



SECOND SESSION - TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

of the

**Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

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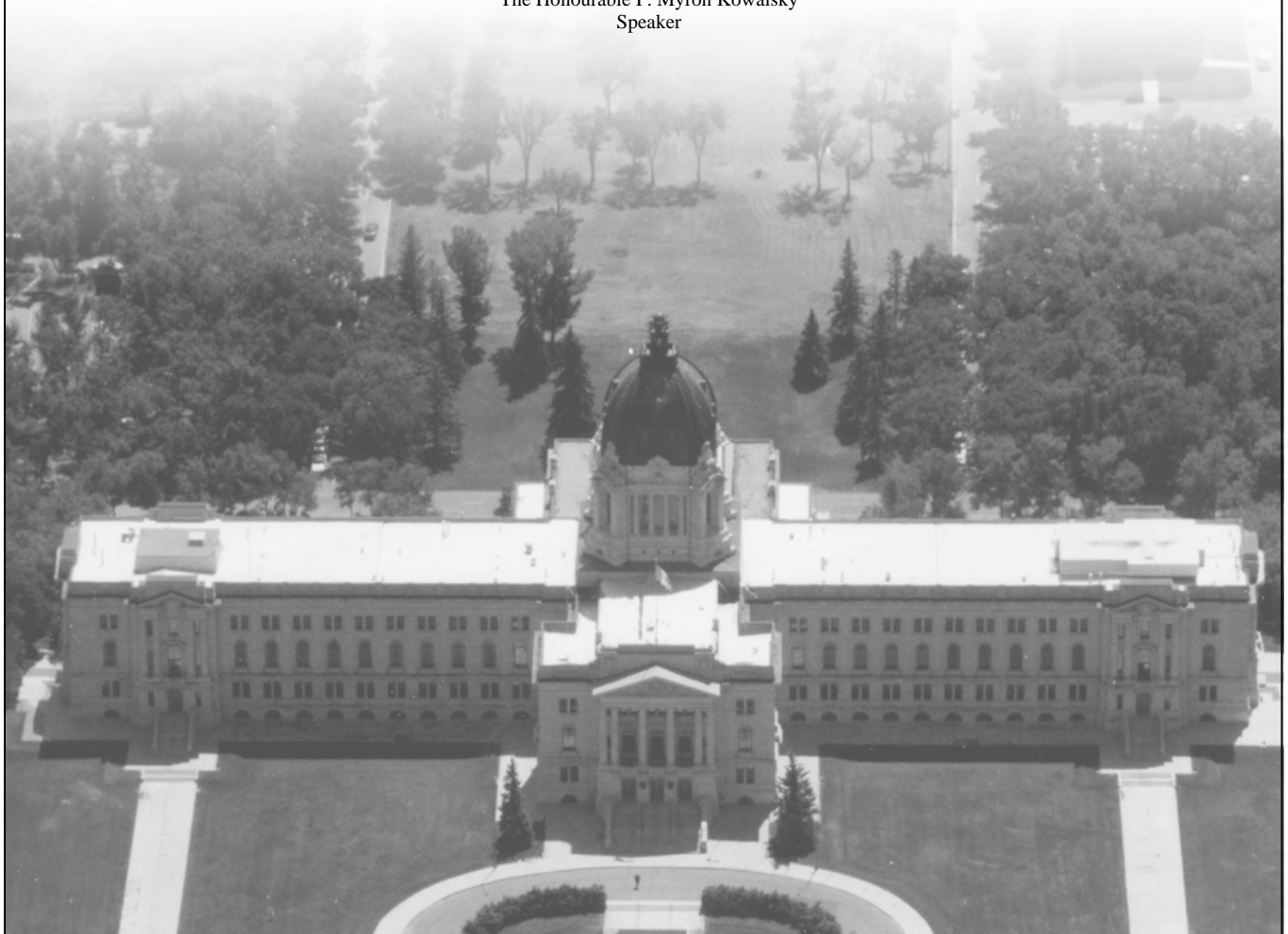
**DEBATES  
and  
PROCEEDINGS**

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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
Bjornerud, Bob	SP	Melville-Saltcoats
Borgerson, Lon	NDP	Saskatchewan Rivers
Brkich, Greg	SP	Arm River-Watrous
Calvert, Hon. Lorne	NDP	Saskatoon Riversdale
Cheveldayoff, Ken	SP	Saskatoon Silver Springs
Chisholm, Michael	SP	Cut Knife-Turtleford
Cline, Hon. Eric	NDP	Saskatoon Massey Place
Crofford, 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 return again today to the topic of the condition of Highway 32 running from the community of Leader through to Cabri. The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take immediate action and make necessary repairs to Highway 32 in order to address safety and economic concerns.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, this page of petitions is signed by individuals from the community of Prelate, Leader, Sceptre, and one signature from Lethbridge, Alberta. I so present.

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the member for Indian Head-Milestone.

**Mr. McMorris:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a petition regarding the drug Avastin and the government's refusal to fund this drug. 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 fully fund the cancer drug Avastin.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by the good people in Saskatoon. I so present.

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

**Ms. Draude:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today on behalf of people who are concerned about Highway No. 55.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause this government to take the necessary action to invest the needed money to repair and maintain Highway 55 so it can return to being a safe and economical route for Saskatchewan families and business.

The people that have signed this petition are from Carrot River, from Porcupine, and from Tisdale. I so present.

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

**Mr. Hermanson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a petition signed by citizens of Saskatchewan asking the government to fund Avastin. Mr. Speaker, the prayer of the petition reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary action to fully fund the cancer drug Avastin.

And as in duty bound, your petitioners ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, a number of signatures on this petition from a number of communities including North Battleford, Hudson Bay, Saskatoon, and Bonnyville, Alberta. And I'm pleased to present this petition on their behalf.

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

**Mr. Hart:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to be able to present a petition on behalf of Saskatchewan citizens. The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary action to fully fund the cancer drug Avastin.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Signatures to this petition, Mr. Speaker, come from Martensville and Saskatoon. And I'm pleased to be able to present it on their behalf.

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

**Ms. Harpauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased today to stand and present several pages of a petition with citizens concerned about the safety of Highway No. 5. And the prayer reads as follows:

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

And the signatures, Mr. Speaker, are from Humboldt, LeRoy, Carmel, Pilger, Lake Lenore, Muenster, Watson, Bruno, Anaheim, Martensville, and Saskatoon. I so present.

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

**Ms. Eagles:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, again today I rise to present a petition on behalf of citizens of this province who are very concerned about the government's refusal to fund the drug Avastin. And the prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary action to fully fund the cancer drug Avastin.

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

And, Mr. Speaker, this is signed by citizens of Estevan. I so present. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Weekes:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also rise today to present a petition from citizens that are upset about the government not funding the cancer drug Avastin. The prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary action to fully fund the cancer drug Avastin.

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

Signed by the good citizens of Asquith, Prince Albert, Leask, and Regina. I so present.

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

**Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to rise today to present a petition on behalf of families across Saskatchewan concerned that Saskatchewan is the only province besides PEI [Prince Edward Island] that does not have a children's hospital. The prayer of the petition reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary action to implement an allocation of financial resources in this year's budget to build a provincial children's hospital in Saskatoon.

The petitioners today live on Kutz Crescent, Perehudoff Crescent, and Skeena Crescent in northeast Saskatoon. I so present, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the member for Shellbrook Turtleford.

**Mr. Allchurch:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise to present a petition. The petition reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary action to fully fund the cancer drug Avastin.

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

Mr. Speaker, the signatures of this petition are from Saskatoon, Shellbrook, and Estevan. I so present.

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

**Mr. Kirsch:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I stand to read a petition for the widening and upgrading of Highway No. 5. And the prayer reads as follows:

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

the necessary action to upgrade and widen Highway No. 5 from Humboldt to Saskatoon.

And is duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

And, Mr. Speaker, it is signed by the good people of Humboldt. I so present.

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

**Mr. Brkich:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a petition here dealing with possible closures of section shops.

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 Department of Highways section shop in Watrous remain open so as to ensure the safety of all motorists and Saskatchewan Highways employees who would be affected by such possible closures.

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

This particular petition is signed by good citizens from Watrous and Young. I so present.

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

**Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition regarding autism spectrum disorders. I will only read a small portion of the prayer for relief.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to act upon the recommendations made to the Government of Saskatchewan. And some of those recommendations include: increase the early diagnosis of children with ASD, have respite and family support accessible based on need, and make access to specialized equipment and supplies based on need.

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

I so present.

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

**Mr. Kerpan:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too rise today on behalf of citizens of Saskatchewan who are concerned with the deplorable condition of Highway No. 55. And 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 the necessary action to invest the needed money to repair and maintain Highway 55 so it can return to being a safe and economical route for Saskatchewan families and business.

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

Mr. Speaker, signed by people from Zenon Park, Bjorkdale, Mistatim, Tisdale, and Weekes.

### READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

**Deputy Clerk:** — According to order the following petitions have been reviewed and pursuant to rule 14(7) are hereby read and received:

Petition concerning overtime paid to workers north of the 62nd township, that's sessional paper 643;

And addendums to previously tabled petitions being sessional paper nos. 5, 7, 64, 67, and no. 639.

### NOTICES OF MOTIONS AND QUESTIONS

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

**Ms. Draude:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that I shall on day no. 38 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister Responsible for First Nations and Métis Relations: is the management of the department aware of any allegations of fraud or other illegal activity within the department or its agencies in the year 2000-2001, such as information received from employees, former employees, customers, clients, suppliers, or others? If so, what is the nature of the activity?

I have a similar question for 2001-2002, 2002-2003.

I give notice that I shall on day no. 38 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister Responsible for First Nations and Métis Relations: what did management of the department find as a result of its monitoring of any of the established programs and controls to mitigate fraud risk or detect fraud in the year 2000-2001?

I have a similar question for 2001-2002, 2002-2003.

I give notice that I shall on day no. 38 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister Responsible for First Nations and Métis Relations: does management of the department have any knowledge of any actual or suspected fraud or illegal activity within the department during the year 2001-2002? If so, what is the nature of the activity?

Same question for 2001-02, 2002-2003.

I give notice I shall on day no. 38 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister Responsible for First Nations and Métis Relations: how did management of the department monitor any established programs and controls to mitigate fraud risks or help prevent or detect fraud in the year 2000-2001, 2001-2002, 2002-2003?

I give notice that I shall on day no. 38 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister Responsible for First Nations and Métis Relations: did management of the department have any established programs and controls to mitigate fraud risks or help prevent or detect fraud in the year 2000-2001, 2001-2002, 2002-2003?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Toth:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As well to present written questions to the Assembly. And I will read a few of the questions I have here.

I give notice that I shall on day no. 38 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister of Corrections and Public Safety: did management of the department have established programs and controls to mitigate fraud risks or to help prevent or detect fraud in the year 2000-2001? As well, how did the management of the department monitor any established programs and controls to mitigate fraud risks or to help prevent or detect fraud in the year 2000-2001? As well, Mr. Speaker, does management of the department have any knowledge of any actual or suspected fraud or illegal activity within the department during the year 2000-2001? And if so, what is the nature of this activity?

Mr. Speaker:

To the Minister of Corrections and Public Safety: what did management of the department find as a result of its monitoring of any established programs and controls to mitigate fraud risk or to detect fraud in the year 2000-2001?

To the Minister of Corrections and Public Safety: is management of the department aware of any allegations of fraud or any other illegal activity within the department or its agencies in the year 2000-2001 such as information received from employees, former employees, customers, clients, suppliers, or others? And if so, what is the nature of the activity?

And, Mr. Speaker, I have similar questions for the years '01-02, '02-03. Thank you.

### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Justice, the member for Saskatoon Meewasin.

**Hon. Mr. Quennell:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to introduce to you and through you to the Assembly a number of guests seated in your gallery. They are here today on the occasion of proclamation of amendments to The Police Act. And I would like each to stand as they are introduced for recognition.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to begin by introducing the members of the newly established Public Complaints Commission: Ms. Loretta Elford of Regina, Mr. Ray Fox of the Sweet Grass First Nation, Mr. Mike Maurice of Saskatoon, Ms. Catherine Knox of Saskatoon, Vice-Chair; and Mr. Robert Mitchell, Q.C. [Queen's Counsel] of Regina, Chair, the current Saskatchewan police complaints investigator and a former minister of Justice.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

[13:45]

**Hon. Mr. Quennell:** — Staff to the commission are also joining us today — John Clarke, director; and Gord Laliberte and Sherry Pelletier, investigators.

Also joining us, Mr. Speaker, are three guests whose work was instrumental in the development of the changes to The Police Act and in particular the process to be used for police complaints: Lynne Larose, executive director, Métis Family and Community Justice Services Inc. and Doris Greeyes, Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations and Chief Terry Coleman of the Moose Jaw Police Service. Chief Coleman is president of the Saskatchewan Association of Chiefs of Police. I invite all members of the House to join me to welcome our guests to the Chamber this afternoon. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the member for Saskatoon Southeast, the opposition Justice critic.

**Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, I'd like to join with the members opposite and on behalf of the members on this side of the House welcome these people to the House. They've certainly undertaken a challenging assignment and we look forward to working with them and we're hoping for big things. Many of them are people that I've met before and have had good dealings with. And I'm very optimistic for a successful outcome of this project and would like to welcome them on behalf of the members on this side.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Highways and Transportation, member for Prince Albert Northcote.

**Hon. Mr. Lautermilch:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce a number of people in your gallery: Chief Peter Bill, Chief Bruce Morin, Ron Blocka who is the executive director of the agency chiefs, Bill Kordyban who's the president of Carrier Lumber, Terry Kuzma who is a forester with Carrier, as well as Don Cody. I wish to invite all members to give them a warm welcome to the Chamber.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Kirsch:** — On behalf of the members on this side of the House, we would also like to welcome you to your Assembly,

and thank you for coming here.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the Minister for the Public Service Commission, the member for Saskatoon Nutana.

**Hon. Ms. Atkinson:** — Thank you. Seated in your gallery are 23 members of the public service who are part of the parliamentary program for public servants. These 23 public servants represent Agriculture and Food, Community Resources, Environment, Health, Justice, Government Relations, Highways, as well as the Public Service Commission. Mr. Speaker, they have spent the day at the Legislative Assembly visiting with people and understanding how our Assembly operates and the role that they have in the operation of the Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, I would invite all members of the Assembly to welcome these 23 public servants that provide important public services to our citizens.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Gantefoer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to join with the minister in welcoming the 23 public servants to their legislature this afternoon.

I would like to caution them that in addition to the fact that the minister and myself will be getting to visit with you this afternoon, please disregard anything you hear in question period. It's the part of this legislature that is rarely covered and certainly mostly misunderstood. Mr. Speaker, we look forward to setting the record straight this afternoon. And thank you for coming to your legislature.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the Minister for Community Resources, the member for Athabasca.

**Hon. Mr. Belanger:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm very excited and very pleased to introduce a new member of my staff that moved all the way from Buffalo Narrows. That's roughly a nine-hour drive.

She travelled here Saturday and Sunday in the midst of a lot of tears and goodbyes to her family and many friends. She made the effort of coming to move to Regina and work on my team. And I think we're quite excited because she's a northern advocate and a northern champion and a great addition to this government.

I'll ask all members of the Assembly to welcome to the legislature for the first time Mrs. Irene Pedersen of Buffalo Narrows. Welcome, Irene.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Merriman:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to welcome two people sitting in your gallery: Mr. Paul Bunz, the president of foster parents' association of Saskatchewan and Deb Davies, the executive director of foster parents' association of Saskatchewan.

I'd like to thank them both for the wonderful work they do with underprivileged children, children that are most in need, and for working with the foster families. And I'd like to welcome them to their Legislative Assembly.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Hon. Mr. Belanger:** — Mr. Speaker, I'd like to join my colleague in welcoming our two special guests from the foster family association. It was my error and I missed them; so welcome once again.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce and welcome two guests to the legislature, Brian Graham and Pam Waldbillig.

They are residents of Saskatoon and are active in the Pleasant Hill Community Association and are down in Regina today meeting with inner-city groups in the city of Regina as well for purposes of reducing crime in their neighbourhood and other neighbourhoods throughout the province. And I'd like to welcome them to their legislature. Thank you for coming.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

#### STATEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

##### Question Period Relevancy and Personal Charge

**The Speaker:** — Now members, to guide future debates I wish to make a statement by the Speaker at this time instead of before orders of the day.

On Friday, March 31, 2006, the opposition leader raised a point of order concerning remarks made by the Deputy Premier during question period. The Opposition House Leader stated that the Deputy Premier made an inference that the member for Saskatoon Northwest was deliberately misleading the Assembly.

Although the point of order was dealt with at the time, I have reviewed the *Hansard* verbatim of this matter and find two additional issues arising from that question period which must be addressed.

With respect to question period, it is stated in Marleau and Montpetit, *House of Commons Procedure and Practice*, at page 431 that, quote:

According to practice, replies are to be as brief as possible, to deal with the subject matter raised and to be phrased in language that does not provoke disorder in the House.

This Assembly follows the same practice. I want to quote a Speaker's ruling dated December 22, 1986. The quotation starts:

I want to re-emphasize that the Chair cannot insist that a minister must answer a question in a certain way. As long as the answer is relevant, it is in order even if the answer isn't the one the questioner was seeking. I define relevance in answers in the same broad way as in all debates in the Assembly. A remark is relevant if it deals with the topic raised.

Similar rulings were made December 5, 1983; April 29, 1985; May 27, 1985; December 18, 1986; and August 12, 1987.

I find that the Deputy Premier's responses to the questions asked by the member for Saltcoats were not relevant and therefore out of order.

I want to go on . . . Order please. I want to go on to a second matter. It is a long held practice of this Assembly that if a charge is to be made against a member, it must be done directly by means of a substantive motion. Through the course of his three responses in question period, the Deputy Premier in effect made a charge against another member of this Assembly.

On page 917 of *Hansard*, the Deputy Premier states that the member for Saskatoon Northwest, quote: ". . . made a number of false statements in this House . . ." Later on, the Deputy Premier called on the Leader of the Opposition to remove the member for Saskatoon Northwest from the Assembly. He then goes on to say in effect that the member in question had falsely disseminated information and did so knowingly.

Although the Deputy Premier did not state the member for Saskatoon Northwest had deliberately misled the Assembly, I find after a review of *Hansard*, taking the Deputy Premier's remarks as a whole, that such a charge was in effect made, albeit with different words.

Beauchesne's 6th Edition, paragraph 481, states: ". . . that a Member, while speaking, must not: . . . make a personal charge against a Member."

The comments of the Deputy Premier made during the question period are out of order. I therefore ask the Deputy Premier to rise and withdraw the personal charge made during question period of March 31. Order. Order. I ask the Deputy Premier to rise and to withdraw the personal charge.

**Hon. Mr. Serby:** — I respect your ruling, Deputy Speaker, and I do so.

**The Speaker:** — I thank the member.

#### STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the member for Indian Head-Milestone.

### Cancer Awareness Month

**Mr. McMorris:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This month, April, is national Cancer Awareness Month. The daffodil is the Canadian Cancer Society's symbol of hope. And last week, Mr. Speaker, last Monday we saw the galleries full of daffodils with people here trying to get this government to change its mind on Avastin. Every spring thousands of volunteers are busy selling daffodils to raise money in support for a fight against cancer. It seems more and more people are affected by this debilitating and sometimes fatal disease.

Over the last several months, the Saskatchewan Party has been asking the government to reconsider its position on funding Avastin, the drug for treating advanced colorectal cancer.

Mr. Speaker, colorectal cancer is the third most common cancer among men and women in Canada. We have made significant strides in detecting and treating breast cancer and making some headway as well in detecting and treating prostate cancer, but perhaps it's time to start the fight against colorectal cancer. Saskatchewan does not have an early detection program for this form of cancer, and perhaps it's time to start one because, as the Minister of Health will know, early detection and early treatment leads to the best outcomes, Mr. Speaker.

I congratulate the Canadian Cancer Society on once again naming April as Cancer Awareness Month. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

### Saskatchewan Elocution and Debate Association Tournament

**Ms. Junor:** — Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan Elocution and Debate Association, SEDA, recently held its E.C. Leslie provincial tournament in debate and speech. Hosted by Holy Cross High School in my constituency of Saskatoon Eastview, the contest saw debaters from many centres throughout Saskatchewan compete in both English and French.

Debates and speeches were conducted in five groupings for a total of 10 categories. Mr. Speaker, in the category of division 3 junior, the top team was Josiah Sawatski and Brooklyn Simes, who also won the speech competition. Division 3 senior saw Meagan Ong and Ariel Bouchard win the debates. Ariel also claimed the prize for top speaker.

Megan Burns and Meghan Vossen were the first place team in division 4 novice, Mr. Speaker, and Jordan Reddenburg won the speech competition. In the category of division 4 open, Bobby Xiao and Michael Zhang were the top debaters, and Dylan Hardy the top speaker.

The division français senior, SEDA's only French division, saw Jean-Michel Ferre and Jonathan Blanchet win the debates, and Jenna-Lynn Senger named the top orateur.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate both the winners of

the E.C. Leslie provincial tournament and SEDA for another successful year encouraging and conducting high school debate.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

### Recognition of Addiction Treatment Graduate

**Mr. Merriman:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize Mr. Justin Mizu from Shaunavon. I attended Justin's graduation on Saturday. Justin successfully completed the one-year addiction treatment at Teen Challenge Saskatchewan.

Justin, a crystal meth addict, had been through the system, Mr. Speaker. Twice Justin had been through the Calder Centre, in the psychiatric centre, and in the emergency ward twice near death with a heart condition caused by the drug. Justin's mother Judy, one of the first mothers I talked to, could only say, thank God and Teen Challenge for giving me back my son.

Justin thanked those at Teen Challenge for their counsel and guidance, thanked his higher power, God, for coming into his life and giving him the strength, courage, and faith to see the light and find his way. Justin leaves for Moncton, New Brunswick at the end of April for six months to start the training on becoming an addiction counsellor. He hopes to return to Teen Challenge Saskatchewan to help other young men find their way.

This summer Teen Challenge will start its new expansion to create 24 new long-term treatment beds for young men. There are two more graduates scheduled within the next 60 days. This will be three more young men giving back both to their parents and to society.

Long-term treatment works and I hope that this government will announce in the upcoming budget funding for long-term treatment for men, women, and children. Thank you.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

### Congratulations to Saskatchewan Centennial 2005 Staff

**Mr. Iwanchuk:** — What a celebration it was, Mr. Speaker. Saskatchewan Centennial 2005 saw our province host over 4,000 events in celebration of Saskatchewan's first century.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to congratulate the Saskatchewan centennial communication team for their great work in promoting the Saskatchewan spirit and on winning a number of prestigious international communication awards.

The International Association of Business Communicators has recently recognized the centennial communication team with several Gold Quill awards. Mr. Speaker, these awards represent the highest level of professional acknowledgement. In the category of marketing communications and the category special events, Saskatchewan Centennial 2005 received awards of



excellence. In addition, Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan centennial website won awards of merit in the categories of both special events and marketing communications.

Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan Centennial 2005 Office recently closed its doors. And I ask all members to join me in thanking and congratulating all the centennial office staff on their talent, hard work, and dedication, and for the outstanding job they did in helping Saskatchewan celebrate 100 years of heart. Thank you.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

[14:00]

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

#### **Remembering Founder of Soul's Harbour Mission**

**Mr. Toth:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this past weekend the community of Regina and hundreds of people in need lost a very special person. I speak of Gerri Carroll, the founder of Soul's Harbour Mission in downtown Regina.

Mr. Speaker, a near-death experience some 20 years ago provided Gerri with a change in direction for her life. Gerri had a heart attack. After her recovery, Gerri committed her life to serving those who were less fortunate than she. She was a firm believer that the Bible was a book to be lived out, not just read. The words of Christ would change her life forever:

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you brought me together with yourselves and welcomed and entertained and lodged me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me with help and ministering care, I was in prison and you came to see me.

From her conviction came a vision, Soul's Harbour. Soul's Harbour would be exactly that, a safe refuge where people could experience the love of Christ. Opening in 1990 with a prayer, a pot of coffee, and a few wooden milk crates for chairs, the mission recently celebrated its 15th anniversary. From humble beginnings it has grown dramatically in size and service to the needy. Gerri poured her life and resources into Soul's Harbour and people who worked, volunteered, and came there.

Gerri was honoured by receiving the Saskatchewan Order of Merit, the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal, and the Saskatchewan Centennial Medal.

Mr. Speaker, Gerri Carroll was known and loved by so many people in the city of Regina because she loved freely, lived passionately, and served selflessly. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family and to the many to whom she gave so much.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

#### **Results of Survey on Smoking in Saskatchewan**

**Ms. Hamilton:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Canadian Cancer Society has released the results of a province-wide survey it conducted on smoking in Saskatchewan. That survey gives us hard evidence that tobacco control legislation is having a positive effect and impact on the lives of the residents of Saskatchewan.

The Tobacco Control Act focuses on keeping young people from smoking, reducing exposure to second-hand smoke, and denormalizing tobacco use by making it the exception rather than the rule. And the survey results show that Saskatchewan residents appreciate this legislation. For example, Mr. Speaker, more than 81 per cent of those surveyed believe the smoking ban was a good idea, and 28 per cent said that the public smoking ban had improved their personal health. And, Mr. Speaker, almost half of those people who quit smoking said that the smoking ban was a factor in their decision.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the Canadian Cancer Society for its tireless efforts to reduce tobacco use and achieve smoke-free environments in Saskatchewan. And acknowledge the efforts and achievements of everyone — individuals, government, and non-government organizations alike who are working hard on behalf of Saskatchewan people — to promote healthy lifestyles and stop preventable diseases. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

#### **Government Attitude Towards Agriculture**

**Mr. Bjornerud:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it was quite a sight we were presented with on Friday in question period. I rose to ask the Ag minister questions and the gag minister got up. Just shortly before this, by the way . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order please. I would ask members if they're referring to other members in the House that they use proper titles.

**Mr. Bjornerud:** — Mr. Speaker, just shortly before this the Ag minister was complaining he hadn't had any ag questions.

Mr. Speaker, at a time when farmers are faced with the lowest returns ever in history of the province and are struggling to meet their financial deadlines, the Deputy Premier sees fit to muzzle the Ag minister. And it was bad enough that the Ag minister chooses to ignore farm problems, but who would have thought the NDP [New Democratic Party] would go so far in showing their disdain for Saskatchewan farmers by not answering any more ag questions?

Mr. Speaker, we understand that the government doesn't want to answer written questions on fraud, but this is a new low. Mr. Speaker, I also believe that this is a realization by the Deputy Premier he's about to lose his own seat in Yorkton.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Mr. Bjornerud:** — Mr. Speaker, we have an old, tired government with no new ideas, and we've had 14 years of neglect to agriculture and farm families by this government. But, Mr. Speaker, Friday was a new low for even that NDP government.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

### ORAL QUESTIONS

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

#### Overcrowding in Foster Homes and Recruiting Foster Families

**Mr. Merriman:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In a letter last fall, I brought to the attention of the minister of Community Resources the ongoing problem of overcrowding in foster homes. Could the minister tell this House today whether foster homes continue to exceed the acceptable limits?

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the Minister for Community Resources.

**Hon. Mr. Belanger:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, I can certainly point out that one of the challenges that we found out very quickly in this new portfolio of mine is that there are challenges with us moving forward, finding enough foster homes in the province of Saskatchewan. Therefore last week we announced and launched an initiative to find more foster homes — 150 new foster homes — throughout the province.

And, Mr. Speaker, I can tell you that the Saskatchewan people rose to the occasion. And I can also confirm, yes, there is overcrowding, Mr. Speaker. But yes, there's a lot of action on this part of the House to make sure that we address that, and very quick action. We're working very closely with the foster family association to try and find as many foster homes as possible so that the overcrowding problem does not exist. So to confirm to the member, the answer is yes, but we're working very hard with the various stakeholders to try and solve the problem, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Merriman:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The response I received from the former minister states, and I quote from the letter: "... it is necessary at times to place more than the recommended number of four foster children in one ... home."

Mr. Speaker, there are reports coming in from Saskatchewan foster families that it is common to have more than four foster children in one home. There are also reports that as many as 14 foster children are in one emergency foster home. Mr. Speaker, does the minister continue to allow foster homes to be overcrowded?

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Community Resources.

**Hon. Mr. Belanger:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I point out again that we have admitted on this side of the House that there is overcrowding in some of the foster homes. And yes, on many occasions we have also worked very closely with the association that have highlighted some of these challenges and these problems. And we have ... this morning in fact, Mr. Speaker, we sat with the executive director and members of the executive board indicating some of the things that we want to achieve as the Minister Responsible for the DCR [Department of Community Resources].

I would point out that the Saskatchewan Foster Families Association receives \$400,000 from this government to work closely on a collaborative strategy to help address some of the challenges that their association members face. And one of the challenges as we admitted is overcrowding.

And again we appreciate the information and the question from the member. And again we appeal to the people of Saskatchewan. Let us find more foster homes so the overcrowding doesn't continue and that there's good, safe, stable, secure homes for these children to raise and to make sure that they become productive adults, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Merriman:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In a letter I sent to the former minister, I also addressed concerns of emergency foster homes being used for long-term stays. Emergency foster homes are for children facing difficult situations who may need to get into a home at any time, day or night. These emergency foster homes are intended for temporary purposes. No child is supposed to stay longer than two weeks at a time.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister tell this Assembly if children currently staying in emergency foster homes are staying longer than two weeks?

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Community Resources.

**Hon. Mr. Belanger:** — Mr. Speaker, as I've indicated to that member on numerous occasions, we have undertaken to try and find as many foster homes as possible. We have targeted 150. And the great news, Mr. Speaker, is that a lot of Saskatchewan families and people have come forward. There's been a lot of inquiries through our telephone system asking how they can become foster families. So there's good progress being made.

And I've admitted here in this Assembly that there is a challenge with overcrowding. And yes, there probably is a challenge in terms of having foster children stay in homes much longer than the intended time frame is. However, Mr. Speaker, I can point out that we are on top of the matter. We're working very hard. We're working alongside of the association, and again we appreciate the information because the more information about the need for foster families, even on the floor of the Assembly, is very much appreciated and very much needed, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Merriman:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to correct the record, this is the first time the minister spoke to me on this issue.

In a report from 1998, the problem of overcrowding in foster homes was addressed. This is an ongoing problem for the NDP government. I'd like to read a recommendation from a report titled the Children's Advocate death review report:

That the Department of Social Services amend their current policy to ensure that multiple exceptions to the standard regarding the number of children per foster home are not permitted.

My question is quite simple, Mr. Speaker. Why does the minister continue to break his own rules? Why does he not follow the recommendations laid out in a report from eight years ago?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Community Resources.

**Hon. Mr. Belanger:** — Mr. Speaker, we've answered that question four straight times here. And I'll point out again that we acknowledged that there is challenges in terms of finding enough foster homes in Saskatchewan. As a result of that effort and that work that we've been undertaking to recruit more families, there has been good progress made. There is no question that we've admitted and we've acknowledged that there is overcrowding and that there is a lack of foster homes throughout Saskatchewan. We're saying yes to that, Mr. Speaker.

But we're also appealing to the people of Saskatchewan. We need 150 new homes because right now there is a need for foster homes, and we encourage folks to get active. And, Mr. Speaker, that message through the radio, through the print media, and through billboards is really paying off because a lot of families are coming forward because there is room in their heart for foster children and youth. And Saskatchewan will rise to the occasion, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Merriman:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In 1998 our current Premier, then Social Services minister, assured the Children's Advocate of three things: that he'd direct his department to work toward consistency compliance with policy and practices; that his department would be increasing its emphasis on recruitment, retention, and support of foster families; and that he would increase the number of foster homes and other resources.

Mr. Speaker, that was eight years ago, and still the problems continue with this NDP government. Mr. Speaker, why has the Premier failed to fulfill his promises from eight years ago?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Community Resources.

**Hon. Mr. Belanger:** — Mr. Speaker, again I reiterate that it's very important for folks to know that there's been a lot of progress made on this file over the years. We will continue some of that work, Mr. Speaker. And this Premier and this government's advocated that no one should be left behind on the path to opportunity, and that includes, Mr. Speaker, that includes foster families which have youth and children involved. And we will continue working on that social fabric that we speak about.

And it's very important to note, very important to note that we don't have any ideas from that side of the Assembly, Mr. Speaker. All we have is complaining and whining. And I will point out, Mr. Speaker, that on this side of the Assembly we are working very hard to address the issues. And the answer is yes; we acknowledge we have a shortage of foster families. We need more foster families, and I'm glad this question is coming up because the more awareness out there, the better, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Merriman:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, I'm very glad after eight years he's finally recognized the problem. We know that when nurses are overworked and frustrated, there are problems with recruitment and retention. There's a similar situation with foster parents, Mr. Speaker. Since the minister continues to allow overcrowded foster homes, some foster parents are being overwhelmed.

These people do great work in trying to help the most vulnerable children, but they can't take it any more. They are telling Saskatchewan Foster Families Association that they want to help, but they can't take the stress of overcrowding, lack of funding, and lack of support.

Mr. Speaker, will the minister commit today to real measures in the upcoming budget to help recruitment and retention of foster parents? Will he commit to going further than an ad campaign?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Community Resources.

**Hon. Mr. Belanger:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'll point out that we have not waited and will not wait for a budget because we're doing a lot of the work that is necessary now. We unveiled an effort last week to try and get more foster parents involved. We have advocated a lot of folks out there to spread the word amongst many of the stakeholders that we need more foster homes. We have billboard advertising. We have

radio ads. We have print ads. We support the association that is doing a fine bunch of work.

And I'll point out, Mr. Speaker, as I want to say on behalf of this government, Mr. Speaker, I want to say thank you to our foster families out there. I want to say thank you to foster family association for working very hard and helping build that social fabric that we in Saskatchewan are so proud of. I want to say thank you very much for their effort and thank you very much for their compassion. We must always appreciate . . . There's only one part of that member's statement that's correct . . . is you must always appreciate foster families, and we do, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

[14:15]

**Mr. Merriman:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, the minister speaks of retention and recruitment programs. But the association was never consulted before the implementation. In this case where the stakeholders . . . they were the last to know.

Were the Saskatchewan Foster Families Association given a proper avenue to tell the department how best to recruit foster families? Did the minister ask for input from the association before he put out his campaign? Did he listen to the association's concerns at all?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Community Resources.

**Hon. Mr. Belanger:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. We will continue to work very closely with the association. And I would point out, Mr. Speaker, as part of the relationship building with any CBOs [community-based organization], it's very important to know what the opportunities are and what the challenges are. And we pointed out the association has been very fair and have been very pointed in terms of pointing out what are some of the deficiencies. And we as a government are able to take some of the criticism and certainly acknowledge some of the shortcomings.

We will continue working with the foster family association through thick and thin, Mr. Speaker, to make sure that we reach the objective that we have together in terms of the target number of foster families. And we hope that we achieve 150. We hope we achieve more.

Mr. Speaker, we have a good relationship with the foster family association in building a strategic partnership for the future because at the end of the day, it's all about the children, the youth, and we'll continue working hard on that front.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

### Waiting Lists for Training

**Mr. Elhard:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, people in Saskatchewan are all too familiar with waiting lists. However to date, no one has had to pay a fee to be on a waiting list — that is, until now. Mr. Speaker, SIAST [Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology] is now applying a \$20 annual wait-list management fee to people with wait times in excess of three years.

In most provinces, Mr. Speaker, you pay to get an education. In NDP Saskatchewan, you pay to wait to get an education.

Mr. Speaker, to the Minister of Advanced Education and Employment, what will this government do to ensure SIAST does not have to charge people money to stay on a waiting list?

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the Minister for Advanced Education and Employment.

**Hon. Ms. Atkinson:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I understand that SIAST is reconsidering their fee for wait-lists in the province.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Elhard:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Marie Broberg used to be one of my constituents. She is now living in Calgary. Ms. Broberg is no. 154 on the SIAST waiting list for medical radiological technicians training. Now given the long wait time, she has decided to move to Alberta in hopes of getting her training more quickly.

Mr. Speaker, can the Minister of Advanced Education and Employment tell us why this NDP government is forcing our young people out of the province to get the training they need and whose skills we need in this province?

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Advanced Education and Employment.

**Hon. Ms. Atkinson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, what I can tell the members of the House is that I've had an opportunity to look at wait-lists not only in this province but all across the country. And I can tell the member opposite that SAIT [Southern Alberta Institute of Technology] and NAIT [Northern Alberta Institute of Technology] in Alberta have very significant wait-lists for high-demand programs like medical laboratory programs, MRI [magnetic resonance imaging] programs, and so on, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order. Order please. Order. Order. The Minister for Advanced Education.

**Hon. Ms. Atkinson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, what I can tell the members of the House is that SIAST does a labour market analysis. They determine the capacity of the market in Saskatchewan to take new students, and I understand that the number of people that are presently being trained in this particular program meet the labour market of our province.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Elhard:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, it might be interesting to do a comparison of the wait-list between SIAST and SAIT in this particular instance. One hundred fifty-four is the position Ms. Broberg holds on the SIAST waiting list. At SAIT, as of last fall, she was number two, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, SIAST is not accepting any new applications in a number of fields. They include combined laboratory, x-ray technology, cytotechnology, and medical radiology technicians. Mr. Speaker, like many of our young people, Marie Broberg has voted with her feet. To get into NAIT or SAIT, she has registered her car in Alberta and now holds an Alberta health card.

Mr. Speaker, why not fund these programs adequately so that our students can get the training they need right here in our province instead of forcing them to move elsewhere?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Advanced Education and Employment.

**Hon. Ms. Atkinson:** — Mr. Speaker, I had an opportunity to review an editorial that was in the Regina *Leader-Post* where they said that our education system needs to remain firmly focused on our province's labour market, that we need to train people for our province. And, Mr. Speaker, I know that Alberta is a huge draw, but I think that Alberta needs to train their labour market as well, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we are training for Saskatchewan labour needs when it comes to those particular medical professions, and we're going to continue to do so, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Elhard:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, is the minister saying that we don't have a need for medically trained, specialized workers in this province?

Mr. Speaker, we have waiting lists in this province — not just at SIAST but in health care. And most of the waiting list is a direct result of a shortage of trained medical professionals. Mr. Speaker, wait-lists for much-needed training for our young people are a large part of the reason why we're losing our young people. And once they're gone, it's likely that they'll find jobs elsewhere. Mr. Speaker, this province is losing its most valuable resource — our young people.

Mr. Speaker, will the minister undertake to stop discouraging our young people from staying in Saskatchewan by providing SIAST with adequate resources to meet these waiting lists? And at the very least, will she promise today to take action that will allow SIAST to eliminate its annual wait-list management fee?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Advanced Education and Employment.

**Hon. Ms. Atkinson:** — Two points, Mr. Speaker. I've already indicated to the member opposite that SIAST is rethinking its policy on a waiting list management fee.

But what I also can tell the members . . . And I have to return to the Regina *Leader-Post* which I think sums it up quite nicely when they say:

Given the frequent publicity about a shortage of medical professionals, [and I'm quoting] it would be easy to conclude SIAST isn't training enough people — but that would be wrong.

It is simply wrong. We have listened to the opposition talk about the numbers of nurses that were training in the province. Well, Mr. Speaker, we have 1,557 students in our nursing education program in Saskatchewan. That is significant. But if you listen to the members opposite, you'd think that we were training nobody. And it's simply incorrect, and the opposition has no credibility on this issue.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

#### Timetable for Changes to Corporate Taxation

**Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think we all remember the comments made by the former minister of Finance on taxes. In January 2004, that former minister said he chose not to talk about taxes in the last election campaign because it would hurt his chances of re-election. The former minister said, and I quote, "I suspect that anyone who talks . . ." And I quote:

I suspect that anyone who talks about tax hikes is not . . . [likely] to be very popular during the course of an election campaign.

Mr. Speaker, at the same time, that Premier told business audiences in the last election that there would be no tax increases. And what followed, Mr. Speaker? The biggest tax gouge in Saskatchewan history, two years ago that government pickpocketed Saskatchewan residents of \$150 million. Mr. Speaker, the time to reverse it is now. Mr. Speaker, the question is: does the minister have the courage to do it now?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'll be talking a lot about taxes on Thursday, and I would certainly encourage all members to listen closely to what is in the budget, and I hope that they find the courage to come to support it.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — What kind of answer is that, Mr. Speaker? Mr. Speaker, we're losing jobs and people in the middle of an oil boom. SIAST students are tired of being charged money to wait until they move into Alberta. We've lost 2,000 people in the last quarter according to Statistics Canada. On Friday a prominent Saskatoon business columnist said, even with moderate job success, Saskatchewan will still be losing young people.

Mr. Speaker, the Vicq report makes a clear case for changes to encourage more investment and job creation in our province. Mr. Speaker, will the minister today commit to Vicq's recommendations and, most importantly, commit to his timetable?

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

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — There is a time-honoured tradition in this House of simply responding to those questions by saying, three more sleeps, Mr. Speaker. Only three more sleeps and the budget will be down, and members will have an opportunity to see the plan for growth and investment this government will lay out. And I would encourage that member to support the budget when he sees what it brings forward, when he sees the plan for growth, when he sees it goes further than any government has gone in the history of this province.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Mr. Speaker, I can assure the minister it's not a laughing matter when you have the worst job creation record in the country, the worst population of the country. People can't afford to wait even three more sleeps.

Mr. Speaker, page 7 of the Vicq report recommends cutting corporate income tax from 17 to 14 per cent on July 1 of this year. The report also recommends raising small-business limit from 300 to \$400,000 and on to \$500,000. And the committee recommends cutting the corporate capital tax in half on July 1 this year, and a half again next year.

Mr. Speaker, can the Minister of Finance commit to this time frame today and bring Saskatchewan's tax regime into the new millennium? Does he care if Saskatchewan companies even make the short list as Vicq says?

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

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — Mr. Speaker, in a few days the provincial budget will be brought down in this House. All members will have a chance to review it and we'll have laid forward what I believe to be a bold and sustainable plan for growth, investment, and job creation in this province. I would encourage that member to look past the rhetoric and what he's written on his list of questions and simply support that plan

when it's introduced on Thursday.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Mr. Speaker, when we look at that minister's record on the Boughen Commission, that's what causes us to worry, Mr. Speaker.

Unless the minister commits to the timetable outlined in the Vicq report, Saskatchewan will fall further behind, Mr. Speaker. We will all fall further behind. More young people will leave. More jobs will be lost. Saskatchewan's population will continue its embarrassing free fall, Mr. Speaker.

Why won't this minister send a clear message to Saskatchewan people that investment is needed now in the Saskatchewan economy?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — Mr. Speaker, on Thursday I'll bring in the new provincial budget. It will lay out a bold plan for investments and job growth and job creation. It will speak to small-business people. It will speak to those in the oil sector. It will speak to those who are looking for a home for investment.

This budget will move Saskatchewan forward. I would encourage that member when he sees the budget on Thursday to simply stand in his place and say that he will support it.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Mr. Speaker, 10 days ago I challenged that minister in this legislature. Mr. Speaker, I challenged him to the full implementation of the Vicq commission to reverse the decision to gouge Saskatchewan people on \$150 million. Mr. Speaker, what did he do with that challenge? He shied away, and he started acting like the Finance critic: he started asking me questions. Well, Mr. Speaker, I can guarantee him he will have time to do that in the future.

Mr. Speaker, what is he afraid of? Why will this minister not commit to the full implementation of the corporate tax reforms recommended in the Vicq commission? Mr. Speaker, what is he afraid of?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — Mr. Speaker, all I'm trying to do is be in position on Thursday to announce in the budget what the plan is that we'll be pursuing.

I have yet to hear from the member opposite, from the Sask

Party Finance critic, any indication as to whether he will support the provincial budget if it includes the Vicq recommendations. All I say to him is three more sleeps. Don't lose any sleep over this. Three more sleeps and on Thursday afternoon we'll have the provincial budget available.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Do you know how many people leave Saskatchewan in three days? Quite a few, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, two weeks ago we learned that the world doesn't stand still for this NDP government. Manitoba didn't stand still. Alberta didn't stand still. They went ahead with the corporate tax relief.

Mr. Speaker, in light of this government's dismal record of job creation and the embarrassing population numbers, Mr. Speaker, will this minister apologize for 15 years of NDP mismanagement?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

[14:30]

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

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — Mr. Speaker, I half worry that the members opposite may have gone to sleep partway through that question.

**The Speaker:** — Order please. Order please. The Minister of Finance.

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Three more sleeps, maybe a couple of quick naps, and we'll have the budget down. And the member then will see very clearly what this government plans to do in terms of the job creation agenda, an agenda for creating more investment, encouraging more investment, more job growth, for helping small businesses, for helping industry, for helping working families in this province.

I would encourage that member to simply state for the record, will he support the provincial budget if it contains those measures? This is a very simple question. I'll even give him a couple of, you know, a couple of days. If he needs two nights to sleep on it, that's fine; tell us on Wednesday. Is he prepared to support the provincial budget if it contains those kinds of measures — yes or no?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

#### MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

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

#### The Police Amendment Act

**Hon. Mr. Quennell:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased

to announce that The Police Amendment Act, 2005 came into force on April 1, 2006. The amendments in this Act respond to the recommendations of the Stonechild inquiry and the Commission on First Nations and Métis People and Justice Reform.

Mr. Speaker, the legislation includes fundamental changes to the public complaint investigation and decision processes that are crucial to improving public confidence in the complaints process.

These changes come as the result of the work of a joint steering committee comprised of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations; Métis Family and Community Justice Services; the police services of Regina, Saskatoon, and Prince Albert; the Saskatchewan Association of Chiefs of Police; the Saskatchewan Federation of Police Officers; and Saskatchewan Justice.

Mr. Speaker, one of the key initiatives is the establishment of the Public Complaints Commission, consisting of five members from varied backgrounds including members from First Nations and Métis communities. The Public Complaints Commission is an independent body with the authority to direct and control the investigation into any public police complaint including investigation into criminal matters. Mr. Speaker, from now on, any public complaint will be immediately investigated by either the complaints commission, the police service that is the subject of the complaint, a subject police service with an investigation observer, or by an outside police service, or RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police] detachment.

In addition to the new public complaints model, the Act requires that if a serious injury or death occurs while a person is in police custody or as a result of police actions, an investigation observer can be appointed in consultation with the deputy minister of Justice to monitor the investigation. These changes will ensure objectivity and integrity during the investigation process.

The Act also implements the uniform cross-border policing Act that was adopted by the Uniform Law Conference of Canada in 2003. These new rules apply in cases where an out-of-province police officer needs to continue an investigation in Saskatchewan or when a Saskatchewan police officer must leave the province for similar reasons.

Finally the Act authorizes the Lieutenant Governor to annually issue commissions under the great seal of Saskatchewan to police officers appointed to the ranks of inspector, superintendent, deputy chief, or chief. These commissions recognize the sacrifices and commitments of our Saskatchewan police officers in providing professional municipal policing services.

Mr. Speaker, these amendments are essential to the success and integrity of the justice system in Saskatchewan. This legislation recognizes and acts on the need for equal representation and co-operation, not only with police services in Saskatchewan but also with out-of-province police services and our First Nations and Métis communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the opposition Justice critic, the member for Saskatoon Southeast.

**Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, we're pleased to see any step forward in this regard. We know that the history of the relationship between police forces and our public has been put into question many times, and we look forward to developing some kind of a system that can remove the cloud that exists right now. In particular the opposition is pleased with the high calibre of individuals that have been appointed to the commission.

Mr. Speaker, we do have considerable concerns about what is going to take place and how procedural fairness will continue to exist. We have concerns that the legislation does not establish the specific legislative timeline for when the complaints have to be investigated in any kind of meaningful, short time frame when communication has to go to the person making the complaint. And we note that there is no specific statutory provisions dealing with rights to natural justice. Issues of timeliness, rights to counsel, right to fair hearing are not adequately addressed in this legislation.

In the past, Mr. Speaker, we have had an abysmal performance by the NDP government. In reading previous annual reports of the police commission, a third or more of the complaints were still pending or still unresolved 181 days after the complaint was filed. To regard that as being any kind of an acceptable thing would be a travesty, Mr. Speaker. It is unacceptable for complaints to go on for that long, and we look forward to changes with this new process.

I'm not certain that the necessary legislative framework is there. We also have to take steps to recognize the hardworking and competence on the part of our police officers, and possibly we should look at better methods of rewarding successes by placing notations in police officers' files when they've been commended for good work, and often that is something that will become apparent as a result of a complaints process when other officers are involved.

Mr. Speaker, in spite of the past performance in the past, we want to look forward and with hope and expectation that things will improve. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — For ministerial statements, the Chair recognizes the Minister of Advanced Education and Employment.

### Internationally Educated Nurses Program

**Hon. Ms. Atkinson:** — I'm pleased to rise in the House today to speak about the orientation to nursing in Canada for internationally educated nurses program. This morning, I attended an event with SIAST officials to announce that SIAST will be implementing this new program this fall. The orientation to nursing in Canada for internationally educated nurses program complements our government's efforts to increase the number of nurses being trained in our province.

I want to applaud SIAST for this innovative program that

addresses important health sector needs. I'd also like to recognize Saskatchewan Health and Saskatchewan Registered Nurses' Association and the regional health authorities for their efforts on this worthwhile program. The new initiative is but one component of an extensive nursing education program that already exists in Saskatchewan.

The province of Saskatchewan will invest \$19.4 million this year training nurses through SIAST, the University of Saskatchewan, regional colleges, the Dumont Technical Institute, and the First Nations University of Canada. In addition to this significant public investment, our province also provides or has provided \$3.2 million in bursaries to over 1,000 nursing students since 2000.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Hon. Ms. Atkinson:** — Today, Mr. Speaker, there are 1,557 students enrolled in nursing education in Saskatchewan — a phenomenal number of students.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Hon. Ms. Atkinson:** — Mr. Speaker, nursing education enrolment in Saskatchewan has increased by more than 50 per cent since 2000. And the nursing education programs of Saskatchewan alone has experienced a seat capacity increase of 120 per cent. 1,202 students are currently enrolled in the degree nursing program through NEPS [nursing education program of Saskatchewan]. And an additional 191 individuals are enrolled in the practical nursing program, and 164 people are enrolled in continuing nursing education. These are nurses who will soon be ready to find their place in the province's health care system.

Mr. Speaker, the orientation to nursing in Canada program is another example of the priority that our government has put on recruiting and retaining health care providers in our province. Orientation to nursing in Canada provides the theory and the practice that internationally educated nurses or immigrants need to transition to our health care system in our province, Mr. Speaker. Training includes an introduction to the Canadian health care system, theory related to Canadian drug therapy, and nursing-specific language assessment of clinical skills, supervised clinical experience, and assistance in preparation for that Canadian registered nursing exam.

The orientation to nursing in Canada program also speaks, also speaks volumes to our government's commitment to immigration as a means to increase our population and meet our labour-market needs. Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan immigrant nominee program has recently expanded to include three other nursing disciplines. Nursing practising under a temporary work permit are eligible under the nominee program to apply for an expedited landed immigrant status.

Our work together, Mr. Speaker, on these initiatives, helps strengthen our health care system. It strengthens our education institutions. It strengthens our communities. And, Mr. Speaker, it strengthens our economy and adds hope to those immigrants that are in our province that want to use their internationally recognized nursing in order to contribute very much to our health system, Mr. Speaker.



**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Indian Head-Milestone.

**Mr. McMorris:** — Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. It's a privilege to rise today and respond to the ministerial statement regarding nursing and bringing international educated nurses into the province. It's certainly an issue that we have been on for as long as I have been in this House. The former health care critic has mentioned it time and time again about the continual nursing shortage that we're seeing in our province. We hear it from the workplace. And certainly since I've been the critic for Health in the last year, I have heard a number of horror stories, Mr. Speaker, regarding the shortage of nurses within our province.

And it's no wonder, Madam Deputy Speaker, when you look at what this government has done to the nursing program over the last number of years. They dramatically cut the number of seats. So to hear the minister stand today and pat herself on the back about how many people are in the nursing program, first we have to look at where it was and where they cut it back to because that is the whole reason for the shortage that we are experiencing today. They had reduced the numbers so dramatically, the number of seats through the '80s, that finally they're getting back to where we should have been all the way along if not even further. We're still further behind.

The 1990s, when this NDP government was in power, was when the number of nursing seats were cut dramatically. And as a result, we are finding shortages in many, many different areas, whether it's in registered nurses or psychiatric nurses or nursing practitioners or licensed practical nurses. There's shortages in all those areas, as a number of other areas in the health care field.

So, Mr. Speaker, the one thing that we're going to be looking at as we go forward with this program — and certainly the number of nurses that are in education programs right now — is the fact of retention. It's great to train. If, as the minister says, we have 1,500 people in education training spots right now, what will the retention rate be? Because we certainly hear from SUN [Saskatchewan Union of Nurses] that we're training a lot of nurses for export because they don't get the full-time work that they are looking for. They graduate from their classes, and they go into a health authority where they get part-time work and part-time work in a number of different areas, so they don't feel comfortable in any one area, Mr. Speaker.

So the program and attracting nurses from around the world is certainly a positive. We'll be looking at the results as to how many are offered full-time work so that they remain in our province. It's no good to bring nurses in and have them work part time and then leave to other jurisdictions where — sometimes I guess they look at Alberta or Manitoba or other jurisdictions — where the pastures seem greener. So it's the retention issue that is the issue that we seem to be falling behind on in this province, and we'll be monitoring this program very closely to make sure it meets the needs of our province. Thank you.

[14:45]

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

### WRITTEN QUESTIONS

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Fairview, the Government Whip.

**Mr. Iwanchuk:** — On behalf of the government, I'll be tabling responses to written questions no. 651 to 672 inclusive.

## GOVERNMENT ORDERS

### SECOND READINGS

#### Bill No. 46 — The Snowmobile Amendment Act, 2006

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I recognize the Deputy Premier.

**Hon. Mr. Serby:** — Okay. Madam Speaker, I'm pleased to rise today to move second reading of The Snowmobile Amendment Act, 2006.

The Snowmobile Act, administered by Saskatchewan Regional Economic and Co-operative Development and by Saskatchewan Government Insurance, is a document outlining the laws regarding the operations of snowmobiles in the province of Saskatchewan.

This proposed amendment are the results of a previous review of designated snowmobile trail program and involve consultations with several government departments and agencies, Saskatchewan Government Insurance, and the Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association. At these consultations, the issues of funding sustainability of trail safety were repeatedly raised, and it is for these reasons that the amendment is coming forward.

As well, Saskatchewan's 10,000 kilometres of snowmobile trail network is vital to our tourism industry, to our regional economies, and to the business community during the winter months.

Madam Speaker, I'd now like to outline the following proposed amendments. First, licence plates will replace the previous system of trail permits as the means to access Saskatchewan's snowmobile trail network. Money collected, Madam Speaker, through the snowmobile registration fee, will be used to support and provide sustainable funding for the trail network and for the trail fund manager.

The trail fund manager promotes snowmobile safety by mounting significant public awareness campaigns. These include hosting a snowmobile safety week, delivering a I Don't Drink and Drive campaign, distributing safety posters to dealers and clubs, and installing thousands and thousands of snowmobile signs to help all riders.

Second, these amendments will update and define of such words as fund and trail manager, as well as indicating that the trail manager will now be appointed through the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

These two proposed changes are housekeeping matters. These amendments will also move to regulate the rules regarding such things as a designation of snowmobile trails and trail manager's responsibilities.

The intention of this change is to allow regulators to more quickly adapt to the future developments. In order to ensure accountability, we have introduced additional changes that will require the annual report and audited statement of the Snowmobile Fund to be tabled right here at the Legislative Assembly.

Lastly the proposed changes will specify that snowmobile licence plates should be displayed towards the rear or the left-hand side of the snowmobile. This was requested by the Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association in order to improve visibility of the licence plate.

Madam Speaker, we decided that the new approach was needed, one that put the safety of riders first, and one that ensured the long-term sustainability of the trails. Saskatchewan can be proud of its snowmobile trail network and for the role it plays in our rural economy. With those proposed changes, Saskatchewan snowmobile riders will be able to safely enjoy the trails for years to come.

Madam Speaker, I now move second reading of An Act to amend The Snowmobile Act.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Deputy Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Deputy Premier second reading of The Snowmobile Amendment Act. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member for Melfort.

**Mr. Gantefoer:** — Thank you very much, Madam Deputy Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise today to speak on Bill No. 46, An Act to amend The Snowmobile Act. Madam Speaker, it's very timely that this piece of legislation is being introduced now, especially in my part of the world that has an abundance of snow and an abundance of tobogganers, actually many of them going right past where we live on a trail that is very appreciated in our part of the world.

Madam Speaker, I think that the whole effort that has been made by snowmobile clubs across the province to develop and maintain and improve the snowmobile trails are appreciated by thousands of people in our province and, as the Deputy Premier said, is a source of potential attraction of tourists to our province.

It is always interesting in the winter months when you're travelling south to Regina that you meet a good number of pickup trucks pulling trailers with toboggans heading north to the areas of where there's snow — some of them with foreign plates but many of them coming from the southern part of the province — to come and enjoy many of the trails that exist in central Saskatchewan and northern Saskatchewan.

Madam Speaker, there are certainly issues surrounding this piece of legislation that people have been commenting on. And it has a great deal to do . . . If you're a toboggan owner that

lives near a toboggan trail and a groomed trail, you certainly are very appreciative of this legislation because you're accessing the trails. Other individuals who have toboggans are nowhere near the trail program and so they are not as enthusiastic about having a part of their licence fee being used to contribute to trails that they will not have access to.

And so there are divided opinions in the community about if this is a desired program by enforcing mandatory contributions, if you like, to the trail system. I think everybody agrees that, for those people who access the trail system, it is certainly most important and most valuable. And I think there is going to be in this province a bit of a debate in terms of those folks that are not so fortunate to have ready access to the trail system.

Madam Speaker, we also recognize that many of the other pieces of this legislation are indeed housekeeping. The appointment of a trail boss and making sure that there are a uniform set of standards across the province makes eminent sense.

And we think that this Bill is going to generate a significant amount of comment from people who enjoy the winter recreation opportunities that there are in this province. And they are going to want to have an opportunity to not only let the official opposition know what the issues are regarding this legislation, but potentially to lobby the provincial government as well and perhaps even recommend some changes to this legislation so that various points of views can be accommodated.

So in order, Madam Deputy Speaker, to allow that discussion to occur and to allow people who enjoy winter on their toboggans in this province to bring forward their ideas — both pro and con — and to potentially suggest improvements, at this time I would like to move to adjourn debate.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

## ADJOURNED DEBATES

### SECOND READINGS

#### Bill No. 43

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Taylor that **Bill No. 43 — The Medical Radiation Technologists Act, 2006** be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. Kirsch:** — Thank you, Madam Speaker. It is with great interest that I rise to speak on this Bill No. 43, the radiation technologists. I've got questions on this Bill though. And one of

the various questions is: was there any association before, or is this something brand new that they didn't have anything before? And is it consistent with what the other health organizations are using — the other groups, the technologists?

I'm curious now. If we've had technologists all these years, what group did they belong to before? Was there any association with anyone else? And when they start out on one of these associations now is it going to be like from graduation they become members, or is there going to be fees charged . . . how it's going to be done.

We've had no response at all. We've asked for a response but we've had no response at all from the people that are going to be involved in the association. We've asked for a response, but we've contacted them and we still have no reply. So we're not ready to move a Bill until we get a response on it from the people that it's going to involve. If we have some support we probably will be willing to work on this Bill, but till now we've had no interest from them.

And we're wondering if the Bill would include all technicians. Is it going to be a voluntary thing or do they . . . Will there be people operating outside of this group? Will they be able to exempt the association, go on their own? And will the group be able to police and keep them all in order?

And I think the MRI operators would be under this jurisdiction and I'm wondering if they're included. And I'm wondering now do we need more MRIs or do we just need more people to operate the MRIs? We're hearing stories of when, in Saskatoon when the clinic shuts down for the day — the MRI clinic — that the veterinary college brings pets over and they do pets. So it's not that the machine can't do more, it's that we don't have enough staff. And yet we've got such a long waiting list for people to have MRIs. So I'm wondering what the connection is there.

And so until we have answers, until we have all of these, so at this time I would ask for us to adjourn debate.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member for Batoche has asked to adjourn debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

#### Bill No. 44

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Higgins that **Bill No. 44 — The Teachers' Federation Act, 2006** be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. Kerpan:** — Thank you, Madam Speaker. As my colleague before me mentioned, I'm actually happy to rise today to speak on Bill No. 44. Madam Speaker, I have a number of comments that I want to make today, and I want to talk a bit about the Bill very specifically and some of the parts that are in it.

I also want to spend just a few minutes talking about the impact of teachers in the lives of all of us really, and talk about the importance of those people — those professionals — having a profession that's strong and solid and one that is democratically run and organized so that they have the opportunity to continue to do the fine job that they have done for so many years here in this province.

The Bill specifically, Madam Speaker, is . . . One might say, you know, at first glance or first blush that it's not a very important Bill that we see before us today. What it really does is it repeals the original teachers' federation Act that was established in 1935. The federation itself was established in 1935 as the professional organization for Saskatchewan teachers.

The STF [Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation] has taken on a number of responsibilities since that time that really go a long ways further than their original mandate. And the Act has been amended accordingly, obviously, from time to time over these last, well, virtually 70 years, Madam Speaker, which certainly is quite a long time.

So even if one looks at just the change in the curriculum, the change that . . . what we're teaching our young people, our children from K to 12 [kindergarten to grade 12] really, but also in post-secondary education . . . What has changed over those last 70 years has certainly been significant.

Even in the last 10 years, the last 10 to 15 years, changes have been very significant in what we're teaching our children. Who would have dreamt 20 or 30 or 40 years ago that we would have computers, period, anywhere — in our homes, in our offices, let alone in our schools, let alone in this Chamber where members have the opportunity to use that kind of technology right inside this Chamber?

And somebody at some point in time, Madam Speaker, had to teach students, whether they be young students or older students, somebody had to teach them how to use that technology. So in order for that to be taught of course the people, the teachers themselves, had to learn those skills and that technology from some place as well.

So things have changed in the area of education. And things have changed significantly in what teachers have had to deal with, what they teach every day, how they govern themselves, Madam Speaker. Things have changed certainly in things like retirement packages that the teachers certainly are concerned about every day.

My mother-in-law for instance was a teacher for a short time many years ago, Madam Speaker. And just recently she was informed that perhaps she had some earnings that were owed to her as a result of her teaching. I think it was probably back in the early '40s, Madam Speaker. I'm not exactly sure of that time period, but I'm guessing it was in the '40s. And she was informed, and I know other teachers were too, teachers who didn't receive a pension from teaching because they didn't teach long enough and had left their pension contributions within the Teachers' Federation. And those teachers were then informed that they actually had moneys owed to them by the people who looked after the fund — and I'm not exactly sure of

even who that was.

[15:00]

But my mother-in-law, just a few years ago, became eligible and received something in the neighbourhood of 5 or 6 or \$700 which was money she didn't even know existed. And most people didn't know because when they left teaching for whatever reason, they probably went on to other careers or they went on to become, you know, housewives and maybe didn't work outside the house for whatever reason. And those earnings were forgotten about.

And so that's why having a strong federation is really important. Because they need to look after, they need to look after those people who have maybe, for one reason or another, not been as diligent as they could have been or should have been with regard to their own remuneration or benefits that they might have had coming to them or owed to them as a result of working in the education field and being a teacher for probably a short period of time.

So that's what this Bill really does. It gets rid of the old Bill and it reorganizes some of the sections of the Act. It updates the terminology which of course, again as I mentioned before, we have sort of new technology but we also have new terms that people would not have understood or would not have been aware of when this Act was originally brought into being back in 1935.

The STF itself, though, undertook an internal governance review from 1999 to 2001 which concluded that a request was to be made to the Government of Saskatchewan to consider updating and modernizing the Act. Now, Madam Speaker, I can't speak either positively or negatively about the time it has taken for this Act to come into place. This review took place for the two years 1999 to 2001, and I'm not sure what the delay was to bring this new Act into being.

And we see it here in 2006, almost . . . well roughly five years after the fact, and I don't know what the reasoning was. Maybe it's . . . I'm not to lay blame on any particular person or group, and I'm not here to do that today, but it just makes me wonder why there was such a long time in the realization of that.

One thing I am concerned about, Madam Speaker, when I look at this Bill, I'm concerned about the consultation that may or may not have taken place with teachers themselves when this Act was brought into place

I know that the STF is a strong organization. I know that its director, Lyle Vinish, who I know personally — and I've known Lyle for many, many years — Lyle would have done a good job making sure that the rights and the concerns of teachers of the federation would have been well looked after. I've no doubt about that, knowing Lyle's dedication and commitment to his organization.

But I'm not sure, I'm not sure how much consultation was done with the front-line teachers themselves. And again that's something that I'd like to hear clarification from, from the government's side, to see if in fact that was, that did take place. And I'd like to also hear it from Mr. Vinish at some point in

time and perhaps we'll get a chance to do that when this Bill eventually does go to committee.

Mr. Speaker, the Bill itself, again it defines and provides the STF with purposes and powers including the representation and the supporting of teachers which of course, as I said, is important. It represents the teachers in collective bargaining and providing for the benefit of members through the establishment and administration of plans and their pension plans.

And, Mr. Speaker, I can say I know this from a very personal point of view, my wife having taught . . . is a schoolteacher. My wife Melanie is a schoolteacher, and without giving away any secrets as to her age, Mr. Speaker, I would say that she has taught for quite a few years — let me put it that way — and is looking at imminent retirement, Mr. Speaker. And obviously she is concerned and wondering about the state of her pension plan and what that pension plan will include, what the benefits are, not just what the monetary value of that pension plan is but things like health care and dental care, eye care which are certainly, certainly big factors to everybody.

But once one retires and you no longer, maybe you no longer have a dental plan or an eye plan or health plan, really becomes factors in how you budget for your retirement. So that's a concern. And I know speaking with other teachers . . . I guess I'm at the age and many of us in this House are at the age where we start to think about retirement. And some of us, Mr. Speaker, will retire from this House sooner than we'd like to but we all want to know what the future holds for us, and we hope that those things are in place.

What the Bill also does, it allows the federation to acquire or hold and dispose of real and personal property. It also talks about the borrowing of money or creating a security interest to secure debt obligations. It's really an expansion, Mr. Speaker, I think of what the federation was originally set up to do. I doubt very much that in 1935 the Teachers' Federation were concerned about those kinds of aspects. But again once one looks at the change in the entire education system . . .

Another good example, Mr. Speaker, is the Teachers Credit Union which has become a very, very strong financial . . . it's been a financial power certainly in Saskatoon. And I know how that works just a little bit. I'm not really familiar but I know that they've become a real strong, viable group. And that's good. It's well that they should be. But they also need to then have other things in place — guidelines and mechanics in place — so that they are able to handle and dispose of those kinds of things.

It also defines membership in the STF, Mr. Speaker, which of course is important. I know that's nothing new but as I said, what is new about that section of the Bill will be the terminology that is associated with that.

Certainly it'll outline disciplinary procedures for disciplining members. Mr. Speaker, I know — again as I said, my wife having been a teacher for a few years — I am closer perhaps than some people might be, and I know you are, Mr. Speaker, as well too. We all are aware of things that go on in schools and communities and times when teachers may have come before, you know, disciplinary procedures.

And I guess I've seen some of those personally as well in our school at Kenaston where teachers over the years have gotten . . . I don't want to use the term into trouble, but have been brought before, you know, the school board perhaps or there's been a complaint by a parent about a particular teacher. What I've noticed though in every time that that's happened, is that I think that the STF has properly represented those teachers. I think they did a pretty good job.

And there's always two sides to every story as you well know, Mr. Speaker, and will agree in everything, that wherever you have a confrontation, there's always two sides to every story. Not always, I guess, were the teachers right. Not always were the parents right who may have brought that complaint forth. But what has always been good to my knowledge is the fact that the STF and those representatives have done a very good job in representing the teachers that were involved. And they didn't always win every case that they entered into but they did their best to make sure that the case was heard fairly and properly, and whatever punishment was deemed suitable was taken out. And in some cases of course there was none required and that they handled that very well as well.

I know that the STF has worked with the government on this particular Bill. That's a really good, positive, solid step, Mr. Speaker. And again I didn't stand up here today to be too negative to the government because I know that the STF has asked for this new Act and so they've worked with the government on it. I'm certainly not going to stand up here as I might have on some other Bill, Mr. Speaker, being critical of the government. There are a few gaps in the Bill that perhaps we'd like to see changed or fixed or filled. And we still have time to make those kinds of efforts should the government be willing and should the STF and Mr. Vinish and the people that he represents be willing as well to make some of those changes.

Mr. Speaker, one of the reasons why having a strong, solid organization is so important, why having a Teachers' Federation, a Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation that's strong and solid and democratically run, the reason . . . So there's many reasons why we need to have a good organization but even more so I think now than in the past, because we are faced upon with real significant changes in the way that we deal with education. Not only in rural Saskatchewan but, you know, everywhere in Saskatchewan, even in urban Saskatchewan and the larger cities.

We are seeing a tremendous shift in demographics, in what we're teaching, in the kinds of buildings that we need to house the other programs — the new programs that we're offering — that are all good and solid and strong. But it's even more important that we then have an organization that can look after, help, support the group of people that are actually instructing our children.

And you look back, you know, you look at some of the factors that are really weighing in on this issue. The significant loss of students is a huge factor. We know, Mr. Speaker, that the province will be less about 3,000 students — K to 12 students — this year. We know there will be a loss of students, of more than 5,000 students over the last couple of years.

Those are significant factors, Mr. Speaker, because what

happens as the student population drops is there is no longer a need for so many instructors, so many teachers. It affects, obviously of course, bus drivers. It affects the janitorial staff and all the other staff members in a school. But it certainly, certainly has great impact upon teachers.

In the paper just this past weekend, Mr. Speaker, there was an article on the Limerick School. And I think they talked — if I recall correctly — they talked about somewhat in the neighbourhood of 50 students from K to 12. They had two grade 11 students. There were two young girls that were the only two students in grade 11. Well you know, Mr. Speaker, you know that that's a school . . . and lots of rural schools are seeing that declining population.

I can talk about the school where our children went to school, where my wife teaches, where just a number of years ago it was 200 or more students from the K to 12. Now I'm guessing and I'm guessing as to the number, but I think we're around 150 and on the decline because the number of kindergarten students coming into the system are way lower than the number of groups of children that are graduating from grade 12.

Just two years ago when our youngest son graduated, we graduated a class of 27 and picked up four. Well so that's a net loss of 23 students in one year, Mr. Speaker. You know, you know that under those kinds of trends and conditions that there's only one way that this can go and that means job losses for teachers. And that's why it's critically important that they have a strong group to make sure that they're looked after and taken care of.

You know also, Mr. Speaker, that after . . . at the end of this year — and this is in relation to this Limerick story that I talked about a minute ago — at the end of this year, this calendar year, the moratorium on school closures ends. Mr. Speaker, it's normal in the average year, over the last good number of years, from 12 to 15 schools in our province close every year. From 12 to 15. That was the normal loss of schools or closures based upon lack of enrolment, which I've talked about. If you close 12 to 15 schools a year, Mr. Speaker, and we've had a three-year moratorium, that means at the end of this December it would be normal — if you want to use the term normal — it would be normal to see somewhere in the neighbourhood of 45 schools closing.

That has huge impact, Mr. Speaker, on the entire province and it really . . . of course it won't affect the urban centres so much, but rural Saskatchewan is going to see a tremendous loss of closures of schools based on declining population. Now if you look at a . . . Let's use a school population of 50 for instance. Let's use the Limerick example, and I think they had someplace in the neighbourhood of 6 or 6.5 teachers to instruct that school. That means that six or seven teachers from every one of those schools will probably lose their job. That's going to create a huge, huge impact upon those people.

[15:15]

I know that young people entering into the field of education who want to become teachers, who want to join that strong group at the STF, are going to have a much more difficult time finding a job because we're going to have an overabundance of

teachers. We'll have teachers that have been laid off because of school closures and there will be not the need for new teachers. And therefore it's going to add to our population loss because we're going to educate these fine young people and they're going to go someplace else to get a job.

An example of that, Mr. Speaker, is I happened to be in Nevada this winter, and in Clark County for instance, which is the fastest growing county in the United States, they cannot find enough teachers. Teachers are at a premium. In fact they are advertising all over North America. There is a bounty that they are paying on new teachers to come and work in and teach school in Clark County, Nevada. It's actually, as I said, the fastest growing county in the United States. They're having a tremendous time. The two most . . . The biggest population growths or the areas of growth are prisons and schools, Mr. Speaker, which seems sort of not to be really an area that we would think that would be the case. But certainly with the population growth, that's where they are finding the two biggest problems.

So what I'm saying is when we close these schools and they're going . . . I'm not here to say that it's good or bad or otherwise. I'm saying here that it's not a healthy situation in rural Saskatchewan. And we know that if you don't grow the economy, if the economy stays the way it is or it becomes stagnant — and that's certainly the way it's been the last few years under this NDP government — that you're going to have population loss. Population loss equals student loss, and student loss equals teacher loss. And none of those situation are a good situation, Mr. Speaker.

I have a son who wants to go into education, and in fact we were just talking about it last night as he came home for the weekend. He's a university student in Saskatoon. My concern, Mr. Speaker, is that when he does get finished his education degree that there will not be a job for him in Saskatchewan and he may well, very well end up going to another jurisdiction to teach school. And that would be a sad thing for lots of reasons obviously but not to mention the least of which, he would not have the benefit then of having that good, strong organization behind him that my wife has had. And there are jurisdictions where they don't have nearly as strong of support group as the STF has been to teachers in Saskatchewan. And from that perspective, Mr. Speaker, that would not be a good, healthy thing.

I think back to a number of the teachers that taught me over the years, and I want to mention just a few of them because I think it's relevant to this debate today. It's relevant because of the part they played within the STF as I think it's worth mentioning to this legislature.

I want to talk about probably the teacher that had the greatest impact on my life. His name was Don McMillan, who was a young teacher that came out of the Kamsack area to teach school at Kenaston a good many years ago, Mr. Speaker — I guess 30-plus to be honest with you. He had a great impact on my life. But he had an impact on a lot of people, and in fact he had an impact on areas that were much broader than just a small, rural school.

He was very strong believer in the STF movement. He was a

strong believer in the right to associate, the right to belong to a union and also to bargain and collective bargaining and so on and so forth. He actually ended up, Mr. Speaker . . . He taught school in Kenaston for a good number of years. He ended up moving to Alberta where he believed . . . His socialist beliefs were strong, so strong that he actually ran for the New Democrats in Alberta probably, I'm guessing, about 10 or 15 years ago, Mr. Speaker.

As you know, in Alberta it's very difficult to get elected as a New Democrat, and he didn't get elected. He did not win, Mr. Speaker. But the reason I say that is that it's not so much that he expected to win that election, but he believed strongly. He believed strongly in the values that were instilled in him by the STF when he was a teacher in Saskatchewan. He believed so strongly in those values that he wanted to promote them to other people. And he believed so strongly in them, and he agreed to run for the New Democrats. And as I said, of course in Alberta at any time but certainly back in the '80s it was pretty difficult to get elected as anything but a Conservative. Thank goodness for that, Mr. Speaker. And hopefully that'll turn, that'll head east just a little bit in the next election.

Another one, Mr. Speaker, who's a really, a really good, solid friend of mine — he became a friend of mine; he taught me in grade 11 — his name is Michael Hertz. Mr. Speaker, he has a different story, but his beliefs in the STF were similar. He believed strongly in the values of democratic governance. He believed strongly in the values that the STF promoted. He was on the executive at the University of Saskatchewan back in the late '60s and early '70s. He believed that that group of the STF should represent teachers who were accused of ill-doing by, perhaps, by parents or groups in a community.

In fact as I mentioned earlier in my remarks, over the last . . . He taught a long time, I should say — before I say that, Mr. Speaker — for many years, for 30 years in Kenaston, taught with my wife for a long time. And I remember the both of them working hard. And when another teacher was accused of wrongdoing by a parent — and they worked hard — and Mike Hertz went to the STF on behalf of this teacher and lobbied them that the teacher had done nothing wrong. And to make a long story shorter, Mr. Speaker, what happened was the STF became involved in this case and protected the rights of that particular teacher and at the end of the day was found not guilty of the accusations that were made against her by some parents in the community.

So it doesn't seem to matter what their personal politics were. And in fact, Mr. Speaker, Michael Hertz, if you ask him today — who has recently retired from teaching — but if you ask him today, he would be a strong supporter of not the NDP but rather small "c" conservative people. He's been a really strong supporter of mine, and I know he votes small "c" conservative and that's his philosophy. But it doesn't matter, Mr. Speaker, you see he's still . . . even though he, in politics he votes right or centre-of-right, he would still believe in those strong collective terms and in the strong position that the STF offered him in his career.

My point being in all this is that it doesn't seem to matter what the politics of the teacher are, they still believe in the politics of the STF. And that's what makes an organization good and

strong. It's not that it's political so much in terms of the grander scheme, but it really sets out in terms the protection and the rights that it grants to the people that it represents, namely the teachers of Saskatchewan.

A lot of the teachers that I've talked about today, Mr. Speaker, their politics are not, are not socialist. They are not New Democrat. They may well be Liberal or small "c" conservative. And I've had the opportunity over the last good number of years to become associated with a great many teachers right throughout the province.

Our family's been very active in sports and in school sports in particular, Mr. Speaker. And in order to have a good, strong school sports program, of course you need to have teachers that are willing to offer that coaching, to offer their time and dedication and commitment to the students. And they also have to have a love for the game.

Don McMillan, as I mentioned before, was a teacher of mine who really started school sports in Kenaston, really started a strong basketball program that's become a tradition and continues right until this very day. In fact my wife, who has become a basketball coach for many years, just took her team to Hoopla again two weeks ago, Mr. Speaker.

Again the point I'm making here is that was not part of their contract. Nobody said to these teachers when they started that yes, you have to coach the basketball team or the football team. That was extra, but it's all part of that package that you get. It's all part of the package that you buy into when you become a teacher and you become a dedicated, committed teacher. It doesn't happen all the time and you don't see it from 100 per cent of the teachers, but you see it on a good many occasions. And that's what makes this whole organization strong. That's what makes it grow.

Lyle Vinish, as I talked about, Mr. Speaker, who is the director of the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation, I got to know Lyle through basketball about 30 years ago, 30-plus years ago, and that's how I got to know him. He was a teacher in Delisle at the time. And I didn't have any idea that Lyle was a strong believer or supporter in the STF. I didn't have anything to make me think that he wasn't. It just wasn't a factor. All I knew Lyle to be was a good teacher, committed and dedicated to the people he serves — the taxpayers but first and foremost to the students. And then he went on to become of course the director of the STF, obviously involved in some internal politics there, but a strong, strong supporter of the same values and beliefs that I talked about.

Mr. Speaker, there are many, many others. And we all could stand here today in this legislature and talk about members of the STF who have been really significant in our education. We can talk about teachers that taught us at any time, whether we were a small, small child many years ago or when we were in post-secondary, so on and so forth.

A couple of others that have really been solidly important and have been factors in our education or the education of our children. You know I talk about . . . We had a principal. His name was Denis Rolheiser — again, Mr. Speaker, the same kind of values — believed strongly in the STF and their values,

represented them well, was a strong supporter of and believer in what they were doing and became a very successful person. He went on to be a teacher in North Battleford for many years.

So, Mr. Speaker, you know, as I say, you can't have this organization that's strong without individuals that make it strong. It's sort of like this legislature, Mr. Speaker. We're all individuals here, and yet we can't act as individuals because without each other — matters little what side of the House we're on — it's still similar. The NDP members, I'm sure, or government members would say the same as we do. We are all individual. We all represent some constituency. And yet we come together in this Chamber as two groups, right now, Mr. Speaker — the Saskatchewan Party, the opposition, and the government, the NDP — and without each other, we can't be very effective.

It's the same when you talk about teachers. Teachers right from across the province may be in teaching in different areas under different conditions. They certainly are different. I mean if you're a teacher in Ile-a-la-Crosse, you will have a different view of the world as it sits compared to teaching in some place like let's say Shaunavon or Maple Creek or Estevan or Weyburn because the demographics are different, Mr. Speaker. The factors are different. The conditions upon which you work are certainly different.

And that's why it's important that you have a group, an all-encompassing group, that looks after the greater good of the group. And, you know, whether you teach in a small rural school that maybe has 50 people or you teach in the biggest high school in Saskatchewan — P.A. [Prince Albert] Carlton which has in the neighbourhood of 2,000 students — they're all individuals, and they all fit differently into the big puzzle. But the key being, is that they all still get paid the same for the years of experience and the education that they have regardless of whether they're in a small rural school or a big city school. And they all are subject to the same collective bargaining. They're all subject to discipline. They're all subject to membership rules in that organization. And that's why it's so critical to have a group, the STF, that looks after the group's greater needs.

I've been to the STF building in Saskatoon on many occasions with my wife, Melanie, when she's had to go in for whatever the issue might be at the time.

[15:30]

In fact we were there just a year ago talking about what happens when a teacher reaches retirement age because as I said just like every other teacher she's getting private counselling from a counsellor there as to how she should retire, when she should retire, and all the issues and the mechanics that you have to have in order to do that.

As my colleague says, where are you going to retire? It's a huge issue because whether you . . . You may not have enough money to be able to retire in Palm Springs for instance, but you might be able to retire in Bladworth, Saskatchewan for instance, Mr. Speaker, which would certainly cost you less money. So you have to look at all these things.

And that's what they provide for you. They'll provide a

counsellor for each of you as a teacher that allows you to make those decisions easier. They talk about things like whether you're going to want to buy extra medical care, extra dental care. Apparently you can do that after you retire.

But without that organization to guide you and to give you those options, then many people who don't spend a great deal of time thinking about these things or studying them, it really helps them decide as to how and when and how you're going to live after you do retire.

So to sort of bring this all together, Mr. Speaker, I think it's important that we look at this Bill. And even though it's sort of a restructuring, it's a brand new, you know, Act. We're getting rid of the old Act; we're bringing in a complete new Act and it's very similar to the old Act.

I'm still wondering about whether we could have done more as the government of the day. And I'm not talking about us being opposition or the government being government. I'm talking about us as MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly] in this Chamber, all of us contributing more to the greater good of the people of this province.

And it's not so much what I see in this Bill that concerns me. Nothing in this Bill really concerns me, Mr. Speaker. I don't see anything. I'll just go briefly through some of the sections of the Bill. And, you know, the title and interpretation, I mean, who could argue with that, Mr. Speaker? That's just pretty straightforward, nothing to argue about.

What we talk about though, we talk about collective bargaining in subsection 5. And then we talk about subsection 5. This is part of the new part of the Bill. It's a provision that provides the authority for the federation "to establish and maintain standards of professional ethics and professional competency . . . in accordance with Part VI of the Act."

Mr. Speaker, that's another area that I just want to, as a quick aside in this, in my remarks here, talk about the professional governance and the competency.

Mr. Speaker, of course you'll be well aware that not every teacher in this province unfortunately is completely competent. We've all been subject to probably teachers or heard of or listened to news stories or media stories where a teacher maybe kind of fell through the cracks and wasn't completely ready to teach our young people or wasn't completely competent.

There is something in that Act of course, Mr. Speaker, you'd be aware of — it's called tenure — that allows teachers . . . After they've served two years in any particular school it becomes much more difficult to have them removed unless you have a very, very serious just cause.

It's a good rule in the fact, in the sense that you can't have helter-skelter school boards running amok firing teachers for no reason. So of course one could not argue that it's important because it protects good teachers from perhaps a school board or a local community that, for cultural reasons or other reasons, do not accept any particular teacher. And again we've all heard stories like that.

So the tenure rule is a pretty good rule. But it also protects — sometimes wrongly or incorrectly, Mr. Speaker — it could, it has the potential to protect a teacher who's not fully competent. And once they serve, once they teach in that particular school for two years and get tenure, then it becomes very, very difficult for a school board or a hiring agency, the director or others, to ask a particular teacher to move on. And that causes sometimes — and I've seen it personally in our school and others — it has the potential to cause some tremendous rifts between the teachers, between parents, between the schools, so on and so forth. So that's an issue that I just wanted to bring up because it is one that I have seen more than once.

Part IV of the Act, Mr. Speaker, talks about the regulatory parts and it actually sets the criteria for membership in the federation. And actually section 18 sets the process for the deduction of membership dues. That's another area that, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to speak about at some length here because I think it's . . . this is truly . . . I'm going to get a little political here, Mr. Speaker, because this directly relates to where membership dues of teachers end up.

And, Mr. Speaker, there's no question that some portions thereof, of teachers' actual STF membership fees, go to support certain political parties — speaking mainly of the socialist, NDP government.

Now, Mr. Speaker, there are some teachers, there are many teachers in this province who say that's good. And of course, Mr. Speaker, that ought to be their right. That ought to be their right to give any portion of their STF dues or any monies that they see fit to any party that they see fit to give it to. The problem is, Mr. Speaker — and this is where the problem lies and this where I have the issue with this part of the Act — is that sometimes those people don't want their memberships, their membership fees or any part thereof to go to the NDP government or to the NDP Party to campaign.

In fact I tell my wife all . . . It's sort of a standing joke, Mr. Speaker, in our house — and I'll say this here today in front of the public of Saskatchewan — that my wife spends part of her STF membership dues to campaign against me, Mr. Speaker. So in essence, in essence, Mr. Speaker, a portion of those fees go to fight against me in a campaign. So I have to raise extra money from my supporters and I actually put the hit on her to give me some money to support the Saskatchewan Party.

Again, Mr. Speaker, my point being here, my point being here, Mr. Speaker, is that it's not whether people give money to any particular party. I don't have a problem with that. It's when they give it without being asked. So that's one of the things that I wanted to talk about and that's hugely important. Of teachers that I've talked to who may support the Liberal Party or may support the Saskatchewan Party — and I've talked to many of them — they're concerned with that part of the Act, where part of their dues actually go to campaign against someone they may not want to campaign against. Anyway.

And the other thing and the last thing I want to talk about is part VI. That's the discipline section of the new Act, Mr. Speaker. And section 30, I wanted to look at it and it's actually taken from section 38 of the existing Act, and it defines professional misconduct, Mr. Speaker. And clause 38 is revised by adding



additional section as a consequence of a revision of the Criminal Code.

And I didn't want to read a section of the Bill and just leave it lay there, but what I interpret that to mean, what I interpret that to mean, Mr. Speaker — and I'm not 100 per cent sure if I'm right; I'd like clarification from the government on this — is does that mean then that if you as a teacher are charged with a criminal act, if you're charged with a criminal act, Mr. Speaker, and you're found guilty and convicted and sentenced, and regardless of what your sentence might be, if you are found guilty of a criminal act does that mean you will lose membership in the STF? Does that mean that you would no longer be eligible to teach school in a Saskatchewan school? Or does that mean you would still maintain your teacher's certificate? Does it mean you would continue to become a member in the STF? And does that also mean that you would also be then eligible to teach in Saskatchewan schools?

Does it mean that it has to be a certain level of conviction? In other words, let's use for an example that a teacher were to be found guilty of a property crime where he or she stole an item of not very considerable value. And he or she was found guilty and perhaps sentenced to no jail time but, you know, time served or maybe restitution — any one of those. Would that mean that he or she would still be able to become a member of the STF? I don't know the answer to that. That's my question. And that's a question that I think needs to be answered so that we have clarification upon that.

Again, I talked a little about the collective interest of teachers. I don't need to go much into that. That's part VII of the Act. I spoke at length about that, Mr. Speaker. I'll agree — I do agree and I still agree — that what the federation does as far as the collective interests of teachers truly is a remarkable job and a job that needs to be congratulated. And I think they do a good job.

Part VIII of the new Act talks about immunity, the immunity of the Act. And it provides immunity to the members of the executive committees or administrative boards, the chief executive officer, an employee or agent of the federation, if the person is acting, if the person is acting pursuant to the authority granted in the Act or for anything done in good faith pursuant to sections of the Act. And this part is a revision of existing provisions.

Mr. Speaker, again, the question that comes to my mind about this is, who's going to decide, who decides if it's something that's done in good faith pursuant to sections of the Act? Who makes that decision? Is it the federation itself would be disciplining one of its own? Would it be a school board association? Would it be the government of the day? It doesn't lay out specifically who would make that decision. Would it be a court? And again, would it depend upon what the charge was of the person that was found to be in breach?

Those are areas that I . . . they don't lay them out very well. And as I said before, it's maybe not what's in this Act so much, Mr. Speaker, as perhaps something that might be in it that's not in it.

When I talked about, at the very, very outset, Mr. Speaker,

about this new Act replacing the old one and I talked about the things that have changed over the last 70 years, you know, the terminology that we use, the technology that's used nowadays that was not even dreamt about — wildly dreamt about — 70 years ago. When I talked about, you know, all the collective interests, when I talked about immunity, when I talked about the obligations, when I talked about membership, when I talked about criminal acts . . .

Many of the things that we've seen in the media, some of the things, you know, we've seen cases over the last few years where a teacher would be accused of sexual harassment or sexual misconduct with students. We've seen teachers who have lost their jobs, who have lost their standing in the community, who've been in some cases criminally charged, in some cases criminally found guilty of sexual misconduct with students.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I'm not saying that never happened 70 years ago. I don't know that it did and I don't know that it didn't. All I'm saying is that those things are sort of new. They're newer in the big picture, the big scheme of things that we see on our media on a far too regular basis. And so having this new Act was a good idea because you could allow then things to come into this Act, sections that would give you the mechanics or the mechanism to deal with those kinds of new issues.

So from that perspective those have all been, that's all good stuff. And I think that, as I said, we need to make sure that we've got things in this Bill that look after this Teachers' Federation and students and parents and taxpayers and school boards for many years to come. Because no doubt, no doubt there will be huge changes again in technology, in terminology, in the short few years to come.

I don't think that we're at the end of the technological breakthrough that we've seen over the past number of years. I don't know what might be next coming down the road. All I know is that 15 or 20 years ago my first cellphone was as big as a brick and now it fits inside my shirt pocket, Mr. Speaker.

We have computers in this Chamber, Mr. Speaker, that we would never have dreamt of using. I remember being in a corporate building 25 years ago, 30 years ago, and they had a room that was about the size of this filled with one computer. Now we have them in schools — many, many of our students have them. So that's the things that we need to deal with when we look at this Bill, this draft Bill, this new STF Act that can handle technological changes as well as changes in terminology.

So in conclusion, Mr. Speaker, as I've tried to draw all this together, I think that the government is sort of on the right track with this new Act. I think that the STF has requested a new Act, and the STF certainly asked for this new Act. They worked with the government on this Act. You know, the government . . .

[15:45]

Of course, Mr. Speaker, I look at the time on the clock. School is out for the afternoon, so I fully expect every teacher in the province is tuned in to this broadcast and watching my remarks

with close scrutiny.

So let's move on from this point I'm saying, Mr. Speaker. And I'm going to congratulate the government a bit for taking the initiative to do this. I'm going to condemn the government a bit for taking five years, for taking five years to bring this new Act to the forefront when the STF asked for it after 2001. Having said that though, I'm willing to look at changes in committee and changes in further discussion on this Bill and as we move down the road through the path to when it becomes the law.

I think that our party and those of us on this side are willing to talk to people like Lyle Vinish — have them come before the committee perhaps — and talk about this new Act and the importance that it has, not only upon the teachers of the province but also the taxpayers and the school boards, but most importantly, Mr. Speaker, the students of the province because after all, after all, those of us who are in this Chamber today and who come here every day are here for one reason, and that's the future of our province.

Mr. Speaker, we came here to try to make things better not only for us but certainly better for our children and the generations that will come after us. So it's Acts like this that will, even though they might seem insignificant in some areas, become critically important when you're going to talk about changes for the future to make students, teachers, and taxpayers fit better into the new world, the new way that we're going to see things happen over the next good number of years.

So at this time, Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure to say I've enjoyed having the opportunity to give my thoughts on this Bill, and I'd like to move to adjourn this Bill at this time. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the member for Carrot River Valley that debate on second reading of Bill No. 44 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 Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen that **Bill No. 45 — The Local Government Election Amendment Act, 2006** be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. Hart:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm certainly pleased to enter into the debate on Bill No. 45, an amendment to The Local Government Election Act.

Mr. Speaker, when I looked at the Act and listened to the minister's second reading speech, he had indicated that most of the amendments in this Bill are of strictly a housekeeping nature. And while some of the amendments are, I think some of them are perhaps a little bit more substantive than that. As a member across the way says, we can also have some

amendments that deal not only with the house but also be those buildings attached to the house.

However I think it's important to spend some time on examining the provisions within this Bill as it affects local government. Those governments of course, Mr. Speaker, as I think most people know, are city councils, village councils, town councils, the urban governments, also RM [rural municipality], rural municipal councils. And also, Mr. Speaker, another local government that sometimes citizens don't think of and doesn't come to a person's mind but play a very important role in this province, and those are boards of education.

All those local governments are taxing governments. They raise a portion of their funds through taxes on property. And it's important that we have legislation in place to govern how these councils are elected, which this Bill does. And because these local governments now all get their authority . . . particularly in the urban and rural areas I should say, Mr. Speaker, they get that from the new municipalities Bill that this . . . Act that this legislature dealt with here in the last session. And I understand, I believe there are a few amendments to that Act.

One of the sections in the Bill deals with . . . makes some changes so that rural municipalities and boards of education can have their election day on the same time. And I think, Mr. Speaker, that's a fairly important change to the local government Act. The old provision provided that the rural municipalities have their election date near the end of October and seven days . . . or there's a seven-day span when the boards of education would have their elections.

So in effect what we had in rural Saskatchewan was election day seven days apart. And that was not only an inconvenience; it was confusing to the electors. And quite often we would see a very low turnout, particularly for those elections dealing with the members of the boards of education. And I'm certainly pleased to see that that ability is there for the two local governments to make their election days coincide on the same date which I would think lead to greater voter turnout, greater interest in the election of a board member.

And, Mr. Speaker, particularly with these mega school divisions that we have now in rural Saskatchewan, thanks to the former minister of Learning, there seems to be a real disconnect by rural residents from the boards of education. Many of these boards . . . Well these boards are larger than our constituencies that we represent in rural Saskatchewan. One board member now, it's not uncommon for one board member to represent an area that is larger than the previous school divisions that were in place only two, three, or four years ago.

And one of the complaints that I'm hearing from rural residents, they really feel that the local towns and communities in which our schools are located really have very little input as to what is happening in education today. And they are very concerned about that. So this Bill in a very small way would at least address at least a very small portion of that disconnect then, Mr. Speaker.

One of the other amended sections deals with the voters lists, and it prescribes how the returning officer, whether it be in the . . . Well it deals with a returning officer in a municipality, how

the rural municipality . . . as to where the voters list is to be posted. And there's some provisions as far as revisions to the voters list.

And this again, on first blush, you may think is fairly of a housekeeping nature. But the reality in rural Saskatchewan today is that many of the people entitled to vote in an RM election live outside the municipality. In fact some of them live a great distance away because if you look at a RM map now, you will see landowners who may live in various parts of this province and in fact outside the boundaries of this province. And we need to have that clarified as to who is an eligible voter because, Mr. Speaker, sometimes elections at the municipal level in rural Saskatchewan become very important and are very contentious elections. Issues arise in local government that the voters feel very strongly about.

And although I did serve on RM council, I have to say, Mr. Speaker, that I never was involved in a contested election, but I certainly have family members . . . My father was an RM councillor for a number of years, ran in a couple of elections. And as I said, sometimes they are very contentious and people are brought in to vote. And so we need to have a clear definition of who is eligible to vote and who isn't. And I believe that these amendments help to clarify that.

In dealing with those people who are eligible to vote in a rural municipal election, one of the amendments deals with individuals who conduct businesses within the municipality. And this amendment specifies that those individuals who are required to have a business licence are now eligible to be a voter.

There are some sections to the Bill that deal with terms of offices and clarify if a councillor or a reeve wants to run for another position and currently their term does not expire, some of the Bill does outline the procedures. And the amendments strengthen and clear up some areas of confusion that deal with those issues.

Also sometimes we have council members resigning right near the end of their term prior to the election. And so then councils and administrators are left with the decision and the question, well what do we do? Do we have an election and have someone elected to finish the small portion of the term that was unfulfilled by the previous person, or do we just leave it vacant and then elect a person for the whole term? And this Bill does clarify some of that. It makes for better representation by voters in the municipality. And that is certainly I think a step in the right direction.

Unlike city elections, if I understand the process correctly, a rural municipality's elections to council are done on a division basis. And a division is the area that each councillor represents in a normal municipality. You have six divisions. The odd numbered divisions, the councillors in those divisions will stand to re-election every two years, and then the even numbered councillors stand in the following year. And the reeve, I believe it's . . . well I'm not exactly sure but I believe the reeve is elected at the same time as the odd numbered divisions, or perhaps it could be reversed, but nonetheless the reeve's term is two years, the same as the councillors.

So as I said, councillors are elected by defined areas — physical areas — and sometimes . . . And it's not uncommon for people to live in one division, own a good part of their property in another division. And sometimes there was confusion as to whether they should be voting for the councillor in division three or five or division four, and some of the amendments now address some of those things.

And the important part that I see in section 160.12 talks about voters only voting once. And of course that is the basis of our democratic system where individuals are entitled to only one vote, regardless of the property they own, the wealth they have or may not have. And this is certainly . . . A local government is not a corporation where the weight of your ballot is determined by the number of shares you own. It's based on the accepted democratic principle of one person, one vote.

Something new in this Bill, Madam Deputy Speaker, is an area again dealing with rural municipal elections. And it talks about candidates having an agent to represent them at the polling station which was something that wasn't available to candidates in rural elections in the past.

And one might wonder, well why would a candidate need an agent? Well at one time there probably wasn't a need for that. But in today's world, where we have many people who are living in rural Saskatchewan and operating a farm or a ranch, a business, but they also require to supplement that income with some additional income in another occupation and without . . . And these people have a vested interest in their communities, in their municipalities, and would like to get involved in the election process. But sometimes they were prevented from doing so, or felt that they were prevented from doing so, because they were . . . could not be present at the polling station on election day. Well, and they had no one there to represent them. And this amendment does give the candidates the ability to have a representative, an agent — or a scrutineer as we would call them perhaps — at the polling station.

[16:00]

There's a number of other amendments to this Bill, Mr. Speaker. A new section I see is entitled notice to the minister, and it directs the returning officer to notify the Minister of Government Relations as to who the winning candidate is within a specified time. I don't think that's an unreasonable request, Madam Deputy Speaker. It is important that members — voters within a municipal area — know who the winning candidates were, but it's also important for those agencies that deal with local councils to know who their representatives on council are.

I know in our own office in our work as members of this Legislative Assembly representing a constituency, it's often very helpful to know — if you're going to a part of your constituency and perhaps meeting with the council — to know who the representatives on that council are. And so at least when you're introduced to them, you'll remember their names and identify with them more readily.

One other section, Madam Deputy Speaker, talks about canvassing at the polls and what distance it's allowed as far as campaigning on behalf of your candidate. And there's mention

of campaigning or soliciting votes from voters within 50 metres of the polling station is not allowed. And I think that's a reasonable request also.

The minister stated in his second reading speech that all the . . . that SARM [Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities] and SUMA [Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association] and the Saskatchewan School Trustees Association were consulted when these amendments were being developed and brought forward. I think it would be only . . . It's our duty as the official opposition to check with these groups to see if these amendments are of the nature that they had requested and put forward, that the Bill covers and addresses their concerns, Madam Deputy Speaker. So until we are able to fully consult with these groups, we would have to hold onto the Bill, and therefore I would adjourn debate.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member from Last Mountain-Touchwood has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 45, The Local Government Election Amendment Act. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

#### 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 Moosomin.

**Mr. Toth:** — Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. This Bill before us this afternoon, The Veterinarians Act, Madam Deputy Speaker, I think is a Bill that we've been getting a number of concerns brought to our attention from individuals across the province — certainly from the veterinarians association, from individuals within the association, and as well agricultural groups that have received wind of this piece of legislation and are quite concerned with what the intentions of The Veterinarians Act are before us and what it may entail down the road.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I'm just going to quote . . . take a couple of comments from one letter we've just received to our office, and it comes from an individual who is a veterinarian. And this is how he opens out his letter. He says:

It used to be fun being a Veterinarian. It is not much fun any more. The work is still the same, it is still most enjoyable to see and treat the wide array of animals and for the most part, to deal with the people [with whom or] who own these animals. But there's an ominous cloud over the horizon that is taking the pleasure out of it. It is becoming too risky. The consequence of action against the Veterinarian, is simply too harsh. The risk has not really changed that much over the thirty years I have been . . . a practising veterinarian. But to the poor wretched soul that has had the misfortune of having something go wrong, the

consequences have reached proportions beyond the ridiculous.

Now, Madam Deputy Speaker, I could go on. But what the gentleman is pointing out here is when this individual entered the school of veterinary medicine and became a veterinarian, some I believe it was around 30 years ago, this person, Madam Deputy Speaker, entered the college, entered veterinary medicine, really looking forward to working in the field of veterinary medicine. And I'm not exactly sure where this individual happens to work or whether he's been with large animal practice or small animal practice.

But as he's indicated from the time that he entered the college, from the time he became a licensed veterinarian and over the years, the enjoyment that he found in providing veterinary medicine to animals and working with people as they tried to diagnose the different illnesses that individuals may be facing with animals that they were raising — whether it's a small animal, dogs or cats, or whether it's large animal, horses or livestock — this individual indicates that there was a time when he truly enjoyed his job. But he's getting to the point where he finds it somewhat frustrating and the enjoyment has totally been taken out of it.

And, Madam Deputy Speaker, it would seem to me that this piece of legislation before us today is a piece of legislation that is certainly going to . . . not diffuse the concern that has been brought to our attention by this individual as he has practised veterinary medicine. In fact it's raising more questions than it's addressing the answers.

Now if I understand it correctly the intention of the Bill is to give the veterinary association a method whereby if a member doesn't comply with rules of the association or a complaint is raised against a member, that the association has the tools necessary to address the concerns and to indeed determine whether or not a person has complied or not, and to apply penalties if need be, Madam Deputy Speaker — penalties which may even include, Madam Deputy Speaker, not being allowed to practise.

Now as I indicated earlier the amendments have major concern across the province of Saskatchewan. While the veterinary association has been asking for legislation allowing them to deal with delinquent members, Madam Deputy Speaker, it's . . . When you look at the legislation it actually goes beyond what we understand the veterinary association has been asking for.

And that's why, Madam Deputy Speaker, it would seem to me from the concerns that we've had raised with us — and no doubt the minister I'd be surprised has not as well been receiving these concerns — that the government would not have done what they did a year and a half ago with the municipal Act and decided well maybe this Bill No. 28 doesn't exactly do what we had intended it to. And maybe what we need to do is pull this piece of legislation, review it, reassess it, and reintroduce it in another format that in indeed addresses the issues that have been brought to us by the veterinary association, while at the same time alleviating the concerns of men and women in the agriculture community.

Madam Deputy Speaker, when you even get young people

involved in for example the Moose Mountain Trailblazers Association which is a 4-H group of young people involved in riding horses and showing their horses, when they're raising concerns, Madam Deputy Speaker, you have to ask yourself, exactly what has the government done? What kind of research has the government entered into? What discussions and what debate has taken place in regards to coming forward with this piece of legislation?

The fact that all across this province we have, whether it's farm families, farmers, individuals, or even young people involved in the 4-H industry raising questions about this piece of legislation, Madam Deputy Speaker, it should be raising a flag to the government that there are some major issues that need to be dealt with.

And the easiest and the quickest way would be just to remove the Bill. I don't believe it's anything that's . . . It's not a piece of legislation that the world's going to come to a stop at simply because it's removed. But by removing it would give the government the opportunity — as they did with the municipal Act — to address some of the areas that are of major concern. Reintroduce the legislation, say, in the fall session, give us an opportunity to consult.

And I would be surprised, Madam Deputy Speaker, if through further consultation and a reintroduction of this piece of legislation addressing those concerns, that we would have everybody outside. And so it's surprising that as of today the government continues to forge ahead with this piece of legislation.

Madam Deputy Speaker, we find while the association has been calling for legislation, they also have had problems . . . calling for legislation to deal with delinquent members, they've also had problems with individuals who are not qualified — as they would say qualified — as veterinary technologists or veterinarians performing veterinary procedures. And they use the term, out of their basement.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I can think over the years of many individuals. I think about an elderly gentleman actually who's passed on now, but a self-taught individual who used to go around the country and address the health needs of the farming community for years. And Madam Deputy Speaker, this gentleman . . . And maybe the association wouldn't be looking very kindly on the services that a gentleman like this would provide today for the simple reason that a lot of times . . . And this gentleman would arrive at a farmyard to deal with whether it's a calving situation or whether it's an animal that's down, and the farmer was unable to diagnose why the animal was down.

This gentleman would come on the scene. He'd deal with the situation. He'd assess the situation. He'd either give medication or whatever was needed. And then the farmer would ask, well what do I owe you? And, Madam Deputy Speaker, what amazed most people is that this gentleman understood the difficulties that farmers were facing, and he wasn't . . . And that's maybe the major concern the veterinarians have, is that this individual would not be charging at the same level that a veterinarian would be charging, and therefore more farmers would be calling this person than they would call the local

veterinarian.

However, I might add that the veterinarian we had at the time was an individual that everyone really appreciated and did an excellent job. He did a superb job despite the fact that this gentleman who practised in our community for years had a very . . . he actually had a seeing problem. He was somewhat limited in his vision but, Madam Deputy Speaker, he did his job; he did it well. His wife used to drive him around, even at . . . You could call him at 2 o'clock in the morning with a calving problem. It might be 30 below with the wind blowing and the snow moving, and yet he'd show up at the door and assist you with the problem you were facing.

And there again, Madam Deputy Speaker, what was interesting, as a veterinarian he also understood the difficulties of the farm and, I would suggest, was fairly moderate in how he charged the agriculture community for his services. He was more than fair, Madam Deputy Speaker, and certainly built a reputation as someone that you could count on; that it didn't matter where you lived, whether a person travelled . . . whether you had to travel an hour to go to provide or answer or do a house call, if you want, Madam Deputy Speaker.

Madam Deputy Speaker, when we look at this piece of legislation, and a number of the concerns that are being raised with regards to the legislation, one has to ask themselves, what will it take for us to address these concerns? Now the government argue . . . well, we may have it. I'm not exactly sure if we've had any . . . the government come forward with any suggested amendments to this piece of legislation. I know that my colleague and my colleagues are working on amendments to deal with a number of the concerns that have been brought to our attention.

And I know, Madam Deputy Speaker, that as we move forward with the piece of legislation — if the government continues and feels that they must move forward with it — we'll certainly be raising questions in regards to a number of the areas of specific intention. And we want to know before we even move forward from adjourned debates whether or not the government will give any consideration to the amendments that we would like to propose.

One of the things that this piece of legislation does is strengthens the fines that may be levied against individuals as some of the fines had not been increased in a number of years.

[16:15]

Now maybe it's fine, Madam Deputy Speaker, if an association wants tools and opportunities to discipline its membership. It's also appropriate that there be the appropriate fines, or the ability to fine or levy a fine against an individual if the individual doesn't comply.

But, Madam Deputy Speaker, I think one of the major areas of contention in this piece of legislation is the area of dentistry when it comes to veterinary medicine. And this is an area that has been brought to my attention both locally by many, specifically equine producers or horse owners. As, Madam Deputy Speaker, we find that what's been brought to our attention, that there are specific individuals who . . . As we have

in the medical practice, we have general practice physicians who deal with the general anatomy of individuals, and then there are dentists. A doctor doesn't . . . You don't go to a doctor if you've got a toothache. You go to a dentist.

And the same thing in the area of veterinary medicine. We have what they are termed, called equine dentists, who have done a fair amount of training. And while the training, most of the training is done in the US [United States], the training unfortunately is not recognized or currently recognized in the province of Saskatchewan.

Now a lot of the horse owners have been asking us, well if someone's done actual training in equine dentistry, don't you think that that person would be much more qualified than a veterinarian who really hasn't done any training in that area of specifically dentistry? Wouldn't it be more appropriate that we allow individuals like this to continue to provide their services to the many horse owners in the province of Saskatchewan?

And, Madam Deputy Speaker, I think that's a valid point. I think that . . . We believe that that is a valid argument. That is something that the government should be looking at very carefully in regards to the piece of legislation before us. And the government should take the time to indeed extend its consultations, if it hasn't done so, to address a number of these concerns.

Well the other thing when it comes to equine dentistry, Madam Deputy Speaker, is many veterinarians don't have the equipment or the experience to perform equine dentistry procedures. Now I guess one has to ask the question, does the minister realize that equine dentists have the equipment? They are trained. And has he taken the time to indeed consult effectively with these individuals and to address their concerns? And has he looked at the piece of legislation before us? And have his officials actually sat down with the equine breeders and gone through this piece of legislation and looked at areas in which they could address those concerns? And I guess those are questions, Madam Deputy Speaker, that we will be looking forward to asking. We will be looking for answers from the minister responsible for the Act that we have before us today.

We're concerned because it appears, Madam Deputy Speaker, that the minister did not consult with the people who would be most affected by this legislation. And, Madam Deputy Speaker, some of the concerns are raised by individual farmers themselves who have done practices for years, just general practices on the farm — whether it's castrations, whether it's delivery of calves, or even just assessing the medical needs of an animal they're dealing with.

Madam Deputy Speaker, as an individual farmer, farmers get to know their livestock. Farmers deal with their livestock every day. And for an agricultural producer — whether it's a cattle beast, whether it's a horse, whether it's a sheep or a goat — each and every individual farmer learns to look for signs in an animal as to whether that animal is under stress, whether that animal is having problems because of the fact that to lose an animal is a significant cost to that individual farm family.

And so it's imperative that farmers have the opportunity to deal with situations that they have crop up before them. And,

Madam Deputy Speaker, it's also imperative that they also be protected from the consequences of this legislation and some of the broader aspects of the legislation and how it may affect them and how the services of veterinarians may be forced upon them.

Madam Deputy Speaker, we have moved a great distance in the way we deal with calving issues. Years ago veterinarians used to do calls right to the ranch. Today, Madam Deputy Speaker, we are finding that more and more veterinarians want to operate out of clinics and for some producers that isn't a major problem. They do have the trailers. And if a problem arises it's fairly simple to load an animal into a trailer and take it in to the clinic and have a veterinarian deal with the issue. In other situations, Madam Deputy Speaker, it's really not that convenient for individuals to do that.

So, Madam Deputy Speaker, I believe this piece of legislation certainly needs to be looked at somewhat more thoroughly, a lot more carefully. And we need to ensure that the intention of the legislation doesn't take away from the ability of agricultural producers to provide for the care and well-being of the livestock that they so thoroughly and readily enjoy working with.

So, Madam Deputy Speaker, it seems . . . And my colleagues and I understand that there are a number of issues that we need to continue to address. We need to take the time to raise concerns and also listen to the concerns that continue to be brought to our caucus. And therefore, Madam Deputy Speaker, in view of the fact that individuals are still concerned about the piece of legislation — we haven't been getting a lot of answers to this point as to how we're going to address those concerns — I move to adjourn debate.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

### Bill No. 30

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion of the Hon. Mr. Quennell that **Bill No. 30 — The Film and Video Classification Amendment Act, 2006** be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. Merriman:** — Thank you, Madam Speaker. It's a pleasure today to rise on Bill 30, The Film and Video Classification Act.

I had the pleasure of meeting with a group of people from the LAN [local area network] field in the video side of this just recently, and it was very informative and educational to me and certainly to my colleagues.

One of the first issues that came out was the fact that they wanted to know who was consulted publicly during the process prior to this Bill. And they wanted to further review what's

required to consider and address the concerns of the impact of all stakeholders of this Bill, because the first time they had heard about this Bill was when they found out when CTV [Canadian Television Network Ltd.] called them to ask them their opinion on the Bill.

As one of the larger stakeholders here in Regina regarding this Bill, you would think that the government would have the courtesy to call and to find out about their industry.

I'd just like to take a few minutes to tell you a little bit about this industry and this company. This company employs 25 people and has four stores in this province. The shareholders of the company made it very clear that should this Bill go through, that they will no longer be located in the province of Saskatchewan.

You know, to date the business organizations that comprise the LAN gaming industry in Saskatchewan have not been consulted at all, not even a phone call. Even after they had gone public with it in the TV, they had to pursue both the government and they came to the opposition with their concerns.

This is a vibrant, young, and growing industry. Twenty-five employees employed in this company in the last 18 months, and four stores opening, would say that this is an expanding and budding industry that can be built on in this province.

Based on the brief review of Bill 30, it is evident that the government doesn't understand the nature of ongoing evolution of the video game industry and its distribution channels — the futility of this proposed legislation as it relates to restricting access to video games. Video games can be downloaded on the Internet from sites all over the world at no charge, and cannot be monitored and cannot be regulated by government industry.

The LAN industry — especially those that are here — are controlled. This company has a process where they have a sign-off sheet for the parent and the child to say the age group that they can view these particular videos at. They want to facilitate a process for constructive dialogue and feedback that would enable the industry and the government to work together to consider and develop possible solutions that may address the concerns of both government and industry.

But, Mr. Speaker, this can only be done through consultation. It is always a shame that this consultation becomes a reactive process instead of a proactive process. This government never consults the true stakeholders of the industry. There's a vibrant expanding company employing 25 people in the province of Saskatchewan — one of the leading companies — and they're not even consulted. Stakeholders that weren't consulted were members of the LAN gaming industry, not only the company that I had the opportunity to speak to, but other LAN holders. Parents that support and patronize the industry here — both in Regina and I believe the other centre is in Moose Jaw — were not consulted. Youth that support and patronize the LAN gaming industry were not consulted.

I understand that these stores are located sometimes in the area of our cities where the young people that utilize them are probably those least able to have a computer at home. These are young people who may not have the opportunity to play on a

computer or to do a video game. And these outlets are acting as releases for them. Obviously, Mr. Speaker, if they're in these LAN stores playing on video games, then they're not creating an issue within the neighbourhood and in the community. I also understand that these facilities are used for fundraising events for various charities around the cities. So all of these opportunities that are here and created by these young men who had the ingenuity to see an opportunity in a business, create a business environment that opened four stores, employs 25 people, may now have to go away.

Mr. Speaker, as the owner said, the penalty is \$100,000 and a possible six months in jail. Mr. Speaker, that's one of the highest penalties. You know we have a lot less penalties for doing almost anything in this province. And here we're going to tax these people with these onerous penalties which far exceed . . . I believe in my checking, Manitoba has a \$5,000 fine, and Saskatchewan wants to implement \$100,000 fine. Once again we use a sledgehammer, you know, to hit a nail.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that the government will look at this Bill, meet with the stakeholders, understand the terminology that is incorporated in this, and change the verbiage so that it doesn't affect these people who are in a specific industry, in a growth industry — which are monitoring and regulating themselves — who have the support not only of the young people, of the parents, of the charity groups that use them, and of this party.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I move to adjourn debate on this Bill.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Prebble):** — The hon. member for Saskatoon Northwest has moved adjournment of the Bill. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

### Bill No. 31

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Quennell that **Bill No. 31 — The Miscellaneous Statutes (Accounting Professions) Amendment Act, 2006** be now read a second time.]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Prebble):** — I recognize the hon. member for Biggar.

**Mr. Weekes:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to speak to Bill No. 31, An Act to amend certain Statutes and regulations with respect to Accounting Professions.

Mr. Speaker, it seems that — the way I understand the Bill — that it's to ensure that legislative references to duties to be performed by accountants would also include the certified general accountants and certified management accountants in addition to chartered accountants. It seems that through the years the general term chartered accountant has been used. And I understand that the Bill is to clarify that to also include the other types of accounting professions.

The Bill speaks to six Acts: The Automobile Accident Insurance Act; The Builders' Lien Act; The Legal Profession Act, 1990; The Municipal Hail Insurance Act; The Mutual Medical and Hospital Benefit Association Act; and The

Saskatchewan Grain Car Corporation Act. It also includes the four regulations that are being amended are The Helium and Associated Gases Regulations, 1964; The Oil Shale Regulations, 1964; The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulations, 1969; and The Subsurface Mineral Regulations, 1960.

[16:30]

It seems, Mr. Speaker, that the minister in his comments stated that all the stakeholders have been well notified or discussions have taken place with the chartered accountants and the CGA, which is the certified general accountants, and also the CMA, certified management accountants.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I hope that that has taken place because we've noticed the government in the past, in particular with the veterinary amendment Act, that they have said that they have spoken to all the stakeholders. And we find out much later, even months later, that if the discussion had taken place, it certainly left those associations vague about the intentions of the Bill if the discussions had taken place at all because, in the other Bill, it was months later when groups like the stock growers came to the official opposition and showed their displeasure with the amendments.

So it's something that we definitely need to look at to see if the government has spoken to the CGA and the CMA and the chartered accountants. Right now I would . . . The way the Bill, the Act is that it is only chartered accountants that can work to be a trustee or to do other forms of work, be an arbitrator.

And I guess there's another question . . . is concerning about who can also do audits with these associations as well. I'm not sure if that's part of the Bill or not, Mr. Speaker. So that's something that we definitely, as the official opposition, will be talking to the stakeholders to get a handle on exactly what the three organizations, the three accounting associations feel about this change and if all three of them are actually onside, or if this is a Bill that's going to be put through without the consent or the approval of one or more of those associations.

Now my colleague from Cut Knife-Turtleford spoke on this Bill before, and he raised a point about clause 37(a) of The Mutual Medical and Hospital Benefit Associations Act is amended by striking out: "member of the Institute of the Chartered Accountants of Saskatchewan or any other accountant satisfactory to the registrar" and substituting "member in good standing of a recognized accounting profession that is regulated by an Act".

There leaves some doubt, Mr. Speaker, exactly who's being taken out, who's being allowed in. And if an association or a member is satisfactory to the registrar, does that mean that's someone that is not part of the chartered accountants, The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Saskatchewan or the Certified General Accountants or the Certified Management Accountants? If that particular member is not a member of one of those three groups but if they are satisfactory to the registrar, are they still included in the Bill as far as doing trustee work and arbitrator work?

So, Mr. Speaker, these are a number of questions that we are looking at, and we will certainly be in contact with the

stakeholders, the three chartered accountants groups, because I think it's imperative that we make sure that the government has done its homework and see to it that these questions that I have raised and other members of the opposition have raised are answered before we allow this Bill to go on.

So, Mr. Speaker, until that has taken place, we will continue to ask these questions until we get the answers to our questions before we allow it to move on. So, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to move to adjourn debate.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Prebble):** — The hon. member for Biggar has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 31, The Miscellaneous Statutes (Accounting Professions) Amendment Act, 2005. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Prebble):** — That is carried.

### Bill No. 32

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Quennell that **Bill No. 32 — The Victims of Crime Amendment Act, 2006/Loi de 2006 modifiant la Loi de 1995 sur les victimes d'actes criminels** be now read a second time.]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Prebble):** — I recognize the hon. member for Kelvington-Wadena.

**Ms. Draude:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. We appreciate the opportunity . . . oh, deputy, Deputy Speaker. I appreciate the opportunity to take part in this debate on the victims of crime Bill.

It's not many times, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that I wish I were a lawyer. But when I had an opportunity to look at this Bill being introduced in the House, I thought that perhaps this is something that would address some of the issues that I hear about many times in my constituency. So I have . . . when I reviewed the Bill, I had a lot of questions on it because, as I said, I don't have training in that profession. And I can tell you I was a little frustrated that this Bill wasn't dealing with the crimes of . . . property crimes that I had heard a lot about in my constituency.

There are a number of times that people call into the office about break-ins and more often vehicle thefts. In fact in the last year, I've had one gentlemen that called my office. He's had his vehicle stolen three times. So I thought perhaps if this Bill was going to be something that would be addressing the issues that we hear about often . . . but I learned that this is not a Bill dealing with property crimes. It's violent crimes against persons, sexual abuse and abuse where people have had bodily damage.

So when we had a chance to review it with my colleague who talked about the seven changes that this Bill was actually discussing, and I asked him, is this really going to be a significant Bill? Is it going to affect a lot of people in Saskatchewan? And in his opinion it wasn't something that was



really going to change Saskatchewan very much, in fact probably not make an impact on people's lives to any great deal at all.

In fact some of the questions, the obvious ones that I asked him, is this Bill actually going to deal with the amount of money that victims of crimes will receive? Well it's not going to specify amount. Is it going to decide who gets the money specifically? No. Where's the money going to come from? The Bill doesn't say so.

So then the next question I have to ask myself is then, what are we actually doing here? We're talking about victims of crimes in a province where we have the most violent crimes per capital in Canada. In fact I believe some of . . . two of our cities have titles — Saskatoon and Regina — that we don't really appreciate having, and that is the crime capitals. And that's not something that any of us are proud to wear the title for.

So again then, looking at the Bill, I have to wonder. Is this Bill actually going to discuss what the government is going to do about crimes? We can make all the rules and regulations we want to about paying people that are victims of crimes. And until we deal with the issue of crime and understand why we do have the large number of crimes that we have in this province, we are actually just putting a Band-Aid on a problem.

Mr. Speaker, in the work that we've been doing in the legislature over the last number of years, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I believe that one of the things that we've all learned and understood is that most of the crimes come about because people are dealing with addictions of some sort. In fact I believe 70 to 80 per cent of the people that are incarcerated at this time are there because of an addiction. And what I was hoping that we would see from this government in this session — in the last seven or eight sessions — is something where they're actually going to deal with the problems that we have in this province.

There are two parts to this legislature. We deal with the Bills that come out in session, and we deal with the budget. I was waiting to see something in the Bills that this government brought forward that would deal with the issues that we have in this province — talking about the economy, talking about the young people that are leaving our province, talking about the health care issues, talking about the number of crimes we have in this province.

We need something that shows a vision, something that gives people an idea of why we should stay in this province. Nothing in the legislation that we've seen to date does that. And this piece of legislation that we're dealing with, Bill No. 32, definitely doesn't do anything either. We're talking about what we're going to do when people have had the experience of crime.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I believe that talking about how we're going to pay somebody who's obviously been victimized is something that is probably important. But more importantly is, how are we going to stop it? And what's this government doing to make sure that we have fewer victims of crime in this province?

The older people that we have in this province especially, even

in rural areas like mine, say — you know what? — I never used to lock the door before when I went to bed at night, and now I do. People aren't feeling safe whether they live in rural areas or in urban areas. And I think many of us have seen and heard about cases where people have a right to be scared. The number of people that have had dealings with people who either abused them bodily or their property is increasing. And in a province where we're trying to be . . . where we need reasons to have pride, where we need reasons to be proud of our province, and something to brag about, this isn't one of them.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Bill that we're talking about has made seven changes to the Act, and none of them have . . . there's nothing that's a problem with any of these, although the affected groups that are looking at the Bill for us haven't all gotten back to us. But the question is, when are we going to deal with the big issue? When are we going to see a Bill in this legislature that tells us what this government has for vision of this province? There's nothing in any of these Bills that I've seen to date, or that any of us has seen to date, that's making a difference.

So in the meantime, Mr. Deputy Speaker, since the government has all of a sudden decided they have a vision — since they're hollering from their seats — but we obviously haven't seen it, haven't seen it in any of the legislation that they put forward, perhaps then we will see it in the budget. And then in the meantime, I will just, I move to adjourn debate till we get word back from the affected groups.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Prebble):** — The hon. member for Kelvington-Wadena has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 32. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Prebble):** — That is carried.

### Bill No. 33

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Nilson that **Bill No. 33 — The Wildlife Habitat Protection Amendment Act, 2006** be now read a second time.]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Prebble):** — I recognize the hon. member for Shellbrook-Rosthern.

**Mr. Allchurch:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'm pleased today to stand and make a few comments on Bill 33, The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act. And the reason I'm happy to speak to this Bill is for one simple reason, that the First Nations that's involved with regarding this Bill is Mistawasis, and Mistawasis is in my constituency.

In fact, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Mistawasis First Nations is about 40, 45 miles just south and east of my hometown of Spiritwood. And for many years, I've had the privilege and opportunity to play a lot of sports with people from Mistawasis First Nation along with hockey, ball, and whatever you have. And I've had a lot of friends from that First Nations that I've grown accustomed to talking to and chatting to.

I was also very interested this year that I was invited to the Mistawasis First Nation powwow and that happened in July. And I think everybody should have the opportunity to attending a powwow in whatever area it is in Saskatchewan. And the Mistawasis First Nation put on an excellent powwow, and I was glad to be there as their representative, as their MLA, and also to chat with the people from Mistawasis First Nation.

A couple that come to mind that I got the privilege of talking to was Art and Phillip Ledoux. And Art Ledoux was a chief from the Mistawasis First Nation and did a lot for that community. So I talked to him about a lot of things regarding problems on the reserve, problems with First Nations people, and I offered my assistance to help in any which way I could.

I also had the opportunity when talking to Art to mention about the Bill, Bill 33, The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act from last year, because this Bill was introduced last year or a Bill similar to it regarding an enormous amount of land that was being taken out of Crown land at the time and would be turned in through TLE [treaty land entitlement] to that First Nations. And in talking to Mr. Ledoux, Mr. Ledoux said that this land would be welcome to the First Nations; it would help them in many ways. And I agree with it.

[16:45]

The problem I have with the Bill back then and the problem I have with this Bill now is the fact that in regards to this land being turned over to TLE — which we don't have a problem with — is some of that land is under The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act.

And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in regards to The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act, I remember when that came about because I was the president of the Witchekan Wildlife Federation out of Spiritwood at the time. And when this habitat wildlife land was put under protection, there was millions and millions of acres.

At that time, there was biologists, there was environmentalists, there was a member from government that sat down and looked at . . . in the province of Saskatchewan we need some protected land for environment and also for wildlife habitat. And many people, most people in the province of Saskatchewan at the time agreed with this issue that there should be land set aside. Well it so happens, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that over the time from then till now, a lot of this land is being taken out of the critical habitat protection land and utilized to satisfy TLE agreements.

When you look at the land that is the most environmentally . . . land in the province that need protection, why is it being utilized, to be given out? And that is the question I have for the government — why they're doing it, and why does it keep on going. I know there's an issue down in the southwest part of the province where there's land — Crown land — that was going to be taken out for satisfying TLE agreements. And I remember the minister at that time, the member from Yorkton, put a moratorium on that land. Well for whatever reason he did, but he did.

We also have the same issue in regards to wildlife federation or The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act — the land that's regarding that. Why shouldn't there be a moratorium on that type of land?

Sure the government will say, well they're replacing that land with other lands. That's all well and good, but the thing of it is the land that they are utilizing now to satisfy and put back into habitat wildlife land is not the same quality of land. It is not. And therefore you're taking the best land out to be utilized and you're replacing it with second-grade land, as far as habitat and wildlife. And I ask the question, why are they doing it?

In regards to this Bill, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I believe that this Bill changes just a portion of land to go back into the Mistawasis First Nation allotment, and I think it was just an error made last year in regards to the land that was put in, which shouldn't have been, and therefore they've got to juggle these land locations to bring it back to what it should be. But in regards to the Minister of Environment now in his report on The Habitat Protection Land Amendment Act, 2006 he says, and he quotes:

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 . . . [and First Nations] reserve status.

And I agree with that. Mistawasis First Nations met all the conditions related to the sale of these Crown lands. And if the amendment is approved, Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan Ag and Food will sell these Crown lands at fair market value. Well, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the land in question cannot be sold unless this Bill takes place, and it will be sold under specific land claim. It says it will be sold for fair market value. My question to the government: why cannot this land be sold to anybody? Shouldn't anybody in the province have the opportunity to buy this land if it's fair market value? I believe there's many other people that would like to take and purchase critical habitat wildlife land, but some are not allowed to do that, even if they want to pay fair market value. And I ask the question, why not?

This land here, and I believe it's something like 700 acres that's going to be changed in regards to this Bill, and it'll go to the Mistawasis First Nation under the treaty land entitlement process. The minister also stated in his report on regarding the Act that:

These lands are currently designated as protected under The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act . . . the Act does not allow for removal by regulation on Crown land from The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act schedule for the purpose of specific [land] claims.

So right there, Mr. Speaker, the member's saying that has to have a Bill in order for the land to come out and be sold under specific land claims.

I remember last year, Mr. Deputy Speaker, when I was talking about this Act that was there last year, that some of the problems were that many people around the area also wanted a chance at some of that Crown land to purchase for farm land, ranchland, or whatever. And that land was sitting as Crown land.

Now it comes back to my previous comment as why can't anybody have the opportunity to purchase land even if it's at a fair market value? Well many of the farmers and ranchers in

that area didn't have that opportunity. They were not allowed to take possession of that land. This land was just Crown land, and it wasn't under the protection of the critical habitat wildlife land. But at the same token, a lot of that land's bordering the amount of land going to the Mistawasis First Nation would have been also land that a lot of the farmers and ranchers could have operated and done a very good job at looking after that land.

I also want to make remarks to the previous minister of Environment at the time that when this Act came to be, there was only something like two weeks left in the session. And the minister at that time wanted the Bill pushed through in a very timely fashion. In other words, just a couple of speakers and that was it. Well part of the job of the opposition is to find out what's in the Bill, to discuss it with the local stakeholders in regards to it, and then present their case. And that's what I did, and of course many of my colleagues in the legislature did the same thing.

And I remember talking to the member from Mistawasis as saying that well, excuse me, the reason that this Bill is being held up is because of me. And I remember the minister earmarking that there is problems with the opposition allowing this to go through. That wasn't the case, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

The problem with this Bill was the fact that it did not come in a timely fashion, and we needed time to find out the details of it, so we held it up. We knew that after it was all said and done, it would pass, but we wanted to find out the details. And I explained that to the members from the Mistawasis First Nation when I went out there to the powwow that the job of the opposition is to find out the details. And they agreed with me. They understood it.

And I think in regards to this Bill, that it's just an amended Bill to change some land over, that there won't be a problem with it. But in all regards to the Bill that was happened last year, I just would like to say that to change that land over is all well and good. But when it comes down to critical habitat wildlife land — I know many members from the wildlife federation would agree with me — that there comes a time when you have to say no; why isn't it the same for everybody else? And that's the same with all critical habitat wildlife land that's in our province — that you can take the land out and replace it, but you're not replacing that land with the same quality of what it should be, and that's why it was put into critical habitat wildlife land in the first place.

And therefore, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in regards to this Bill here, I would like to adjourn debate.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Prebble):** — It has been moved by the hon. member for Rosthern-Shellbrook that debate be adjourned on Bill No. 33. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Prebble):** — That is carried. I recognize the Government House Leader.

**Hon. Mr. Hagel:** — Mr. Deputy Speaker, I move this House do now adjourn.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Prebble):** — It's been moved by the Government House Leader that this Assembly do now adjourn. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Prebble):** — That is carried. This House stands adjourned until 1:30 p.m. tomorrow.

[The Assembly adjourned at 16:55.]

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