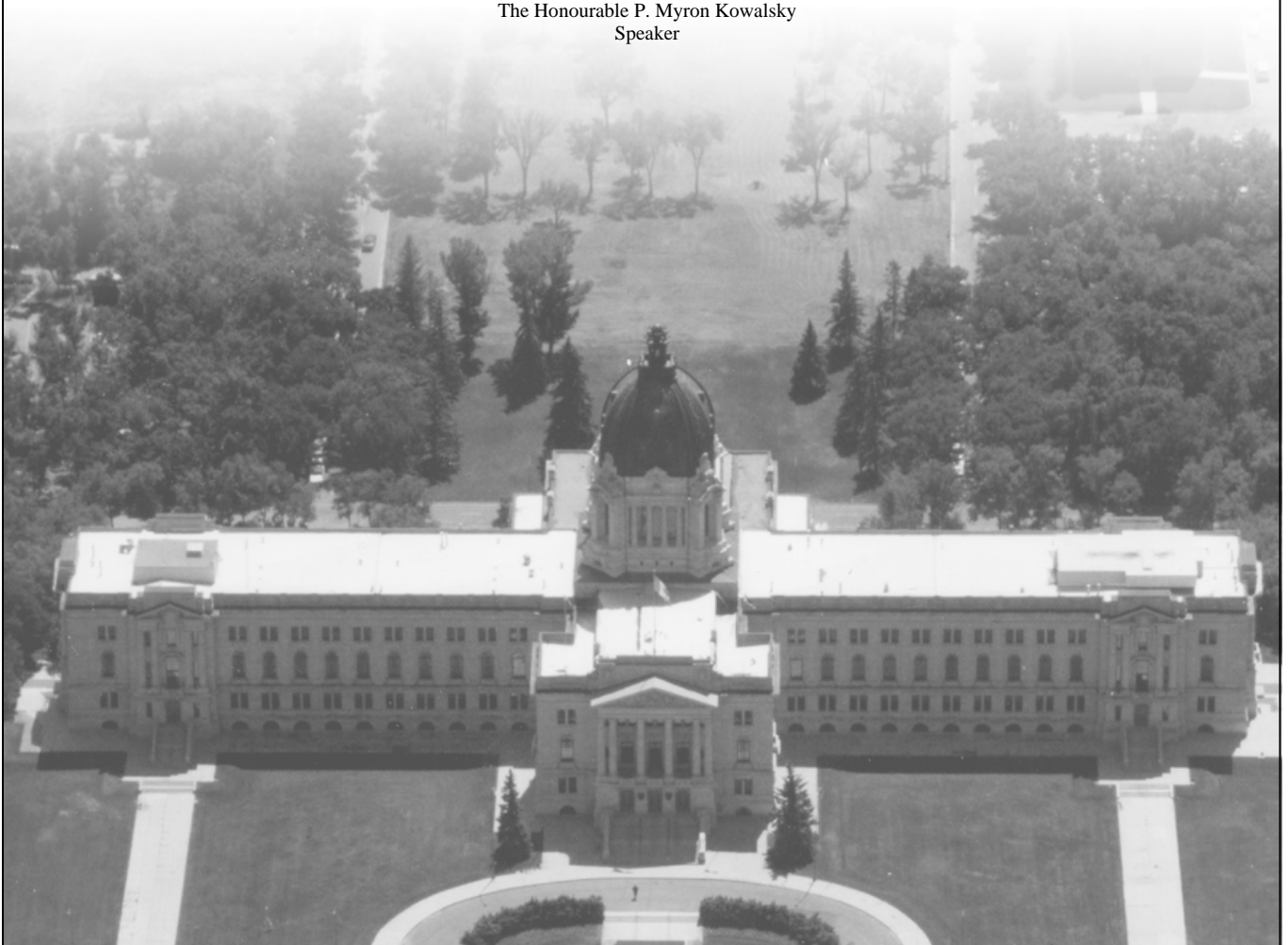
**DEBATES  
and  
PROCEEDINGS**

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(HANSARD)

Published under the  
authority of

The Honourable P. Myron Kowalsky  
Speaker



**MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN**

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

<b>Name of Member</b>	<b>Political Affiliation</b>	<b>Constituency</b>
Addley, Hon. Graham	NDP	Saskatoon Sutherland
Allchurch, Denis	SP	Rosthern-Shellbrook
Atkinson, Hon. Pat	NDP	Saskatoon Nutana
Beatty, Hon. Joan	NDP	Cumberland
Belanger, Hon. Buckley	NDP	Athabasca
Bjornrud, 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, 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, Hon. 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, Peter	NDP	Saskatoon Greystone
Quennell, Hon. Frank	NDP	Saskatoon Meewasin
Serby, Hon. Clay	NDP	Yorkton
Sonntag, Hon. Maynard	NDP	Meadow Lake
Stewart, Lyle	SP	Thunder Creek
Taylor, Hon. Len	NDP	The Battlefords
Thomson, Hon. Andrew	NDP	Regina South
Toth, Don	SP	Moosomin
Trew, Kim	NDP	Regina Coronation Park
Van Mulligen, Hon. Harry	NDP	Regina Douglas Park
Wakefield, Milton	SP	Lloydminster
Wall, Brad	SP	Swift Current
Wartman, Hon. Mark	NDP	Regina Qu'Appelle Valley
Weekes, Randy	SP	Biggar
Yates, Hon. Kevin	NDP	Regina Dewdney
Vacant		Weyburn-Big Muddy

[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

### PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

**Mr. Elhard:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise once again to present a petition on behalf of communities along Highway No. 32 from the community of Leader, I guess, right through to Cabri. The prayer reads as follows, Mr. Speaker:

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 32 in order to address safety and economic concerns.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, the communities represented by this petition today are those of Leader, Prelate, Burstall, Eatonia. I so present.

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

**Ms. Draude:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to rise again today on behalf of the people in the Kuroki-Fishing Lake area who are concerned about Highway No. 310. The prayer asks this government to recognize the economic difficulties that a highway in disrepair causes to a community.

The people that have signed this petition are from Kuroki, Fishing Lake, Wadena, and Ponteix. I so present.

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

**Ms. Harpauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have several pages of a petition of citizens concerned with the conditions 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 actions to upgrade and widen Highway No. 5 from Humboldt to Saskatoon.

And the signatures, Mr. Speaker, are from Humboldt, Jansen, Muenster, St. Gregor, and Middle Lake. I so present.

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

**Mr. Weekes:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have another petition today from constituents opposed to possible reductions of health care services in Biggar. 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 ensure that the Biggar Hospital,

long-term care home, and the ambulance services maintain at the very least their current level of services.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Signed by good citizens of Sonningdale, Biggar and district, and also Saskatoon. I so present.

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

**Mr. Brkich:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a petition calling on the Government of Saskatchewan to upgrade Highway No. 20 to primary weight status:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary steps to ensure that Highway 20 be upgraded to primary weight status to ensure the economic viability in the surrounding areas.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Signed by the good citizens from Nokomis, Simpson, Watrous, and Imperial. I so present.

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

**Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise again today to present a petition regarding the widening of Highway No. 5, the highway that runs through my constituency. Mr. Speaker, I will read 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 from Muenster, Humboldt, and Lake Lenore and St. Gregor. Mr. Speaker, I so present. Thank you very much.

### READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

**Clerk Assistant:** — According to order the following petitions have been reviewed and pursuant to rule 14(7) are hereby read and received as addendums to sessional papers no. 5, 7, 13, 27, and 64.

And according to order the following petitions for private Bills have been reviewed and found to be in order. Accordingly they are read and received:

Of the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool Inc. in the province of Saskatchewan praying for an Act to repeal The Saskatchewan Wheat Pool Act, 1995; and

Of the Orange Benevolent Society of Saskatchewan in the province of Saskatchewan praying for an Act to broaden

the society's powers to perform charitable acts and to increase its powers to distribute funds for charitable purposes.

### NOTICES OF MOTIONS AND QUESTIONS

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

**Mr. Brkich:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I shall give notice on day no. 29, ask the government the following question:

To the Minister of Highways and Transportation: when was Highway 15 from the junction of Highway 20 closed? What were the reasons for the closure, and when will that section of highway reopen?

### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the member for Regina Qu'Appelle Valley.

**Hon. Mr. Wartman:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure to introduce to you two people today and, through you, to the rest of this House. We have in the west gallery, accompanied by one of my ministerial assistants, Melanie Dolton, Melanie's brother, Wade Dolton.

And Wade was raised on the farm near Preeceville. He holds a bachelor in electrical engineering and a specialization certificate in computer science from the University of Saskatchewan. Since graduating in 2002, Wade has worked at the Canadian Light Source Inc. synchrotron in Saskatoon in the engineering and technical services department, performing duties in the electrical design and controls and instrumentation. In his spare time, Wade enjoys playing ultimate Frisbee.

And it's very important to note that his birthday was yesterday, March 20. So congratulations to Wade and welcome. And I'd ask others to join me in welcoming Wade.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Wartman:** — Also accompanying them, Mr. Speaker, is my cousin, Grace Alcock. Grace carries the distinction of being the elder on the Wartman side of this generation. And, Mr. Speaker, I know in discussion with Grace that she understands where I'm coming from on this. Elders bring wisdom, experience. And, Mr. Speaker, I'm sure that when she came down to the front desk that Ray looked at her and said, oh that must be Mark's younger cousin. Anyway, Mr. Speaker, I was very pleased to have Grace come to visit today. I don't get to see her very often.

She's built a career as a teacher in Medicine Hat. She and her husband both came from Saskatchewan, raised their children there. And I'm sure that I could say on her part she's very, very glad to come and visit this wonderful province of Saskatchewan. Grace, nice to have you here. I'd ask others to join me in welcoming her.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the member for Moosomin.

**Mr. Toth:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in your gallery, a gentleman who is visiting the Assembly today from Regina, Murray Carswell. I'd like to invite the members to join me in welcoming Murray to his Assembly today.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

### STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the member for Regina centre.

#### International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

**Ms. Crofford:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to today recognize the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. And as we know, it's a day that's steeped in origins of intolerance, oppression, and fear.

Why March 21, Mr. Speaker? Well on March 21, 1960, the police opened fire upon a group of peaceful demonstrators protesting apartheid in Sharpeville, South Africa. And tragically, Mr. Speaker, on that occasion, 69 people died and another 180 people wounded — many of them women and children. And, Mr. Speaker, this is the 40th anniversary of the United Nations' campaign to raise awareness about the devastating impact that racism has on individuals, families, communities, and nations.

On Saturday I, along with some of my colleagues, attended the seventh annual Spring Free from Racism family day here in Regina. Mr. Speaker, it's a wonderful event. People get out and really celebrate. And over the years of the event, people have made friends, and the Little tents came up to talk to me, and that's the kind of thing that happens there. And if attendance is any indication of support, this is a very successful event. And I want to commend Barb Dedi and the organizers and participants for all their good work on this. And as well around the province, many schools, community organizations, cultural associations, businesses are holding events to recognize this special day.

But I want to say, Mr. Speaker, one of the things people forget is that the most successful economies around the world are those with tolerance. So let's all join in and be a tolerant society, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Ms. Draude:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the government today in recognizing the 40th anniversary of the United Nations' proclamation for the date of International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, being March 21. In Canada this day has been recognized since 1969.

We'd all like to believe that we aren't racist, but in reality each

and every one of us has a difficult time not falling into the trap of stereotyping different races, quite often to the detriment of that particular race. Nobody is immune, and we all must accept the challenge of counteracting our racist thoughts and actions. Conflicts continue to arise because of a lack of understanding of the culture and/or lack of resources or a lack of education.

Langston Hughes, in his book *The Black Man Speaks*, says:

I swear to the Lord  
I still can't see  
Why Democracy means  
Everybody but me.

As legislatures we uphold the concept of democracy. It is incumbent upon each one of us to strive to overcome racism and ensure that democracy is for everyone, not just the dominant race.

Mr. Speaker, on this day of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and on every day of the year, we must all unite to condemn all policies and practices of apartheid, racial discrimination, and segregation, including the practices of discrimination. We must remember and act upon the words of Martin Luther King, Jr. when he said:

I refuse to accept the view that mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war that . . . bright daybreak of peace and brotherhood can never become a reality . . . I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the member for Regina Wascana Plains.

#### **Regina Christian School Senior Boys' Basketball Team Wins Gold**

**Ms. Hamilton:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Regina Christian School has been a part of Regina for the last 21 years. Three years ago I was happy to be of some assistance when the school was moving to its present location, and since then I've followed the school's activities with interest.

And I'm very pleased to share with the Assembly today that the Regina Christian School's senior boys' basketball team, the Grizzlies, have had a very successful season. Mr. Speaker, not only did the Grizzlies place second in the Regina small schools city finals two weeks ago, but last week they placed first in the 2A schools regional playoffs.

This past weekend the Grizzlies played the Kinistino Blues in the Hoopla provincial basketball finals for 2A schools and won the gold medal by a score of 76 to 68. By all accounts, it was an intensely played game with the lead changing hands several times. Mr. Speaker, all the boys worked hard in order to achieve the distinction of being the best 2A senior boys' basketball team in Saskatchewan.

I do want to make special mention of the hard-working, vigilant, and appropriately intense Geoff Glasspell, who led the team as coach and helped the boys rise to the challenge. Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join with me in congratulating the Regina Christian School Grizzlies on their very successful season.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

#### **Bladworth Elks Club Celebrates 25th Anniversary**

**Mr. Brkich:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This past Saturday the Bladworth Elks Club celebrated their 25th anniversary of service to the people of Bladworth and area. The big event was held at the Bladworth hall and saw the attendance of many past and present Elk members as well as dignitaries such as Elks' grand exalted ruler of Canada, Mark Montgomery.

Also in attendance was a past provincial president, Gerry Cooper, who was also a past national sports director. Gerry Cooper was one of the ones that helped get Bladworth formed. Him and Mr. Greeson were coming to Davidson to form a club, but they made the stop at the Bladworth bar, and the rest is history as they say. So with meeting there the local, Jim Prpick, who was the first exalted ruler, they managed to sign up 50 members and started a club that day.

Our local Elks' ruler, Tim Bruch, handed out years pins for years of service and conducted a very good event. I've been a proud member of the Bladworth Elks for many years. This dedicated group has always come to the aid of residents in need of emergency help such as house fires or serious illness. The Elks have been at the fore of hosting provincial Elk events, such as twice hosting the provincial Elks curling playdowns in the past decade.

[13:45]

The celebration was a huge success with a local dance band, Neon Blue, providing excellent entertainment. The Bladworth Elks Club will continue to do a great job supporting this community in the larger effort at the provincial Elks level of public service. I will continue to be a proud part of my local Elks club — a club that puts people and community needs first.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the member for Regina Elphinstone.

#### **Dreaming in Colour**

**Mr. McCall:** — Mr. Speaker, last week I had the great good fortune to attend a gathering at the Regina Performing Arts Centre of students and teachers from five schools in my home neighbourhood, north central Regina. We were there for a celebration of community that marked the culmination of an innovative project called Dreaming in Colour.

Mr. Speaker, this project was made possible by a partnership

between Regina north central schools, the National Film Board, the United Way of Regina, and Action for Neighbourhood Change, and it was brought together under the leadership of Common Weal Community Arts.

Five professional artists — Josh Goff, Danny Fernandez, Val Kinistino, Mike Josza, and Errol Kinistino — went into the schools and held a series of workshops with students all based on the theme: what do I like about my neighbourhood?

Mr. Speaker, the project provided students from Kitchener, Wascana, Herchmer, Albert, and Sacred Heart the opportunity to explore their ideas and feelings about themselves and their community through painting, theatre, hip hop, and graffiti art.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the students, teachers, and artists, and the project managers, Heather Abby and Damon Heit. Everyone clearly worked together very well to make the *Dreaming in Colour* a real success.

Mr. Speaker, this project brought out a lot of pride and respect. Here's one small sample from the grade 3's and 4's of Albert School, and I quote:

This is our community, it's our responsibility  
Teachers, friends and family, knowledge trust and honesty  
Terrific kids is what we are, all of us are shining stars

Mr. Speaker, I couldn't agree more. Thank you very much.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

#### **Theatre Performance in Radisson**

**Mr. Weekes:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My wife and I had the pleasure of attending a play written by Jim McLoughlin from Livelong. The play, *Four Chairs*, was presented by the Radisson '71 Seniors Club.

The play is about a very elderly lady named May. She lives on her own. She has visitors. Some come out of duty. Others come out as part of their job, and others come for their own reasons. May tries, but relates to none of them. It is the memories of her family life of years ago that keep her going. She is torn between life that is lived in her tiny home and a life lived in her memories of her family. This play is an odyssey of May's journey into these realms.

The journey is played out during the last two weeks of May's life. The play is in May's home, in her living room, and kitchen.

Many thanks needs to go out — especially to Jim McLoughlin who wrote *Four Chairs* — director, Louise Cochran; set designer, Darryl Amey; costumes, Joyce Schultz; sound and production, Lloyd Loraas; special effects, Chris Tyreman. The cast, May is played by Vi Kyliuk; home helper, Judy Herter; Ms. Clegg, Louise Clark; Dora, a student, Chandra Torralba; Father Bob, Derek Murphy; and nurse, Doris Daku.

Mr. Speaker, many thanks needs to go to the community of Radisson, the town of Radisson, Radisson Recreation Board,

and especially the Radisson '71 Seniors Club who also provided the dessert — a very, very tasty dessert — to everyone who was at the play. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

#### **Yorkton Chamber of Commerce Hosts Business Awards**

**Hon. Mr. Serby:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Just recently I attended the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce Celebrate Saskatchewan Awards . . . 475 people in attendance, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to indulge the House with some of the names of the winners.

The Community Merit Award winner was Garry Schmidt from the KamBuster's Racing Club, Louise Bray from the SIGN on Broadway, and Don Kunkel of the Yorkton Exhibition.

The wall-of-success winners were Gary Lamb from Parks Jewellery, Wade Ruff from Ruff's Countrywide Furniture and Appliance, and Mike Rusnak from Rusnak Insurance Ltd.

The community involvement leader was Mark Butchko from the Yorkton Dairy Queen, who just moved to the city less than a year ago. The Property Restoration Award were Crystal and Jimmy Dean from the Best Western Parkland Inn. And the customer services winner were Larry Haas from Haas Nissan.

The business expansion winner was Jocelyn Roy of Shear Bliss and the new business ventures winner was Ken Kohlert of Fuzztone Music. The Young Entrepreneur Award went to Chad Shumay, Aaron Kienle, and Brennan Wiens and the CAB Clothing Accessories, a young group of men who've set up a business in the community. And the Business of the Year Award went to Mac Tiller from the Birch Island Cattle Company, Mr. Speaker, who have established the large feedlot operation in that area of the province.

Sixteen deserving award winners, and I can tell you that I heard many, many, many success stories that evening of things that are happening on the eastern side of the province and the number of opportunities which abound across not only rural but across urban Saskatchewan.

The Chamber of Commerce, the city of Yorkton, and the people of Saskatchewan have a lot to celebrate, Mr. Speaker. The tiger of the East is alive and well and booming in our side of the province, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

#### **ORAL QUESTIONS**

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

#### **Financial Accountability of Government**

**Mr. Wall:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when this Premier took office he promised an open and accountable

government. And then SPUDCO [Saskatchewan Potato Utility Development Company] came along, Mr. Speaker. And only when the government was caught did they actually fess up to what was going on with SPUDCO. But in the wake of that particular scandal, here's what the Premier had to say. He said, quote:

When mistakes are made our taxpayers and [our] citizens deserve honest accounting . . .

That's what the Premier said. Today we learn that over the past three years there have been 42 incidents of fraud costing taxpayers close to \$2 million. And what did this open and accountable NDP [New Democratic Party] government do about those incidents of fraud? They covered them up, Mr. Speaker. They hid them from the public.

Mr. Speaker, to the Premier: why the culture of cover-up? Why would they hide these instances of fraud from the taxpayers, Mr. Speaker?

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the Minister for Finance.

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The member opposite should know full well that in 1991 members on this side were elected on a promise to have open, honest, and accountable government — chasing out a regime that was notorious for covering up and hiding what was actually happening in government. The member opposite will know full well about that regime.

The members should be aware that since that time, through the Gass Commission report, through the work of the Public Accounts, through the work of the Provincial Comptroller's office, this government has moved forward in terms of making sure that we have among the best, the best financial accounting regime in this country.

Today I have announced new measures that will be in place to make sure that we have among the most stringent public reporting processes. In every case that was documented today, government officials, managers, and supervisors have acted, acted decisively, to deal with the situations that they were confronted with. Today we will make sure that from here on forward everything above \$500 is publicly disclosed.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker, the only reason the minister announced today these 42 incidents of fraud and the loss of up to \$2 million in taxpayers' money was because the opposition Saskatchewan Party asked the question, Mr. Speaker. There is a policy of, if nobody asks, we're not going to tell, Mr. Speaker. Amazingly with a straight face this morning, with a straight face, the minister said this:

"Transparency and financial accountability have been the hallmarks of the NDP government . . ." [Mr. Speaker].

And if by transparency and accountability the minister means distortion and cover-up, he's completely right, Mr. Speaker, because that's what we've seen. We saw it with SPUDCO. They didn't fess up to anything until they got caught. Six months of cover-up until they got caught. We saw it in the campaign. They didn't campaign on a tax hike. They increased taxes after the campaign. And the minister of Finance at the time said, well you wouldn't want to tell the people about your agenda for a tax hike during an election campaign. And now we see, over the last three years, 42 incidents of cover-up.

Mr. Speaker, to the Premier: why the culture of cover-up in his government?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Finance.

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — Mr. Speaker, we were aware, as a result of two significant incidents, one involving the Department of Environment, one involving the Department of Community Resources, that there were two significant issues that were publicly disclosed earlier. Those amount to about \$1.5 million worth of fraud, of theft, of misappropriation. That's what those represent.

Today what we have provided is additional reporting as a result of a government-wide review during that three-year period. We went back and we looked at all government departments, Crown corporations, and agencies and we have provided a complete list to the members of the Public Accounts.

More so, Mr. Speaker, we will go further than a government has gone before in making sure that on a quarterly basis the government will report directly to the chairman of the Public Accounts Committee all incidents over \$500. This will provide us with one of the most stringent public reporting processes in Canada today.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker, incredibly now the Minister of Finance — and I assume the Premier — is saying, trust us. It's notwithstanding SPUDCO, notwithstanding the little tax cover-up in the last campaign, notwithstanding what's happened with these 42 incidents of fraud. We are now, the NDP are now going to clean up this issue in the government, Mr. Speaker. That's what the Minister of Finance is saying.

That'll happen, Mr. Speaker, right about the time that O.J. finds the real killer, I think, Mr. Speaker. The fact of the matter is that this information, this announcement today would not have happened if we don't ask written questions. We have to ask 500 written questions of this Premier, of this government which they refuse to answer in a timely basis. They've finally come forward with the answer now and we find out that they have been covering these things up. Again to the Premier: take to his feet and explain to the people of this province why the culture of cover-up in his government.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Finance.

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — Mr. Speaker, as a legislator I think that I can say quite clearly that this legislature, this government welcomes greater oversight of the public spending. And this government has moved forward to make sure that the job of the Public Accounts Committee is easier, that they have the information available to them in a format which is timely and which allows for that dialogue to happen directly with the officials that are dealing with it.

The member opposite I think is attempting to besmirch the reputation of a lot of civil servants in this province. In each of these cases that we have dealt with today, we have seen that the civil servants have taken — or the managers and the supervisors have taken — decisive action, in some cases involving a situation as small as \$10. They have acted. And that is, I think, a sign of what has been happening within the civil service. They have not been covering up as the member opposite would say. He is wrong again on that. Rather, they have been dealing with it.

What we can improve, however, is the public reporting process. Our government has an agenda to do that. I would welcome the member's scrutiny of that.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker, it isn't managers, it isn't professional civil servants that have been covering anything up. It is this NDP government, Mr. Speaker. It's this government that gets questions in the Legislative Assembly from the opposition and refuses to answer them for matters of a month. It's this government that waited six long years to force that member for Prince Albert to tell the truth about the SPUDCO scandal, Mr. Speaker. He wouldn't have told the truth of his own volition. We had to drag court documents into this Legislative Assembly and expose the truth. Now we needed questions to be asked of that minister and of that Premier before they would fess up on these instances.

Mr. Speaker, what we have here is a pattern the likes of which we saw with the previous federal Liberal government in terms of their forthrightness with the people of the province. Why in the world won't the Premier answer the basic question? Why did he cover these things up? Why the culture of cover-up in this government, Mr. Speaker?

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Finance.

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — Mr. Speaker, citizens of this province are aware that the party opposite has a 25-year deficit in terms of credibility on this issue. Members are well aware . . .

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — Well aware that it is this government, this government that has acted since 1992 to clean up the financial affairs, to make sure we've got a tighter financial ship, to make sure we've got better financial reporting, to make sure that we've got financial practices which are in place to deal with the issues that governments face. For the member opposite to allege anything else shows not only is he not being forthright but is lacking in credibility on this issue.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the member for Canora-Pelly.

**Mr. Krawetz:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this morning's release from the NDP Finance minister had the quote and I want to reread that quote. It says:

“Transparency and financial accountability have been the hallmarks of the NDP government since the early 1990's.”

Mr. Speaker, the NDP government hid the facts. They hid the facts. Today we find out that 42 fraud cases dating back to 2003 are now suddenly available to be looked at. Two million dollars in missing money, Mr. Speaker, including inappropriate purchases using a government credit card, stolen lottery tickets, stolen cigarettes, debit card fraud, forged cheques, stolen money — which included money stolen from a Christmas function. If the NDP is so accountable, why have they only provided information back to 2003-2004? What about the time since the current Premier was elected? What happened during that time period?

[14:00]

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Finance.

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — Mr. Speaker, we have undertaken a three-year review in terms of what the situation was. And we feel that this provides us with a good understanding of the situation. Let's understand fully here that of the \$1.9 million that's being dealt with, 1.7 of which has been previously disclosed as having been misused.

What we are now dealing with are a number of smaller issues. It doesn't mean they're any less serious, but they are nevertheless smaller. I don't what the threshold is the member opposite would seek for us to have that level of reporting at, because that party has never put forward any such plan — never put forward that plan.

It is this New Democratic Party government that is putting forward a threshold that says, every cash theft over \$200 will be reported directly to the police. Every incident of misappropriation — not simply theft, not simply fraud — every issue of misappropriation of over 500 will be reported directly to who? The Chair of the Public Accounts Committee, which is chaired by the former leader of the opposition. That, Mr. Speaker, is an open, honest, and accountable government.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!



**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the member for Canora-Pelly.

**Mr. Krawetz:** — Mr. Speaker, it is clear that the NDP wants to sweep any incidents of fraud that occurred during those years under the carpet. And they want to continue their systematic cover-up. If the NDP is open and accountable as they claim, why wouldn't they voluntarily provide this information to the people of Saskatchewan?

Mr. Speaker, it doesn't matter which auditor's report you read. This one is dated 2002 and it says:

This report continues to focus on encouraging the Government to improve its accountability to the public. Improving public accountability fosters better management of public resources.

Mr. Speaker, it doesn't matter which auditor's report you look at over the last number of years. The auditor has been indicating to this government they have to put in place a better accountability package. Years and years and years have gone by — a lot more than three, I might add. Will the Premier commit today to providing a full accounting of all incidents since he became Premier?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Finance.

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — I find it surprising that the former Chair of the Public Accounts Committee asks this question now. I think it begs the question of where that member was — sitting in the Public Accounts Chair — when he had the opportunity to question directly officials. Not just over the last three years, not just over the last six years — that member has had 10 years to ask these questions. During that time period that member knows full well that we have continued to work with the auditor, with the private-sector accounting firms, with the comptroller, with department officials to make sure we've got one of the best financial management regimes in Canada. The member knows that. I think it would do a service to this House for him to admit it.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the member for Canora-Pelly.

**Mr. Krawetz:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, Mr. Speaker, the auditor's reports that go to the Public Accounts Committee, recommendations have been passed. These are recommendations put forward by the auditor, and they are recommendations that members on that side of the House voted for, years and years and years ago, to improve the accountability of this Legislative Assembly. And they haven't been acted on. Fourteen years has gone by since — this minister mentioned the Gass report of 1992 — 14 years of NDP rule to finally see today's announcement that indeed we have to move forward.

Mr. Speaker, this government cannot be trusted. In light of today's events, surely the NDP government would be willing to

commit today to providing the people of Saskatchewan with a full accounting of information on all fraud in government back to 1991. Mr. Speaker, will the Premier commit to a full accounting of all fraud cases since the NDP government came to power in 1991?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Finance.

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — Well why stop there? Why stop there, Mr. Speaker? I mean under this, why don't we go back to the days of Jimmy Gardiner? I mean the members opposite are fascinated by this.

Don't worry about the accountability issues that the member opposite raises in terms of this administration because we are taking measures to improve them. Mr. Speaker, here's what the Provincial Comptroller says in his report to the former leader of the opposition, the Chair of the Public Accounts Committee. He says:

Based on [the] work performed by . . . [his] Office and information gathered regarding . . . [the] incidents . . . [he] believes that these were not the result of broad or systemic problems . . . [of] the Government. Rather, the incidents occurred due to a small number of individuals either not adhering to proper controls and procedures or not exercising adequate supervisory or management oversight.

What is it the Provincial Auditor says? The Provincial Auditor says that:

. . . the 130 agencies covered by this report have adequate practices . . . [and] manage risks to public resources. That is, the agencies have sound practices to safeguard public resources and have complied with [their statutory requirements] . . .

That, Mr. Speaker, is what the officials who guard the public finances have to say. If there is more to be done, I welcome the member's suggestion on how we can work together to do it. But this otherwise is . . .

**The Speaker:** — The member's time has elapsed. And the Chair recognizes the member for Cannington.

### Thefts at Saskatchewan Government Insurance

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Mr. Speaker, the recommendations were made by the Provincial Auditor. They were made by the Public Accounts Committee. They were not acted upon by that government.

Mr. Speaker, the NDP government is riddled with dishonesty. They are neither open nor accountable. Today we learned of \$100,000 that was misappropriated by a former employee of SGI [Saskatchewan Government Insurance] in 2003. That was taxpayers' money, Mr. Speaker. And the worst part is the NDP government never made it public until they got caught hiding it, and that was today, Mr. Speaker — three years later.

Mr. Speaker, it's a systematic culture of cover-up which exists

within the NDP cabinet and caucus, and that's those 30 people sitting right there. It took six years to admit the faults at SPUDCO by that minister, Mr. Speaker.

To the Minister of SGI: why did the NDP government cover up this case of fraud?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Hon. Mr. Hagel:** — Mr. Speaker, very clearly there was no attempt to cover up anything. Mr. Speaker, what happened was that SGI was following the accountabilities that were in place at the time that guided them.

Mr. Speaker, when the incident came to light, then the employee was confronted, was terminated, was charged, went to court, and in fact pled guilty. And, Mr. Speaker, in addition to that, the report was made to the audit committee of the board of SGI twice — when the incident was discovered and then again in the annual report.

At that meeting, Mr. Speaker, the external auditor to SGI as well as the Provincial Auditor's office are present. Mr. Speaker, all that was required was done, Mr. Speaker. And what the minister has announced today is that from this point forward, including for Crown corporations, that reports of instances over \$500 be reported on a quarterly basis to the Crown Corporations Committee.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That sounds like David Dingwall saying, I'm entitled to my entitlements because that's how it's written. He did everything that he could do. Did he issue a press release? Did they inform the Crown Corporations Committee? No, Mr. Speaker, it wasn't done, and there was two SGI reports in that time period after that.

Of the \$100,000 that was misappropriated, only \$14,500 was recovered, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, first the NDP hides the fact that the theft even happened. Secondly, taxpayers' money goes missing and they don't get it back. Mr. Speaker, the NDP are failing the people of Saskatchewan and accident victims. Mr. Speaker, what has this NDP government done to get the people's money back and done to ensure that accident victims benefit from SGI money and not criminals?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Hon. Mr. Hagel:** — Mr. Speaker, it is a little difficult to understand how the hon. member would suggest that this was somehow hid when in fact it was a court process, a public court

process, Mr. Speaker. In that court process, the prosecutor used evidence to bring the case in the amount of \$14,673. Mr. Speaker, that amount has been returned.

In addition to that, Mr. Speaker, SGI is not content to rest there but is in fact taking civil action to recover the remaining amount. It is the full intention of SGI, Mr. Speaker, that the full amount will be recovered. That's where it belongs and that's what will be done, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Mr. Speaker, this was just one incident in a flood of fraud cases that were covered up by this NDP government. We've long known about the government hiding from the truth, SPUDCO. We now know there's a culture of cover-up present with the NDP cabinet and caucus. This NDP government is riddled with mismanagement.

In the same Crown, SGI in 2003 had another fraud case — \$19,000 went missing. And I quote from the summary of responses to written questions:

A total of \$18,955 in cash and cheques went missing from a locked cabinet in the Autofund Payables [and] Receivables area of . . . SGI office.

It goes on to say the theft is unsolved after a police investigation.

Mr. Speaker, the police investigate a crime in a public Crown and the government doesn't tell the people of Saskatchewan. Again a question, Mr. Speaker: why did the minister cover up this case of fraud?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the Minister for SGI.

**Hon. Mr. Hagel:** — Mr. Speaker, the hon. member answers his own question. There was a theft which occurred in 2003 in the amount of \$18,955 in cash and cheques that went missing from a locked cabinet in the Auto Fund payables recoverable office of SGI.

Mr. Speaker, that was reported to the police. The police have done an investigation and the SGI special investigation unit has also conducted its investigation. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, to this point there has been no conclusion to that investigation.

And I ask the hon. member, what more can be done when you perceive that there is a theft, that you report the theft to police? That is what was done. It was most appropriate and, Mr. Speaker, I don't know what more could be done than that.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the member for Rosetown-Elrose.

### Loss Prevention Measures

**Mr. Hermanson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The NDP cover-up is falling apart and so in the minister's announcement this morning the buzzwords that were about improving reporting procedures. In other words he's committed to actually telling the public about these types of incidents through the Public Accounts Committee on a go-forward basis.

Now, Mr. Speaker, while reporting is all well and good after pressure from the opposition forces them into it, what about preventing the fraud? There was very little in this morning's announcement to assure the people of Saskatchewan that there are measures in place to prevent fraud cases like the 42 that the Minister of Finance had to confess to this morning. Mr. Speaker, to the minister, lip service is not good enough. What good is improving reporting if there aren't appropriate fraud prevention mechanisms put in place?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Finance.

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — Mr. Speaker, surely the Chair of the Public Accounts Committee is not accusing the Provincial Comptroller of not having sufficient management controls in place.

What we are talking about today is how we're going to enhance these. And as such I announced a number of new measures to do exactly that. Enhanced internal audit functions in the Provincial Comptroller's office including additional staff; improved training for managers and employees to ensure effective understanding of financial management practices; increased emphasis on financial competencies of staff including new potential partnerships with public accounting firms to bring them in to share their expertise; and additionally of course the new approach that we have to making sure we've got a more regular and timely reporting of these incidents.

I think that this is a balanced package. It builds on the strength of financial management that the NDP has brought to government.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the member for Rosetown-Elrose.

**Mr. Hermanson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, Mr. Speaker, I sit as the Chair of the Public Accounts and I have seen time after time the Provincial Auditor bring forward reports and recommendations saying that there isn't proper preventative measures in place. He's telling the departments that they need to improve their procedures. He's telling the ministers in charge of these departments, the NDP ministers, that they need to clean up their act.

Back 10 years, Community Resources — it used to be called Social Services — were told that their procedures were not sufficient and, Mr. Speaker, the answer back then was the same as the answer we're hearing today from this minister: we're going to fix it in the future. Yes, it's been a problem in the past

but we're going to fix it in the future. Mr. Speaker, that minister and that NDP government have no credibility. They have no desire to fix anything unless they get caught.

[14:15]

Mr. Speaker, I ask the question: why in today's announcement was this given only after the official opposition asked the questions that they didn't want to answer? Why is it only when the minister was pressured, when the NDP was pressured into answering these questions do they come up with this scheme and commitment to do better in the future?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Finance.

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — Mr. Speaker, the members opposite unfortunately have a 25-year deficit in terms of credibility on this issue. Listen to what the member for Cypress Hills had to say. He said, you can't prevent everybody, you can't make sure or be certain that everybody's going to follow the rules all the time.

Why is it that member says this, but the former leader of the opposition seems to think that it's possible . . .

**The Speaker:** — Members will come to order. Minister of Finance.

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just find that the question is rather incredible. And perhaps what the members opposite should do is have a caucus meeting, get their act together, and decide which of these statements they want to pursue. I appreciate the interpretation from the former leader of the opposition.

But listen to what the Provincial Auditor says in his most recent report which is under review by the Public Accounts Committee. He says that:

For the most part the . . . [130] agencies covered by this report have adequate practices to manage risks to public resources. That is, the agencies have sound practices to safeguard public resources and have complied with the laws governing their operations.

That's not what I say. That's not what members on this side say. That is what the Provincial Auditor says. And maybe the Chair of the Public Accounts Committee should listen to him.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

### ORDERS OF THE DAY

### WRITTEN QUESTIONS

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the Government Whip.

**Mr. Iwanchuk:** — I stand on behalf of the government to table written questions no. 567 to 581 inclusive.

**The Speaker:** — The member has tabled questions from 567 to

581 inclusive.

## GOVERNMENT ORDERS

### SECOND READINGS

#### Bill No. 30 — The Film and Video Classification Amendment Act, 2006

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Justice.

**Hon. Mr. Quennell:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to move second reading of The Film and Video Classification Amendment Act, 2006. Mr. Speaker, The Film and Video Classification Act currently governs the approval and classification of films including videotapes and DVDs [digital versatile disc]. The Bill extends the application of the Act to video and computer games.

The entertainment environment has changed considerably since The Film and Video Classification Act was enacted in 1985. Over the last 20 years the content of video and computer games has continued to advance in terms of graphic quality and complexity. Canadians are avid consumers of video and computer games and are among the best equipped players in the world. The average age of the person who plays video games is 30 years old; 63 per cent of game players are over 18 years of age.

The video and computer game sector is the fastest growing sector in the entertainment industry. In 2005 the video and computer games industry in Canada, including video game hardware and accessories, generated \$890 million total revenue.

As a result of these changes in the industry, children face a higher risk of exposure to violent video and computer games. Mr. Speaker, this Bill responds to the needs of parents and consumers for a safe and informed marketplace. The amendments included in this Bill will require video and computer games to be classified under the Act and will allow video and computer game classifications made by the Entertainment Software Rating Board to be adopted and enforced in Saskatchewan.

The Entertainment Software Rating Board is a self-regulatory body that has developed a rating system for video, computer, and online games. It was established in 1994 by the Entertainment Software Association which is an industry trade association representing companies that publish video and computer games.

The ESRB [Entertainment Software Rating Board] ratings are designed to provide information about video and computer game content so consumers can make informed purchase and rental decisions. The ESRB rating system is widely used in North America. Most of the major video games and computer software manufacturers have adopted the ESRB rating system.

Mr. Speaker, the amendments to the Act are intended to harmonize Saskatchewan's legislation with that of other Canadian jurisdictions. The amendments complement the industry's voluntary commitment to parents program. This program was established jointly by the Retail Council of

Canada and the Entertainment Software Association of Canada in October 2004. It is designed to restrict selling or renting games to children that are meant for older teenagers and adults.

The program's mandate is to help parents make informed choices for their families by educating consumers about the ESRB rating system and ratings enforcement. Over 90 per cent of the video and computer games sold in Canada are from retailers participating in the commitment to parents program.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill will make compliance to the ESRB ratings mandatory for all retailers in the province. As a result it will be an offence to sell, rent or exhibit video computer games classified as mature to a person under the age of 17, and sell, rent or exhibit a video or computer game classified as adults only to a person under the age of 18. The amendments will require adult video and computer games to be approved and classified under the Act.

Mr. Speaker, today's Bill also updates the existing penalties for non-compliance of the Act. Mr. Speaker, in reviewing this legislation we have consulted with consumer associations and video computer game industry. I appreciate the time, effort, and co-operation that these groups have contributed to the development of this Bill.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to move second reading of The Film and Video Classification Amendment Act, 2006.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 30, The Film and Video Classification Amendment Act, 2006 be now read a second time. The Chair recognizes the member from Melfort.

**Mr. Gantefoer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's with pleasure that I rise to speak about Bill No. 30, An Act to amend the Film and Video Classification Act. Mr. Speaker, I think everyone in this province would applaud the intent of this legislation which is to protect our children from inappropriate films and video games that are available in this day and age.

Mr. Speaker, it's particularly true that with the availability of the Internet and downloading over the Internet, various kinds of inappropriate material is bound to be available to children, and this isn't appropriate.

Mr. Speaker, I do trust that in terms of this legislation that it has been contemplated that there are steps taken to protect children from downloading inappropriate video games and things of that nature over the Internet as well, because certainly there are these venues for acquiring this material that's inappropriate.

Mr. Speaker, I think it's important that we send a strong message as a society that we want to make sure that the people that sell this material have to do so under a strict standard of guidelines that protect our most vulnerable citizens, our children.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think that there is aspects of this legislation that we want to ensure that is strong enough and appropriately worded so that the intended purpose that the minister has

outlined will indeed be achieved in the wording of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I think it's important that we consult with people that truly understand all the ramifications of the video industry and that we have an opportunity to make sure that the safeguards are appropriate and in place and sufficient to do the job. In order for that to happen, I would move to adjourn debate.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the member for Melfort that second reading debate on Bill No. 30 be now adjourned. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Motion is carried.

**Bill No. 32 — The Victims of Crime  
Amendment Act, 2006/Loi de 2006 modifiant  
la Loi de 1995 sur les victimes d'actes criminels**

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Justice.

**Hon. Mr. Quennell:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise today and move second reading of The Victims of Crime Amendment Act, 2006.

Mr. Speaker, this Act will bring about seven changes to The Victims of Crime Act, 1995. First, the Act will be amended to include the list of guiding principles approved in 2003 by ministers responsible for victim services, setting out how victims of crime should be treated. This amendment will acknowledge the needs of victims and demonstrate that victims have a voice in the criminal justice process.

Second, Mr. Speaker, the general application period for compensation claims will be changed from one to two years from the date of the victim's injury or death. The minister will be authorized to extend this period where it is reasonable to do so. This amendment will ensure that compensation will be available to all victims in appropriate circumstances.

Third, Mr. Speaker, the application period for victims of sexual abuse will begin to run on the date the crime is reported to the police. Presently the application period begins to run for a sexual abuse victim when he or she understands the nature of the injuries and recognizes the effects of the misconduct. This provision is difficult to apply, Mr. Speaker. The amendment will make the application period clear. As with other applications, the minister will have the ability to extend the application period where appropriate.

Fourth, Mr. Speaker, the amendments will allow for the provision of compensation to immediate family members of homicide victims for the costs of short-term counselling after the victim's death. There's presently a need for crisis counselling in the short term, after which counselling is available at no cost through the regional health authorities.

Fifth, the application form will be removed from the regulations. Having the minister approve the application form will make it easier to amend as necessary.

Sixth, Mr. Speaker, the minister will be allowed to refuse or reduce compensation in limited circumstances. This will be possible where the victim's injury or death occurred while he or she was participating in a criminal offence or where the applicant has not provided information as requested by the minister within a reasonable time after the request was made. The purpose of the first provision is to allow for a refusal or a reduction of compensation where the victim was involved in a crime, such as a drug deal, home invasion, or assault. The purpose of the second is to encourage co-operation in relation to the application process.

Seventh, Mr. Speaker, an appeal process will be provided in the legislation. The amendments allow applicants to request that the minister reconsider his or her decision respecting compensation, and they require the minister to do so. If the applicant is not satisfied through reconsideration, he or she may appeal to an appeal committee which will make a final decision.

Mr. Speaker, these amendments will be very well-received by the general public, victims, and those working in the area of victim services. The amendments exemplify our government's continued commitment to fair, just, and respectful treatment of victims of crime, to ensuring that victims have access to the victims compensation program where appropriate, and to providing victims a voice in the justice process.

Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to move the second reading of The Victims of Crime Amendment Act, 2006.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 32, The Victims of Crime Amendment Act, 2006 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? The Chair recognizes the member for Melfort.

**Mr. Gantefoer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think that this is an important bit of legislation. The initial legislation that was introduced in 1995 established an important principle of making sure that in this province the victims of crime were going to be treated appropriately and that they were going to be compensated where that was appropriate.

This legislation to amend that 1995 legislation adds some important points that I think are noteworthy. It indicates a general set of principles for how victims of crime are going to be treated and how the funds should be used to promote those principles. The principles being: treating the victims with respect, ensuring minimum inconvenience for victims, respecting the concerns and views of victims, and ensuring that victims should receive prompt and fair redress for the harm that they have suffered. Mr. Speaker, I think those are important statement of principles in terms of how this province treats people that are victims of crime.

Mr. Speaker, I also note that in this legislation it expands the coverage, if you like, of the victims of crime to secondary victims that are defined as a spouse or a child of an adult victim, and if the victim is a child, the parents or siblings of the child victim. So it expands the coverage and the potential definition of victims to beyond the individual that is indeed victimized to their immediate family.

So, Mr. Speaker, I believe that this is important. It sends a clear signal that in this province we are going to treat victims of crime with compassion and dignity and respect. And I think that is a very important principle that we all should consider supporting.

Mr. Speaker, I think that this is important changes to the 1995 legislation, and we want to make sure that nothing was omitted by accident. And in order to do that we will like to consult. And at this moment, I would like to adjourn the debate to allow that to happen.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the member for Melfort that debate on second reading of Bill No. 32 be now adjourned. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — The motion is carried.

[14:30]

### **Bill No. 33 — The Wildlife Habitat Protection Amendment Act, 2006**

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the Minister of the Environment.

**Hon. Mr. Nilson:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise to today to move second reading of The Wildlife Habitat Protection Amendment Act, 2006. Mr. Speaker, the amendment will allow the transfer of 258 hectares of Crown land to the Mistawasis First Nation under the treaty land entitlement process.

Mr. Speaker, we know there is an ongoing need to protect important wildlife habitat. Recent additions of 51,799 hectares of ecologically important Crown land into The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act have exceeded removals, including those in this amendment, by approximately 4,856 hectares.

We must also recognize the value of participating in a process that allows for our commitment to provide assistance where feasible for the transfer of lands to reserve status. Mistawasis First Nation has met all the conditions related to the sale of these Crown lands and if this amendment is approved, Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food will sell these Crown lands at fair market value.

Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food is presently responsible for the management and administration of the 258 hectares under selection by the Mistawasis First Nation.

These lands are currently designated as protected under The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act. Mr. Speaker, the Act does not allow for removal by regulation of Crown lands from The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act schedule for the purposes of specific land claims. These amendments to the Act are required to allow for the sale of these lands by Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food to the Mistawasis First Nation for the purpose of satisfying the specific claim. Mr. Speaker, the amendments before us will allow 258 hectares of land subject to the Act to be sold by Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food.

Mr. Speaker, I now move second reading of The Wildlife Habitat Protection Amendment Act, 2006.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Minister of Environment that Bill No. 33, The Wildlife Habitat Protection Amendment Act, 2006, be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? The Chair recognizes the member from Melfort.

**Mr. Gantfoer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to speak on Bill No. 33, an Act respecting The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act. Mr. Speaker, I think this is an important commitment in terms of the province of Saskatchewan in dealing with a specific land claim between the Mistawasis Band and the Crown. And I understand, as the minister has well explained, that in order for these particular lands to be transferred as part of the specific land claim, they have to first have legislation that will remove it from the wildlife protection basis.

So, Mr. Speaker, I am quite certain that this is appropriate. I think what we would want to do is make sure that we communicate with the Mistawasis First Nation to make sure that this is in accordance with the negotiations that they've conducted with the Crown, and to make sure that this answers the specific land claim that they've had with the Crown. And so for us to do that successfully, I would move to adjourn debate at this time.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the member for Melfort that debate on Bill No. 33 be now adjourned. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Motion is carried. Why is the member from Saskatoon Centre on his feet?

**Hon. Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Leave to introduce guests please.

**The Speaker:** — The member for Saskatoon Centre is asking leave for introductions. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Leave has been granted.

### **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

**Hon. Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. In your west gallery today is some family members from Moose Jaw. My brother, Reg Forbes, and my sister-in-law, Cheryl Robbins, are over here this afternoon, spending some time in Regina and seeing what we do in our House here.

So I'd ask all members here to welcome our guests to the Saskatchewan legislature. Thank you.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

## SECOND READINGS

**Bill No. 34 — The Wildlife Amendment Act, 2006/Loi de 2006 modifiant la Loi de 1998 sur la faune**

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the Minister of the Environment.

**Hon. Mr. Nilson:** — Mr. Speaker, I stand before you to move second reading of The Wildlife Amendment Act, 2006. The proposed new subsections 5 and 6 of the Act will provide practical, efficient, and effective options for maintenance and disposition of seized live wildlife. This enhanced capability is particularly significant in cases involving seizures of large numbers of live wildlife.

Mr. Speaker, these proposed changes are legislative tools required by the department to effectively deal with situations involving both illegally captured, free-ranging wildlife, and illegally imported game farm wildlife.

Mr. Speaker, with chronic wasting disease and other wildlife-related diseases becoming of greater public and resource management concern, this amendment will improve government's ability to effectively deal with animals illegally imported into the province or captured from the wild.

Rather than the department being required to house and care for seized live wildlife for an extended period of time until all legal processes have been completed, Mr. Speaker, the proposed amendments will allow for partial seizure or seizure and confinement or quarantine at location. The other proposed options, Mr. Speaker, include deportation, sale, humane destruction, or release to the wild as practical and cost-effective alternatives to lengthy care, housing, and disposition of seized live wildlife.

Mr. Speaker, these amendments will provide the statutory base for handling live wildlife in seizure situations in an efficient, effective, and practical manner without requiring the government to maintain large numbers of wildlife in the same condition as when seized. If, Mr. Speaker, court proceedings result in acquittal, the Crown's liability for any wildlife seized is limited to the fair market value at the time of the seizure.

These amendments are similar to existing legislation in Alberta's Wildlife Act and Canada's Fisheries Act. Mr. Speaker, the amendments also provide enforcement and penalty provisions to clarify existing legislation. They also broaden the discretionary ability of the courts to extend a license prohibition period in recognition of a serious contravention of the Act or regulations.

The amendments would automatically cancel all big game, game bird, and fur licences issued pursuant to the Act or the regulations for most contraventions of the Act or regulations or, Mr. Speaker, in the case of a wildlife trafficking offence, any wildlife related licence. As it stands currently, a person convicted of an offence under the Act or regulations would only lose the licence related to the offence. As with the existing legislation, Mr. Speaker, the authority to cancel licences upon conviction lies with the courts. And these proposed amendments do not change that authority with the exception of

a conviction for a wildlife trafficking offence. Mr. Speaker, in this instance the Minister of Environment would determine what wildlife-related licence, if any, would be cancelled.

Mr. Speaker, other changes allow judges more discretion in cancelling licences for a period longer than one year should the offence be of a serious nature or involve an individual with multiple previous convictions.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, the amendments will allow for a prosecution to be commenced any time within two years of the date of the minister becoming aware of the offence. Currently prosecution cannot be commenced after two years of the date of the contravention. This limitation is a concern where there has been ongoing illegal commercial wildlife activity.

Mr. Speaker, I now move second reading of The Wildlife Amendment Act, 2006.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Minister of the Environment that Bill No. 34, The Wildlife Amendment Act, 2006 be now read a second time. The Chair recognizes the member for Melfort.

**Mr. Gantefoer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise and speak briefly on this Bill that's cited as The Wildlife Amendment Act, 2006.

Mr. Speaker, I think the minister has fairly well outlined the significance of the wildlife industry, if you like, in our province — both the hunting business and the game farming business — and some of the threats that are in that industry and chronic wasting disease being one of them.

Mr. Speaker, I think it's important that there are the appropriate bits of legislation in order to make sure that the wildlife assets that we have in this province are properly protected.

Mr. Speaker, it's nice to have stricter measures for conviction of these offences in the province, but I also think that it's important for the government to make sure that there are sufficient numbers of conservation officers in the field in order to make these penalties stick and to enforce these kinds of directives. Mr. Speaker, it takes both aspects in order to have a successful initiative in this field.

I certainly think that this is a fairly detailed Bill. The minister has taken some time to explain in some detail the ramifications and the changes envisaged in this Bill, and certainly we as the official opposition are going to want to consult with people in this whole broad industry — hunters and farmers, game farmers as well, and conservation officers. And in order to facilitate that, Mr. Speaker, at this time I would move to adjourn debate.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the member for Melfort that second reading debate on Bill No. 34 be now adjourned. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Motion is carried.

**Bill No. 39 — The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority  
Amendment Act, 2006**

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the Minister Responsible for the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority.

**Hon. Mr. Nilson:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to move second reading of The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority Act, 2006. It seems appropriate, Mr. Speaker, that I raise the topic of water in the very week that we acknowledge World Water Day which is tomorrow on March 22.

Mr. Speaker, the addition of section 83.1 will make it clear that orders made pursuant to section 69 under earlier legislation prior to May 27, 2005, may be enforced with these measures made available in The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority Act, 2005. These powers did not exist under the previous legislation.

Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority legislation was proclaimed on October 1, 2002, as a result of our government's safe drinking water strategy. It was formed by bringing together the water management responsibilities from SaskWater, Saskatchewan Environment, and the Saskatchewan Wetland Conservation Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, since The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority Act was proclaimed over three and a half years ago, it has accomplished many significant initiatives designed to protect the quality and quantity of water for Saskatchewan people: the development of a watershed and aquifer planning model for Saskatchewan, the development of a process to monitor and report on the health of our watersheds which we released earlier this year, and we are currently leading provincial and federal officials in the development of an integrated water management framework to coordinate existing and emerging water issues.

Mr. Speaker, in March 2005 our government identified several amendments to The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority Act which were enacted to strengthen the authority's capacity to ensure proper management of Saskatchewan's water resources.

Today, Mr. Speaker, I wish to propose a further amendment by adding section 83.1 to the legislation which will clarify provisions of The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority Act, 2005. Mr. Speaker, this amendment will enable the authority to register notices of complaints against drainage works on the titles to the lands on which the works are located. It also will enable the authority to register orders with respect to remediation work required on the land titles and in the case of non-compliance with an order. And it will enable the authority to undertake the remedial work ordered and register with the Court of Queen's Bench a certificate of the authority's costs which, once registered, has the same force as if it were a judgment of the court for the recovery of a debt.

Mr. Speaker, this amendment will strengthen the intent of the previous legislation and strengthen the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority's ability to provide watershed management. Mr. Speaker, thank you, and I will now move second reading of The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority Act, 2006.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Minister Responsible for the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority that Bill No. 39, The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority Amendment Act, 2006 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? The Chair recognizes the member for Melfort.

**Mr. Gantefer:** — Mr. Speaker, I would like to rise and speak briefly on the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority Amendment Act, 2006. Mr. Speaker, I recognize and recall that the watershed authority Act last year that was brought forward was fairly comprehensive in nature and I would suspect that this single clause amendment comes as a result of an omission that the government had in the original legislation.

[14:45]

Mr. Speaker, I think that it's reasonable to make sure that the Watershed Authority has the appropriate authorities and powers it needs in order to comply with the direction of the Act. But, Mr. Speaker, I think when I heard the minister talking about the whole issue of potentially registering a lien or a claim against the title of land, that certainly would be something that we would want to scrutinize very carefully.

Mr. Speaker, over the years in our province, there have been many issues of the proper removal and drainage of water from farm land so that it could be used for agricultural purposes, either grain and oilseeds or pasture lands. And I think that that is an area where there has always been traditionally some contentious issues and the possibility of misunderstanding. And if I understood the minister correctly that this amendment would allow the Watershed Authority to actually put a claim on to the title of the land, I think that we would want to make sure that this is indeed appropriate and is not a measure that is too repressive to achieve the results that are desired.

So in order for us to communicate and to consult with the agricultural community and with the people in charge of the Watershed Authority, Mr. Speaker, I think it's important that we have these discussions. And in order for that to happen, at this time I would move to adjourn debate.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the member from Melfort that second reading debate on Bill No. 39 be now adjourned. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — The motion is carried.

**Bill No. 45 — The Local Government Election  
Amendment Act, 2006**

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

**Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen:** — Mr. Speaker, at the conclusion of my remarks I will be moving second reading of Bill No. 45, The Local Government Election Amendment Act, 2006. Mr. Speaker, The Local Government Election Act governs how municipalities and school boards conduct elections.



The Bill before us contains amendments concerning election procedures, amendments that will provide greater consistency between the election provisions for urban municipalities, school boards, and rural municipalities, and amendments that are of a housekeeping nature and follow up on the incorporation of rural municipal election procedures into the Act. This took place effective January 1, 2006, when the former Rural Municipality Act, 1989 was replaced with The Municipalities Act.

These amendments, Mr. Speaker, were developed in consultation with the Saskatchewan Association of City Clerks, Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities, Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association, the Urban Municipal Administrators Association of Saskatchewan, the Rural Municipal Administrators Association of Saskatchewan, as well as officials from Saskatchewan Learning and other municipal school board election stakeholders. The amendments have the full support of all those groups, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I have already outlined the general intent of this Bill but, for further clarity, I will take a moment or two to elaborate on some of the more significant amendments. This will ensure all hon. members have a good understanding of what we are going to achieve through this Bill.

I will begin with the amendments pertaining to election procedures. Mr. Speaker, rural municipalities have identified what they felt was some unclear wording in the provisions used to outline how a vacancy on a rural municipal council is filled and the number of times a voter may cast a vote in an RM [rural municipality] election. During our consultations, Mr. Speaker, we did discover that the wording was a bit outdated and had been the cause of some confusion in the past. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, this Bill includes amendments to clarify wording in those areas.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, an amendment will update the definition of voter in the rural municipal election provisions to ensure that the definition is consistent with the provisions in The Municipalities Act. This Bill contains amendments that will provide for greater consistency between the election provisions for urban municipalities and school boards with those for rural municipalities.

During the spring 2005 session of the legislature, The Municipalities Act was passed. The Municipalities Act replaced The Urban Municipality Act, 1984 and The Rural Municipality Act, 1989 and came into effect on January 1, 2006.

In concert with passing The Municipalities Act, the rural election provisions from the previous rural municipality Act were incorporated into The Local Government Election Act as a separate division applying only to rural municipalities. This also came into force January 1, 2006.

The amendments that will provide for greater consistency are quite straightforward, Mr. Speaker. First, the appointment of an agent for a candidate running in an RM election will now be done on a prescribed form, as is the case for urban and school board elections. This change will also require the agent to make a declaration similar to the declaration required from a candidate's agent for an urban or school board election.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill will add a section to provide the authority for a candidate running in a rural municipal election or the candidate's agent to object to the entitlement of any person intending to vote.

Section 72 of the Act already provides the authority for a candidate or a candidate's agent in an urban municipality or a school division election to object to the entitlement of any person intending to vote. However, similar authority for RM candidates or the candidate's agent was never in the old rural election procedures. This has been a cause of concern for RM candidates, candidate's agents, and for RMs in general, all of whom feel the authority with respect to objecting to a voter should be consistent between urban municipal, school division, and rural municipal elections.

Mr. Speaker, it is important to note that the ability to object to a person voting does not deny that person the right to vote. If there is a challenge, the voter merely completes a voter's registration form stating that he or she is a voter. If the validity of the election is ever challenged in court, the recording of an objection does provide evidence to the justice which may help in a decision.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, the authority for rural municipalities to hold joint elections with urban municipalities and school boards was provided under the rural election procedures in 2002. But similar authority was not previously provided for cities, small urban municipalities, or school divisions. The amended provision in this Bill will standardize this authority by extending it to cities, urban municipalities, and school divisions. The authority however, Mr. Speaker, to conduct joint elections has not been extended to northern municipalities, Mr. Speaker, as no RMs are located in northern Saskatchewan with whom a northern municipality could agree to conduct a joint election.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to move second reading of Bill No. 45, The Local Government Election Amendment Act, 2006. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Minister of Government Relations that Bill No. 45, The Local Government Election Amendment Act, 2006 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? The Chair recognizes the member for Melfort.

**Mr. Gantefer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure for me to rise to speak to Bill No. 45, The Local Government Election Amendment Act, 2006.

Mr. Speaker, when I was listening to the minister outline all the shortcomings and problems that he was proposing to correct in this legislation, I'm surprised we've been able to elect anybody in the municipal and school levels at all in the past. It seems as if there is so many shortcomings that this legislation is deemed to correct that I don't know how we've carried on so far.

But, Mr. Speaker, insofar as there are changes in the way school board authorities and boundaries and jurisdictions occur, it's certainly, I think, important to as much as possible to streamline the process and to provide the tools to facilitate the potential holding of joint elections and things of that nature, because it simply makes a lot of sense in order to have people go to the

polls that's on one date rather than a number of them for these various authorities.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister outlined, this particularly affects rural and urban municipalities and school boards. I also am wondering if there has been any consideration of including health boards in this process as well, because that's another body that, you know, needs to have some guidance in terms of elected representatives into the future.

Mr. Speaker, I think that all of these considerations require a great deal of consultation with the various bodies affected and in order for that to be facilitated at this time I would move to adjourn debate.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the member for Melfort that second reading debate for Bill No. 45 be now adjourned. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Motion is carried.

## ADJOURNED DEBATES

### SECOND READINGS

#### Bill No. 4

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Taylor that **Bill No. 4 — The Assessment Management Agency Amendment Act, 2005** be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. Huyghebaert:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll just spend a few moments on Bill No. 4, The Assessment Management Agency Amendment Act.

What this Bill is doing is basically changing the commercial sector to move to a market-value model which we are totally supportive of. It's interesting to note that the system that we've been using in the past, there have been an awful lot of discrepancies in it where we've talked in the last session about buildings that would be very, very highly assessed on the commercial side, and yet a government building that's sitting right nearby and at the same basic structure was assessed at a far different level. And that was brought up in the past, and so maybe the new market-value model will be far better serving the people of this province.

Mr. Speaker, there's one issue that I'd like to just talk about briefly, and that is in SAMA's [Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency] mandate to bring the market value in by the year . . . January 1, 2009. They're sending out commercial information request forms. And we've been getting a number of calls on these forms because they go quite in-depth about finances and whatnot.

And people are phoning us and asking, do they have to fill these forms out? And we don't have an answer to that as yet, if they

are required to by this government to fill the forms out. There's information in these forms dealing with incomes and a lot of stuff that could be actually found in income tax reports. So that is something, Mr. Speaker, that we'll be addressing in committee. And so at this time, Mr. Speaker, I would like to forward this Bill to committee.

**The Speaker:** — The question before the Assembly is that Bill No. 4, The Assessment Management Agency Amendment Act, 2005 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:** — Motion is carried.

**Clerk Assistant:** — Second reading of this Bill.

**The Speaker:** — To which committee shall this Bill be referred? The Chair recognizes the Minister of Government Relations.

**Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen:** — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 4, The Assessment Management Agency Amendment Act, 2005 be referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Minister of Government Relations that Bill No. 4 be referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure. 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 Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure.

[15:00]

#### Bill No. 5

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Taylor that **Bill No. 5 — The Cities Amendment Act, 2005** be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. Huyghebaert:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, Bill No. 5 follows along with Bill No. 4 addressing the amendments in The Cities Act to deal with fair value or market value assessment.

There's one item in this Bill that has raised some concern and that is the parking fee issue. Now I think we need some clarification on the issue of if a city or an institution can seize

and sell a vehicle to pay off a parking fine. And we understand from the city's perspective that a lot of fines are left outstanding and they are on the hook for a bunch of money. But there's some debate as to whether the city should have authority to seize and sell a vehicle at the expense of a financial institution. So that's one of the things, Madam Deputy Speaker, that we will be discussing in committee. So at this time I would forward this Bill to committee.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member from Wood River has moved that the Bill go forward to the committee. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the minister of Intergovernmental Affairs that Bill No. 5, The Cities Amendment Act be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

**Clerk Assistant:** — Second reading of this Bill.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — To which committee shall this Bill be referred?

**Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen:** — Madam Speaker, I move that Bill No. 5, The Cities Amendment Act, 2005 be referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — It has been moved by the minister of Intergovernmental Affairs that Bill No. 5, The Cities Amendment Act, 2005 be referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs. 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 Intergovernmental Affairs.

### Bill No. 6

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Taylor that **Bill No. 6 — The Municipalities Amendment Act, 2005** be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. Huyghebaert:** — Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. This Bill also is An Act to amend The Municipalities Act. It's mostly a clean-up nature amendment to make way for the market value assessment model that we've just been talking about in the other two Bills.

The questions that we have related to this Bill we can do in committee, but I'd just like to make one point. I know when this

Bill was introduced there was a question asked of the government if proper consultation had been done. And there was assurance that the groups had in fact been consulted with. I had phoned the president of SARM [Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities] that same day and he had not even heard of the amendment. So that's something that we have a little bit of concern about, is the consultation process when it comes to these Bills.

But as this is basically a housecleaning type of Bill, Madam Deputy Speaker, I would recommend it to go forward to committee.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — It's been recommended to go forward to committee. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, Bill No. 6, The Municipalities Amendment Act be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

**Clerk Assistant:** — Second reading of this Bill.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — To which committee shall this Bill be referred?

**Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen:** — Madam Speaker, I move that Bill No. 6, The Municipalities Amendment Act, 2005 be referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — It has been moved by the minister of Intergovernmental Affairs that Bill No. 6, The Municipalities Amendment Act, 2005 be now referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure. 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 Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure.

### Bill No. 21

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Prebble that **Bill No. 21 — The Boiler and Pressure Vessel Amendment Act, 2005** be now read a second time.]

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Moosomin.

**Mr. Toth:** — Thank you, Madam Deputy Chair. Just a few comments, Madam Speaker, before we move this Bill to committee. A number of questions have been raised regarding the piece of legislation. However, as we observe, the legislation

is fairly straightforward. In fact it's just bringing some clarity to the wording in the piece of legislation.

But I go back to comments made by the former minister when he introduced second reading of this Bill in the fall. And he indicated at that time that proclamation of the Act, which was passed in 1999, has been delayed in order to develop and finalize supporting regulations. And he indicates these regulations have been shared and discussed with key stakeholders to ensure that they are practical and effective.

And, Madam Deputy Chair, from some of the information we've received recently, there are some questions arising as to how extensive the discussion has been with key stakeholders. There's some questions arising whether or not stakeholders have been informed or been involved whatsoever in discussing the regulations that are being proposed and that are to come forward in order to move this Bill forward and address a number of the issues or the reason given for the reasons for this piece of legislation.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I think it's imperative that as pieces of legislation move forward in the Assembly, that when the government indicates that they've talked to stakeholders, that they indeed take the time to talk to stakeholders. And while I realize we've had a change in ministers since the piece of legislation was moved forward, I would trust that in the last little while there has been some actual discussion. And, Madam Deputy Chair, I have no idea where the regulations are as we haven't had . . . the minister hasn't had a chance to respond to that comment made by the former minister. But we anticipate that when we get into committee, we will be raising some of these questions in regards to this piece of legislation.

While the legislation itself is fairly simple and straightforward, it's quite obvious that there were a number of issues that needed to be addressed going back to the 1999 piece of legislation. And the fact that it's been delayed this long in receiving proclamation indicates to us that while the legislation came forward in 1999 and has been updated in 2005, there are some issues around the legislation that need to be addressed. And we certainly want to ensure that when we get into committee, Madam Deputy Chair, that we have that opportunity. And I know we'll take the time.

We trust that the minister and his officials will come prepared as well to indicate to us who they've talked to, the stakeholders they've actually sat down with, whether progress has been made in regards to the regulations that will actually be used to enact this piece of legislation and how it moves forward.

And so, Madam Deputy Chair, I believe in view of the fact that this legislation, as far as correcting wording in regards to the older piece of legislation, is fairly simply and straightforward, I believe more progress can be made in addressing some of the questions by moving this piece of legislation into committee. Thank you, Madam Deputy Chair.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — It has been moved that the Bill would go to the committee. So is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The question before the Assembly is the motion by the Minister of Corrections and Public Safety that Bill No. 21, The Boiler and Pressure Vessel Amendment Act, 2005 be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

**Clerk Assistant:** — Second reading of this Bill.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — To which committee shall this Bill be referred? The Minister of Corrections and Public Safety.

**Hon. Mr. Yates:** — Thank you, Madam Speaker. I move that Bill No. 21, The Boiler and Pressure Vessel Amendment Act, 2005 be referred to the Standing Committee on Human Services.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Minister of Corrections and Public Safety that Bill No. 21, The Boiler and Pressure Vessel Amendment Act, 2005 be referred to the Standing Committee on Human Services. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

## Bill No. 22

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Forbes that **Bill No. 22 — The Forestry Professions Act** be now read a second time.]

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Batoche.

**Mr. Kirsch:** — Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. I welcome the opportunity to speak on this Bill No. 22 for forestry professionals. I see that seven other provinces have currently forestry professional legislation, and I see this Bill is bringing Saskatchewan up to that standard. I have questions on some of the fine tuning of this Bill and I have questions as to some of the structure of the administration of this Bill. I also have some questions on the powers of the Bill. I am sure that these questions can be answered in committee. Therefore I would like to see this Bill move to committee.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — It has been moved that the Bill would move forward to committee. Is the Assembly ready for the question? The question before the Assembly is the motion by the Minister of Environment that Bill No. 22, The Forestry Professions Act be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

**Clerk Assistant:** — Second reading of this Bill.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — To which committee shall the Bill be referred? I recognize the Government House Leader.

**Hon. Mr. Hagel:** — Madam Deputy Speaker, I move that Bill No. 22, The Forestry Professions Act be referred to the Standing Committee on the Economy.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Government House Leader that Bill No. 22, The Forestry Professions Act 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 Last Mountain-Touchwood.

**Mr. Hart:** — Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. The intent of this Bill is to disclose the cost of credit and make it easier for consumers to determine the actual cost of credit that they are facing. And in this day and age where citizens are bombarded by telemarketing, and some of those telemarketing calls come from credit card companies offering what looks on first blush, you know, a sweetheart deal of very low interest rates, but in some cases some hidden provisions or provisions that aren't perhaps fully explained which could incur very high credit costs.

I think we need to do as much as we can in order to make the cost of borrowing money as apparent as possible, and this Bill attempts to move down that road. And I think we certainly on this side of the House would support those measures.

We do have a number of questions surrounding this particular piece of legislation that we will be prepared to ask in committee, Madam Deputy Speaker, so I would indicate on behalf of the opposition that we would be asking those additional questions in committee.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Moved that the Assembly would be ready for the question. The question before the Assembly is a motion by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 24, The Cost of Credit Disclosure Amendment Act, 2005 be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

**Clerk Assistant:** — Second reading of this Bill.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — To which committee shall this Bill be

referred? I recognize the Minister of Justice.

**Hon. Mr. Quennell:** — I move that Bill No. 24, The Cost of Credit Disclosure Amendment Act, 2005 be referred to the Standing Committee on Human Services.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 24, The Cost of Credit Disclosure Amendment Act, 2005 be referred to the Standing Committee on Human Services. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

[15:15]

#### Bill No. 19

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Quennell that **Bill No. 19 — The Trustee Amendment Act, 2005** be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. Kerpan:** — Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, in the interests of time we've seen lots of fairly short speeches in quantity but certainly very high-quality speeches on this side of the House today and I'll do my very best to uphold that strong tradition on this Tuesday afternoon.

Madam Speaker, the Bill that we're talking about here, An Act to amend The Trustee Act, really certainly a very important Bill. Myself, I can speak from personal experience. I am a trustee for my father. My father is 87 years old and has always been a real strong . . . strong with his bookkeeping abilities and his financial accounting and so on and so forth. And it really puts a lot of pressure on people who become trustees because they want to make sure that they continue that high quality and high level of accounting.

This Bill talks about a lot of things that I think are really truly important under The Trustee Act and I know that my colleague, the member for Saskatoon Southeast who is the critic in this area, has spoken to me at great length about this Bill. And we are prepared to ask whatever questions we have remaining about this Bill in committee. And so therefore I would like to move that we move this Bill on to committee. Thank you.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 19, The Trustee Amendment Act, 2005 be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

**Clerk Assistant:** — Second reading of this Bill.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — To which committee shall this Bill be referred? The Minister of Justice.

**Hon. Mr. Quennell:** — I move that Bill No. 19, The Trustee Amendment Act, 2005 be referred to the Standing Committee on Human Services.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 19, The Trustee Amendment Act be referred to the Standing Committee on Human Services. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

### Bill No. 18

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Quennell that **Bill No. 18 — The Securities Amendment Act, 2005** be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. Kerpan:** — Thank you again, Madam Speaker. Just like the Bill that I spoke about prior to this, Bill 19, and this one, Bill 18, talks about The Securities Amendment Act and amendments to the security Act.

I have spoken at great length to our critic, the member for Saskatoon Southeast. I know the Minister of Justice has done a lot of work in this area.

And along with one of my colleagues, the member from Saskatoon Southeast, we realize that this is a good, strong move in the fact that we are trying to harmonize some of the provincial legislation with federal legislation, and that can be nothing but good to make these kind of Acts more efficient.

Again, Madam Speaker, whatever questions that we have remaining, we are certainly prepared to ask in committee. And therefore I again move that this Bill go on to committee. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The question before the Assembly is the motion by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 18, The Securities Amendment Act, 2005 be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

**Clerk Assistant:** — Second reading of this Bill.

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

**Hon. Mr. Quennell:** — I move that Bill No. 18, The Securities Amendment Act, 2005 be referred to the Standing Committee on Human Services.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 18, The Securities Amendment Act, 2005 be referred to the Standing Committee on Human Services. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

### Bill No. 15

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Lautermilch that **Bill No. 15 — The Highways and Transportation Amendment Act, 2005** be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. Weekes:** — Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. It's a pleasure to speak to Bill No. 15, An Act to amend The Highways and Transportation Act.

As I see it, the amendment does two basic things. It rolls the former Highways Revolving Fund into the General Revenue Fund as accounting practices no longer require it to operate the fund. And it also increases the fines for act of civil disobedience like highway blockades from a frustrated public.

It certainly, Madam Deputy Speaker, is interesting to note that the government has gone to increasing fines for so-called civil disobedience. We know that, especially in the North, there's been a number of years in a row that residents in the North has been blockading roads, trying to bring their issues forward to the government. And the government seems to just ignore their concerns.

And now with the demise of Weyerhaeuser in the North, I suppose that problem in the North will have gone away. It is too bad that the government didn't in the past take some initiative to address their concerns because hopefully there will be a forestry industry in the future. Certainly under a Saskatchewan Party government, there will be. And these issues need to be addressed.

Madam Deputy Speaker, the Bill also speaks to this fund that has been rolled into the General Revenue Fund. And I understand it was to provide custom work to a multitude of groups such as municipalities, school boards, and First Nations. And the fund was discontinued back in March 31, 2004, and then the government transferred all the capital assets into the General Revenue Fund. So this has allowed the government to allocate the cost of equipment over multiple years when the GRF [General Revenue Fund] expensed all costs in the current

year.

Madam Deputy Speaker, the changes to The Financial Administration Act in 2004 meant that the fund was no longer needed by the government to manage the equipment's fleet or work activities. And this raises a number of questions, which I will certainly be asking in Committee of the Whole, about changes to the obstruction clause in section 22. The government, as I mentioned before, is increasing fines for people who unlawfully block a highway or place an obstruction on the highway. And as we read it, the new section allows the department official or peace officer to remove any object or person from the highway.

Now we've got a number of questions around that. It's interesting that the . . . what more, I guess, power or control the government needs in order to do this. I understand the minister and the government can get a court order to refrain from obstructing the highway now. So it's questions around that and also what the costs incurred by the department respecting a blockade or considering debts owed to the Crown.

Now the Bill also speaks to fines being increasing from a maximum of \$200 for a first offence and \$500 for a second offence to fines of a maximum of \$1,000 or 60 days imprisonment or both.

As I said it's very interesting because when there's problems that residents have in a particular area, as in the North, or there's been other cases in other parts of the province where highways have been blocked. Really, people aren't normally willing to take such a drastic step to make their point clear. And so it's interesting to see what the government's concern is that they are having to bring in the added fines and punishment for people to display their anger over government policy and how it's being dealt with by the government. And these are very serious situations that must take place before people take really the last resort and blockade highways and roads in the province.

So, Madam Deputy Speaker, there's many, many questions that we have about this Bill, and we certainly will be asking those questions in Committee of the Whole. So, Madam Deputy Speaker, I'd like to just thank you, and we would like to refer this to the Committee of the Whole.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the Minister of Highways that Bill No. 15, The Highways and Transportation Amendment Act, 2005 be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

**Clerk Assistant:** — Second reading of this Bill.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — To which committee shall the Bill be

referred? I recognize the Minister of Highways and Transportation.

**Hon. Mr. Lautermilch:** — Madam Deputy Speaker, I move that Bill No. 15, The Highways and Transportation Amendment Act, 2005 be referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Minister of Highways and Transportation that Bill No. 15, The Highways and Transportation Amendment Act, 2005 be referred to the standing committee on intergovernmental relations and infrastructure. 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 intergovernmental relations and infrastructure.

### 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 Carrot River Valley.

**Mr. Kerpan:** — Thank you, Madam Speaker, thank you again. Madam Speaker, I wish that perhaps on this Bill, The Veterinarians Amendment Act, that I could stand and say . . . on Bill No. 28, that I could stand and say similar words that I had used on Bill 18 and 19 where we were ready to send those two Bills to committee because we felt that they were ready to go to committee and that being the final stages of a Bill in this House it's appropriate that we would send them there.

That's not the case for Bill No. 28, the veterinaries Act. I'm not the critic for this area, Madam Speaker, but what I've heard from my colleagues over the course of time is that there seems to be a lot of conflict between groups — veterinarians groups, some other veterinarians, farmers, ranchers — some conflict about whether the Bill does everything it should to alleviate problems arising out of the veterinarian industry.

Madam Speaker, I know that the association, the veterinarian association, has had problems with individuals who are not qualified, that are performing veterinary techniques out of the basement, so to speak, Madam Speaker, although that's sort of a cliché because it's pretty hard to do veterinary techniques out of your basement because it's sort of hard to get a horse into your basement — although, Madam Speaker, my brother-in-law did have a horse at one time that he rode into the kitchen. So even though I use it as a cliché, it's simply not truly impossible because as I said on the case of my brother-in-law, that one day when he rode his horse into the kitchen of his house . . . and we thought that was pretty unique. However we didn't perform any veterinary techniques upon that horse while it was in the kitchen.

So, Madam Speaker, the question here is that I know there are going to be amendments brought forward by the government. I've seen some smiles from the government side of the House, which is good, today.

I know that there was talk about . . . there's concerns about perhaps people performing acts of dentistry on horses, for instance, Madam Speaker. I'm also aware that there are a very few actual licensed veterinarians that do perform dentistry in Saskatchewan. So it becomes difficult for owners of horses that need to have teeth floated or so on and so forth. I know also, Madam Speaker, that's a practice that I've done at my farm is floated the teeth on an old horse, older horse, where it needed to be done. And I didn't have the opportunity to call a veterinarian, nor did I feel it was necessary to call a veterinarian.

The other part of the Bill that I know raises some concerns with lots of people that I talked to is the castration of horses. And it would be required that veterinarians be present and actually do that practice.

Again, Madam Speaker, on our farm, we've done them ourselves over the course of years. My father-in-law was sort of the master at that, and we performed those kinds of operations upon horses, our own horses, at the time. And I know it'd be frustrating for ranchers and farmers and owners of horses that felt that they were very capable of doing that to have to call a veterinarian to perform those kinds of procedures.

So, Madam Speaker, in summing up all these, I know that there are many questions that remain to be answered and need to be answered on this Bill. And therefore, I would move that we adjourn debate upon this Bill today. Thank you very much.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Deputy Speaker:** — It has been moved by the member for Carrot River Valley that we adjourn debate on the Bill before the Assembly. 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. Hagel:** — Madam Deputy Speaker, I move that this House do now adjourn.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — It has been moved that this 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 15:30.]





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