



THIRD SESSION - TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

of the

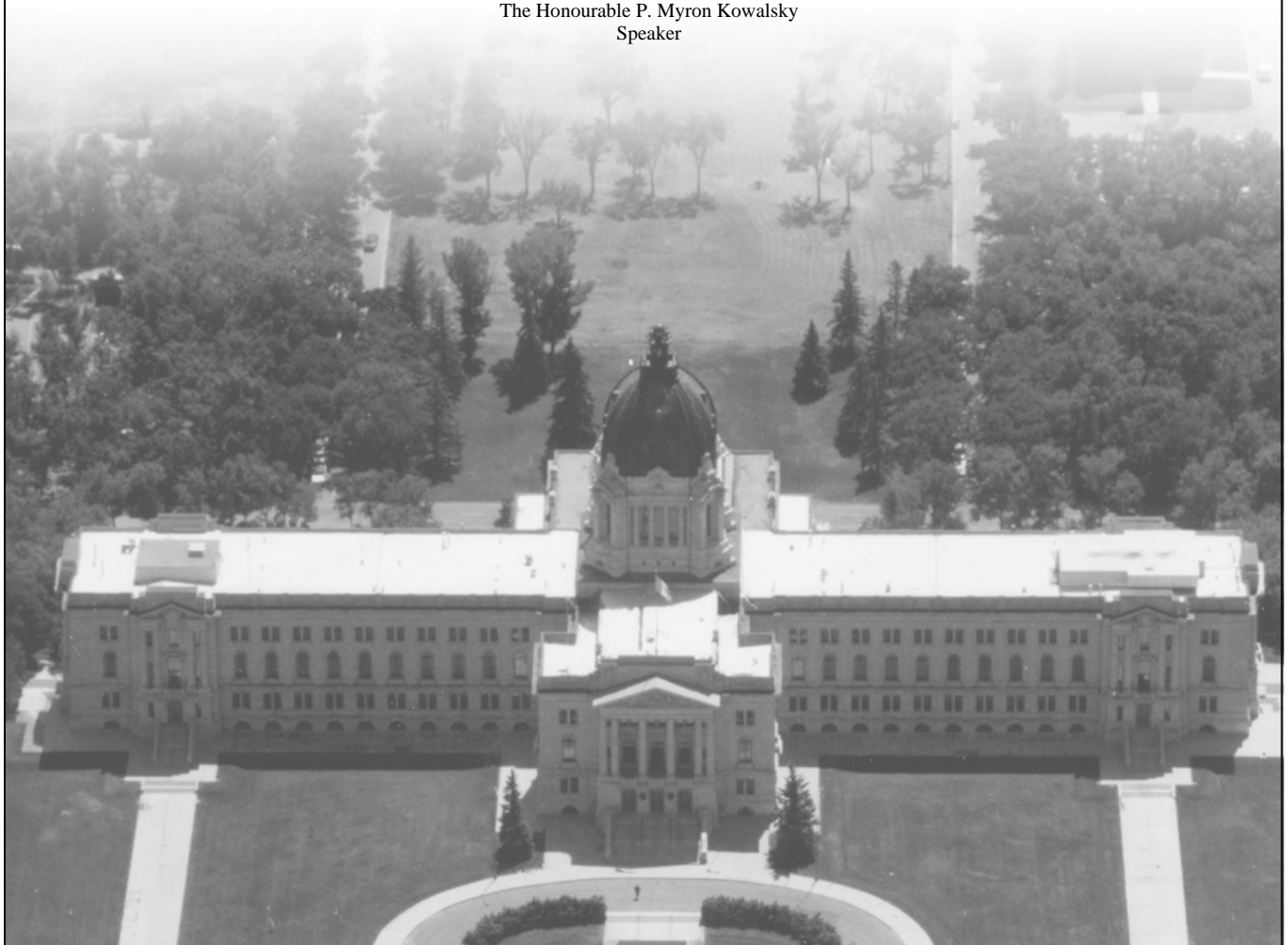
Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

(HANSARD)

Published under the
authority of

The Honourable P. Myron Kowalsky
Speaker



MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN

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

Name of Member	Political Affiliation	Constituency
Addley, Hon. Graham	NDP	Saskatoon Sutherland
Allchurch, Denis	SP	Rosthern-Shellbrook
Atkinson, Hon. Pat	NDP	Saskatoon Nutana
Beatty, Hon. Joan	NDP	Cumberland
Belanger, Hon. Buckley	NDP	Athabasca
Bjornrud, Bob	SP	Melville-Saltcoats
Borgerson, Lon	NDP	Saskatchewan Rivers
Brkich, Greg	SP	Arm River-Watrous
Calvert, Hon. Lorne	NDP	Saskatoon Riversdale
Cheveldayoff, Ken	SP	Saskatoon Silver Springs
Chisholm, Michael	SP	Cut Knife-Turtleford
Cline, Hon. Eric	NDP	Saskatoon Massey Place
Crofford, Joanne	NDP	Regina Rosemont
D'Autremont, Dan	SP	Cannington
Dearborn, Jason	SP	Kindersley
Draude, June	SP	Kelvington-Wadena
Duncan, Dustin	SP	Weyburn-Big Muddy
Eagles, Doreen	SP	Estevan
Elhard, Wayne	SP	Cypress Hills
Forbes, Hon. David	NDP	Saskatoon Centre
Gantfoer, 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, Nancy	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, Hon. 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, Kevin	NDP	Regina Dewdney

[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

**PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING
AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

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

Standing Committee on the Economy

Mr. Yates: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm instructed by the committee to report Bill No. 50 without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall Bill 50 be heard in Committee of the Whole? The Chair recognizes the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Mr. Thomson: — Mr. Speaker, I would waive . . . You know, I'm going to get this right eventually, Mr. Speaker. I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this Bill.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Finance has requested leave to waive Committee of the Whole for Bill 50. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave has been granted. When shall the Bill be read a third time? The Chair recognizes the Minister of Finance.

THIRD READINGS

**Bill No. 50 — The Municipal Employees' Pension
Amendment Act, 2007**

Hon. Mr. Thomson: — Okay. I would move that this Bill be now read a third time and passed under its title.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Finance that Bill 50 be now read a third time and passed under its title. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — Third reading of this Bill.

**PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING
AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

The Speaker: — The Chair of the Economy Committee is recognized.

Standing Committee on the Economy

Mr. Yates: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the committee to report Bill No. 51, The Public Employees Pension Plan Amendment Act, 2007 without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall Bill 51 be considered in Committee of the Whole? The Chair recognizes the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Mr. Thomson: — Mr. Speaker, I would request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this Bill.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Finance has requested leave to waive consideration of Bill 51 in Committee of the Whole. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave has been granted. When shall this Bill be read a third time? The Chair recognizes the minister.

THIRD READINGS

**Bill No. 51 — The Public Employees Pension Plan
Amendment Act, 2007**

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Finance that Bill 51 be now read a third time and passed under its title. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — Third reading of this Bill.

**PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING
AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

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

Standing Committee on the Economy

Mr. Yates: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I am instructed by the committee to report Bill No. 60, The Revenue and Financial Services Amendment Act, 2007 without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall Bill 60 be considered in Committee of the Whole? The Chair recognizes the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Mr. Thomson: — Mr. Speaker, I would request leave to waive consideration in the Committee of the Whole on this Bill.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Finance has requested leave to waive consideration of Bill 60 to Committee of the Whole. Is

leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave has been granted. When shall Bill 60 be read a third time? The Chair recognizes the Minister of Finance.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 60 — The Revenue and Financial Services Amendment Act, 2007

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Finance that Bill 60 be now read a third time and passed under its title. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — Third reading of this Bill.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

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

Standing Committee on the Economy

Mr. Yates: — Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the committee to report Bill No. 65, The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2007 without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall Bill 65 be heard in Committee of the Whole? The Chair recognizes the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Mr. Thomson: — Mr. Speaker, I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this Bill.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Finance has requested leave to waive consideration of Bill 65 in the Committee of the Whole. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave has been granted. When shall Bill 65 be read a third time? The Chair recognizes the minister.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 65 — The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2007

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Finance that Bill No. 65 be now read a third time and passed under its

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — Third reading of this Bill.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

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

Standing Committee on the Economy

Mr. Yates: — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the committee to report Bill No. 38, The Wildlife Habitat Protection Amendment Act, 2006 without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall Bill No. 38 be considered in Committee of the Whole? The Chair recognizes the Minister of the Environment.

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this Bill.

The Speaker: — The Minister of the Environment has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bill 38. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave has been granted. When shall Bill 38 be read a third time? The Chair recognizes the minister.

THIRD READINGS

Bill 38 — The Wildlife Habitat Protection Amendment Act, 2006 (No. 2)

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of the Environment that Bill No. 38 be now read a third time and passed under its title. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — Third reading of this Bill.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — The Chair of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure is recognized.

Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure

Mr. Harper: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I've been instructed by the committee to report Bill No. 17 with amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall Bill 17 be considered in Committee of the Whole? The Chair recognizes the Minister for Government Relations.

Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen: — Mr. Speaker, I request leave to waive consideration on this Bill in the Committee of the Whole.

The Speaker: — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration of Bill 17 in Committee of the Whole. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave has been granted. When shall these amendments be read a first time? The Chair recognizes the minister.

FIRST AND SECOND READINGS OF AMENDMENTS**Bill No. 17 — The Miscellaneous Statutes (Municipal Collection of Other Taxes) Amendment Act, 2006**

Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen: — I move, Mr. Speaker, that the amendments be now read a first and second time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Government Relations that the amendments should now be read a first and second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — First and second reading of the amendments.

The Speaker: — When shall this Bill be read a third time? The Chair recognizes the minister.

THIRD READINGS**Bill No. 17 — The Miscellaneous Statutes (Municipal Collection of Other Taxes) Amendment Act, 2006**

Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen: — Mr. Speaker, by leave I move that this Bill be now read a third time and passed under its title.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Government Relations that Bill No. 17 be now read a third time and passed under its title. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt that motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — Third reading of this Bill.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — The Chair of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure is recognized.

Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure

Mr. Harper: — Mr. Speaker, I've been instructed by the committee to report Bill No. 28 with amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall Bill 28 be considered in Committee of the Whole? The Chair recognizes the minister.

Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen: — Mr. Speaker, I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this Bill.

The Speaker: — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole for Bill 28. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave has been granted. When shall these amendments be read a first time? The Chair recognizes the minister.

FIRST AND SECOND READINGS OF AMENDMENTS**Bill No. 28 — The Cities Amendment Act, 2006 (No. 2)**

Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen: — Mr. Speaker, I move the amendments be now read a first and second time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Government Relations that the amendments be now read a first and second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — First and second reading of the amendments.

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

THIRD READINGS**Bill No. 28 — The Cities Amendment Act, 2006 (No. 2)**

Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen: — Mr. Speaker, by leave I move this Bill be now read a third time and passed under its title.

The Speaker: — By leave the minister has moved that Bill No. 28 be now read a third time and passed under its title. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — Third reading of this Bill.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — The Chair on the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure is recognized.

Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure

Mr. Harper: — Mr. Speaker, I've been instructed by the committee to report Bill No. 56 without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall Bill 56 be considered in Committee of the Whole? The Chair recognizes the Minister for Government Relations.

Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen: — Mr. Speaker, with leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this Bill.

The Speaker: — The minister has requested waiving consideration in Committee of the Whole for Bill 56. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave has been granted. When shall this Bill be read a third time? The Chair recognizes the minister.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 56 — The Municipalities Amendment Act, 2007

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

The Speaker: — It's been moved by the Minister of Government Relations that Bill 56 be now read a third time and passed under its title. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt that motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The motion is carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — Third reading of this Bill.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — The Chair of the Standing Committee of Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure is recognized.

Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure

Mr. Harper: — Mr. Speaker, I've been instructed by the committee to report Bill No. 57 without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall Bill 57 be considered in Committee of the Whole? The Chair recognizes the minister.

Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen: — Mr. Speaker, I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this Bill.

The Speaker: — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole for Bill 57. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave has been granted. When shall this Bill be read a third time? The Chair recognizes the minister.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 57 — The Assessment Management Agency Amendment Act, 2007

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Government Relations that Bill No. 57 be now read a third time and passed under its title. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The motion is carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — Third reading of this Bill.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — The Chair of the Standing Committee on Infrastructure and Intergovernmental Affairs is recognized.

Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure

Mr. Harper: — Mr. Speaker, I've been instructed by the committee to report Bill No. 58 without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall Bill 58 be considered in Committee of the Whole? The Minister of Government Relations.

Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen: — Mr. Speaker, I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this Bill.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Government Relations has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bill 58. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave has been granted. When shall the Bill be read a third time? The Chair recognizes the minister.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 58 — The Municipal Revenue Sharing Amendment Act, 2007

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

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The motion is carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — Third reading of this Bill.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — The Chair of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure is recognized.

Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure

Mr. Harper: — Mr. Speaker, I've been instructed by the committee to report Bill No. 9 with amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall Bill No. 9 be considered in Committee of the Whole? The Chair recognizes the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Mr. Speaker, I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this Bill.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Justice has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole for Bill No. 9. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave is granted. When shall this amendment be read a first time? The Chair recognizes the Minister of Justice.

FIRST AND SECOND READINGS OF AMENDMENTS

Bill No. 9 — The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code Amendment Act, 2006

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Mr. Speaker, I move that the amendments be now read a first and second time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that the amendments be now read a first and second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The motion is carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — First and second reading of the amendments.

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

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 9 — The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code Amendment Act, 2006

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

The Speaker: — By leave, the minister has moved that Bill No. 9 be now read a third time and passed under its title. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The motion is carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — Third reading of this Bill.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — The Chair of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure is recognized.

Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure

Mr. Harper: — Mr. Speaker, I've been instructed by the committee to report Bill No. 10 without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall Bill 10 be considered in Committee of the Whole? The Chair recognizes the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this Bill.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Justice has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole for Bill 10. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave has been granted. When shall the Bill be read a third time? The Chair recognizes the minister.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 10 — The Limitations Amendment Act, 2006

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 10 be now read a third time and passed under its title. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The motion is carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — Third reading of this Bill.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — The Chair of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure is recognized.

Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure

Mr. Harper: — Mr. Speaker, I've been instructed by the committee to report Bill No. 19 without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall Bill No. 19 be considered in Committee of the Whole? The Chair recognizes the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this Bill.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Justice has requested leave to waive consideration of Committee of the Whole of Bill 19. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave has been granted. When shall Bill 19 be read a third time? The Chair recognizes the minister.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 19 — The Securities Amendment Act, 2006 (No. 2)

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 19 be now read a third time and passed under its title. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The motion is carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — Third reading of this Bill.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — The Chair of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure is recognized.

Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure

Mr. Harper: — Mr. Speaker, I've been instructed by the committee to report Bill No. 21 with amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall Bill 21 be considered in Committee of the Whole? The Chair recognizes the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this Bill.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Justice has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole for Bill 21. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave has been granted. When shall the amendment be read a first time? The Chair recognizes the minister.

FIRST AND SECOND READINGS OF AMENDMENTS

Bill No. 21 — The Evidence Amendment Act, 2006/ Loi de 2006 modifiant la Loi sur la preuve

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that the amendments be now read a first and second time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that the amendments be now read a first and second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The motion is carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — First and second reading of the amendments.

The Speaker: — When shall this Bill be read a third time? The Chair recognizes the minister.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 21 — The Evidence Amendment Act, 2006/ Loi de 2006 modifiant la Loi sur la preuve

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. By leave, I move that this Bill be now read a third time and passed under its title.

The Speaker: — The minister has requested leave to conduct third reading now. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave has been granted. It has been moved that Bill 21 be now read a third time and passed under its title. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The motion is carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — Third reading of this Bill.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — The Chair of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure is recognized.

[13:45]

Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure

Mr. Harper: — Mr. Speaker, I've been instructed by the committee to report Bill No. 23 without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall Bill 23 be considered in Committee of the Whole? The Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Mr. Speaker, I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this Bill.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Justice has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole for Bill 23. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave has been granted. When shall Bill 23 be read a third time? The Chair recognizes the minister.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 23 — The Securities Transfer Act

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill 23 be now read a third time and passed under its title. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — Third reading of this Bill.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — The Chair of the Standing Committee on Infrastructure and Intergovernmental Affairs is recognized.

Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure

Mr. Harper: — Mr. Speaker, I've been instructed by the committee to report Bill No. 44 without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall Bill 44 be considered in Committee of the Whole? The Chair recognizes the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this Bill.

The Speaker: — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole for this Bill No. 44. Is leave granted?

Some Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave has been granted. When shall Bill 44 be read a third time? Minister of Justice.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 44 — The Class Actions Amendment Act, 2007/ Loi de 2007 modifiant la Loi sur les recours collectifs

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill 44 be now read a third time and passed under its title. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — Third reading of this Bill.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — The Chair of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure is recognized.

Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure

Mr. Harper: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I've been instructed by the committee to report Bill No. 47 without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall Bill 47 be considered in Committee of the Whole? The Chair recognizes the minister.

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Mr. Speaker, I request leave to waive consideration in the Committee of the Whole on this Bill.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Justice has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole for Bill 47. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave has been granted. When shall Bill 47 be read a third time? The Chair recognizes the minister.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 47 — The Fatal Accidents Amendment Act, 2007

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 47 be now read a third time and passed under its title. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — Third reading of this Bill.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — The Chair of the Standing Committee on Infrastructure and Intergovernmental Affairs is recognized.

Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure

Mr. Harper: — Finally, Mr. Speaker, I've been instructed by the committee to report Bill No. 49 without amendment.

The Speaker: — And when shall Bill 49 be considered in Committee of the Whole? The Chair recognizes the minister.

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this Bill.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Justice has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole for Bill 49. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave has been granted. When shall Bill 49 be read a third time? The Chair recognizes the minister.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 49 — The Mortgage Brokerages and Mortgage Administrators Act

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill 49 be now read a third time and passed under its title. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — Third reading of this Bill.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS AND QUESTIONS

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

Mr. Elhard: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that I shall on day no. 64 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister of Finance: why did SaskPen Properties Ltd. deny the Provincial Auditor access to its financial records for auditing purposes in 2006?

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Saskatoon Massey Place, the Minister for Industry and Resources.

Hon. Mr. Cline: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm very happy today to be able to rise in the Assembly and introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly a group of 55 grade 5 students who are seated in the west gallery. And after listening to all those Bills, I'm sure they're looking forward to touring the building and doing some other activities here in Regina today. And these students, Mr. Speaker, are accompanied by teachers Linda Kindrachuk, Larry Deacon, and Lorraine Theisson and also chaperones Kevin Arno, Barry Crockett, Kevin Lucas, Tina Dorn, and Audry Heintz.

And I want to say while I'm on my feet, Mr. Speaker, that Dundonald School — which is the school actually that you visited with your Speaker's tour along with me — is, as you know, one of the nicest schools in Saskatoon. And in fact several years ago it was expanded, and it's considered to be one of the best schools in Saskatoon too and a school of choice for people that live in the Dundonald area. And I'm very proud to represent Dundonald in the legislature.

So we're going to be meeting this afternoon, Mr. Speaker. We'll be having drinks and Dixie cups here, and we'll be talking about the Legislative Assembly. And the students will ask me questions, and I'll be giving some answers.

So I want to ask all members, Mr. Speaker, to join with me and welcome these students, the teachers, and chaperones from Dundonald School in Saskatoon. Thank you.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Meadow Lake.

Hon. Mr. Sonntag: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm very happy to be able to introduce to you a special guest of mine, to you and to all members of the Assembly, Bob Foster, seated in the Speaker's gallery. Bob started teaching in 1954. Taught in Minton, Saskatchewan, actually just out of Regina

here. And then taught in a number of communities including Vanguard, when he left Vanguard in 1974. And he actually tells me the last time he was in this Legislative Assembly was just over 30 years ago when he was a teacher in Vanguard, brought students to this Assembly.

He moved to Meadow Lake in 1975 and taught there till 1988. And I know that the member from Saskatoon Centre who actually used to be a teacher in Makwa, Saskatchewan, will remember Bob very well as well.

Everyone in Meadow Lake and surrounding community has either been taught by Bob or knows Bob fairly well. He tells me he's still the most eligible bachelor in Meadow Lake. And he's been a long-time student and adviser of politics and has often stopped by my office to offer words of wisdom.

So I'm absolutely thrilled to be able to introduce Bob to the Assembly today and welcome him to the legislature again after 30-some years. Thanks very much.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Saskatoon Centre, the Minister of Labour.

Hon. Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce to you and through you, two members of my staff right if I could now. Krista Trettwer, my summer student, as well as Sarah Connor, my new ministerial assistant.

And as well just take a moment to also join my colleagues here to welcome Bob Foster from my days in Meadow Lake and also Larry Deacon, the teacher from Dundonald, who I taught with up in Saskatoon. So it's a pretty special day for old teaching alumni. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Crofford: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. In your gallery I think I noticed slip in my legislative intern for the next couple of months, Justine Gilbert. And she is working on the music industry review to determine how a Legislative Secretary works with the department and with the community to develop government policy. So it's very excellent. And we're having a good time even though she's working too hard to visit much. And I want to thank her for her work and for the legislative intern program. Thank you.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Saskatchewan Rivers.

Mr. Borgerson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I see that we are joined by two of my constituents from White Fox. It's a real pleasure to have constituents come such a long distance. They are Kent Peterson and Mary Lou Peterson — if they will just give a wave — in the Speaker's gallery. They come all the way

down from White Fox.

Now I haven't had a chance to speak with them yet, Mr. Speaker, but I suspect they're here something to do with Kent's decision to attend the University of Regina next fall. I'll indicate, Mr. Speaker, that Kent is graduating from L.P. Miller Comprehensive School in Nipawin at the end of June. He has a great interest in politics. I definitely see the day when Kent will join us here in the legislature, and I'm looking forward to that day. I'd like to invite all members to welcome Kent and Mary Lou Peterson to the Assembly.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Members of the Assembly, it's my pleasure today to introduce two visitors from far, far away — Auckland in beautiful New Zealand. They are Karla and Tim Rix-Trott. They are friends of our Hansard indexer, Vivien Cartmell who's seated with them in the Speaker's gallery.

Vivien and Karla met when they were both at the University of Dunedin, New Zealand. Karla is a medical doctor with expertise in the field of substance abuse, and she is taking a holiday from her demanding work. Tim, a retired civil engineer, is taking a holiday from the many hours of assistance that he gives to his extended family. Please join me in welcoming Karla and Tim to the legislature today, and we wish you a very, very pleasant visit to Canada and Saskatchewan.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Youth Business Excellence Awards

Ms. Draude: — This weekend I had the pleasure of attending the sixth annual Youth Business Excellence Awards in Tisdale sponsored by Newsask Community Futures Development Corporation. This program encourages entrepreneurship in youth by having young people develop comprehensive business plans for starting a business. It doesn't focus on the amount of money made but rather on the skills gained from the experience with the hope that the participants will start a business themselves one day.

While it's impossible to name everyone who participated, here are a few of the category winners. Mandy Thorson of Porcupine Plain won the business venture category with Thorson's Luxury Limo. Steven Dmytriw and Justin Dahroug won the business venture category submitted by the group for Muff. Keaton Schmitt of Melfort won the business plan category for grades 6 to 9 for the Pet Person, In-Home Pet Care. Leejay Schmidt of Melfort won the business plan category for grades 10 to 12 for Doctor Computer.

Andrew Droneck and Blaise Wilson won the business plan category for grades 10 to 12 with Quality Moving. Randelle Logan and Alana Kewley of Porcupine Plain won the Business Info Source Award for Love Smart. Riley Scarf and Troy Hagen won the Special Achievement Award for Ace Air Soft

and Paintball Emporium. Douglas Rupps and Kreg Smith of Porcupine won the Mike Butler Memorial Award for D.K.'s Custom Auto Body and Small Engine Repair. And Carla Schmitt of Arborfield won the Agricultural Business Award for Carla's Custom Cattle Clipping.

I'd be amiss not to mention the teacher, Anthony Lau, from Porcupine Plain who is like an expectant parent, waited nervously to hear how his students made out.

Our youth are our future entrepreneurs, and if the quality of the business plans is any indication, Saskatchewan will be in great hands in the future.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Saskatchewan Youth Award Recipients

Ms. Morin: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, May 6 to May 12, 2007 is International Youth Week, a time to celebrate the energies, talents, and ideas of young people. Here in Saskatchewan we have an abundance of dedicated and aspiring young people who are deeply involved in shaping their communities' and their province's future.

Today we honour five of them. I'm pleased today to read into the public record the names of the first-ever recipients of the Saskatchewan Youth Award — five young people whose contributions and achievements have helped to make Saskatchewan a better place. They are Kaytlyn Barber of Regina Beach, BJ Bodnar of Saskatoon, Valerie Butt of Mantario, Lisa Dollansky of Biggar, and Cory Harrower of Regina.

Mr. Speaker, I know that you and all members present will join me in recognizing these extraordinary young people and paying tribute to the quality of youth with which we are blessed in the province of Saskatchewan. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Launch of the *Martensville Messenger*

Ms. Heppner: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a pleasure to announce to the Assembly today that the town of Martensville will soon be home to a brand new local newspaper. Martensville now has a population of more than 5,200 and is one of the fastest growing communities in the Saskatoon area. The town is clearly ready for a community newspaper.

Christine Lyon, a local resident, business owner, and now publisher, saw the need for a local paper, and the new *Martensville Messenger* will be launched on May 26. Lyon noted in a press release from last week, and I quote, "The *Martensville Messenger* will be a strong community newspaper, based on the support of this busy town and a testament to the positive growth and future of many small communities around

Saskatoon."

The *Martensville Messenger* will be similar to other rural community newspapers. It will include news, editorial, advertising, and classifieds. Initial distribution is set for 2,400 copies, and the paper will begin publishing monthly with the possibility of expanding to a bimonthly publication schedule later this year. Mr. Speaker, a website for the *Martensville Messenger* is also being developed and will give local residents the opportunity to get information online as well as to submit photos, materials for stories, advertising, and classifieds.

I would ask all members of this Assembly to congratulate Christine Lyon and her team of the *Martensville Messenger* on the launch of this new community newspaper. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

[14:00]

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

Jonas Lariviere Celebrates 100th Birthday

Hon. Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. This past weekend I had the pleasure of bringing greetings on behalf of our Premier and on behalf of the province of Saskatchewan to the 100th birthday celebration of a very special constituent of mine, FSIN [Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations] Senator Jonas Lariviere of Canoe Lake.

Mr. Speaker, over 4 to 500 people were there to help celebrate Senator Lariviere's birthday with a Mass, an afternoon celebration, supper, and entertainment in the evening.

Mr. Speaker, the senator was born in Pinehouse Lake on May 1, 1907. One of 14 children, his parents followed a very traditional way of life of hunting, of fishing, of trapping, and of course, living off the land. The family eventually settled at Canoe Narrows but Senator Lariviere continued to follow the traditional path his parents taught him throughout his life.

Mr. Speaker, the senator is the oldest resident of the community of Canoe Lake, but his many distinctions go far beyond that.

The senator's knowledge of the Cree cultures, traditions, and language, and his political activities has meant that he has served as a role model for many. He was one of five founding members of the FSIN and has been a senator for many, many years. Last year a new health care facility in Canoe Lake was named in his honour.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members of the Assembly to join with me in offering Senator Lariviere congratulations on his 100th birthday, and for his many, many achievements on behalf of the province and his community. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Weyburn-Big Muddy.

McHappy Day 15th Anniversary

Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today is being marked across Canada as McHappy Day. McDonald's Restaurants of Canada and their franchisees are celebrating the 15th McHappy Day.

They are doing so by inviting their employees, customers, and special guests to work together for one day to raise money for children's charities across Canada, and Ronald McDonald houses. One dollar from the sale of every McMuffin, Big Mac, and a Happy Meal will go towards charity.

Since 1997, McHappy Days has raised over \$22 million for Ronald McDonald houses across Canada. The 12 Canadian Ronald McDonald houses play a vital role in communities across this country, providing a home away from home for the family of sick children.

Mr. Speaker, this morning I had the pleasure of working alongside the owner and operator of the Weyburn McDonald's, Dave Morfitt, and his staff and several other invited guests for the 7:30 shift this morning.

I offer my congratulations to Dave and his staff in Weyburn, and all the McDonald's franchisees who so generously give back to their communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Definition of Truth

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Mr. Speaker, while we have heard a lot of odd definitions from the Leader of the Sask Party over the years — his strange definition of gutter politics and his weird definition of ethical conduct, for example — however, his definition of the truth may be the strangest of all, Mr. Speaker.

We all know that the Sask Party has been sitting on illegally obtained documents, but for how long? The member from Canora-Pelly said last week that the Sask Party had only these documents for a few weeks. Oops. It turns out the Leader of the Opposition had to issue a correction. The Sask Party has actually had these illegally obtained documents for over a year.

But when asked about this discrepancy between the truth and the member from Canora-Pelly's statements, what did the Leader of the Sask Party have to say, quote, "Well there's the confusion because Ken answered a question truthfully."

What a fascinating definition of the word truth, Mr. Speaker. Apparently the fact that the statement made by the member from Canora-Pelly was completely false has no bearing on the truth. Mr. Speaker, according to the Sask Party, the truth is just whatever statement they made last.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Payouts

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday *Leader-Post* columnist Bob Hughes came up with an apropos moniker for the Premier of this province when he referred to the Premier as, quote, "Cheque Book Lorne." And from the events we've seen so far this session, I'd say he hit the nail right on the head.

Mr. Speaker, first there was the Murdoch Carriere scandal that saw the NDP [New Democratic Party] government pay a ridiculously handsome payout to the man at the centre of the scandal — the Murdoch Carriere golden handshake. Let me remind you, Mr. Speaker, that Murdoch Carriere is a former senior government bureaucrat that was fired for harassment and convicted of assault. He not only got a sizable payoff of \$275,000 but he also received a very generous top-up of his government pension.

Then we have the secretive situation surrounding former NDP caucus chief Jim Fodey, who tendered his resignation a few weeks ago. According to the rules of the Legislative Assembly, severance is not to be paid to caucus staff members who resign. Clearly the NDP have no respect for such rules, and as a result are handing out yet another Murdoch Carriere golden handshake — or is it hush money? — for one of their own that could cost the taxpayer \$100,000 or more.

As Bob Hughes put it, paraphrasing from Gomery who investigated the Liberal Ad Scam scandal, quote:

... Cheque Book Lorne is ready to cut him a cheque for resigning. Nice work, if you can find it. Screw up, resign, and get paid for it.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

ORAL QUESTIONS

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

Criminal Sentences

Mr. Wall: — Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in November of last year, police searched the home of Donald and Audrey Black in Moose Jaw. They found two computers, videos, CD-ROMs and still photographs. The material recorded an unspeakable evil series of sexual abuses against three little girls aged 5, 4, and 18 months. The judge in the case refused to read out the exact details. He had this to say: "They are so sickening that to read them would degrade me and be degrading to the listener to hear them."

Mr. Speaker, yesterday Audrey Black was sentenced for four years in prison on five separate charges. Mr. Speaker, I think Saskatchewan people today are upset with that particular sentence. I don't think they believe that's enough.

My question is to the Premier: does he believe that that sentence is long enough for this particular unspeakably evil crime? And

if he doesn't, Mr. Speaker, will he work with the federal government? Will he encourage them, Mr. Speaker, to pursue much stronger sentences for the country that would obviously benefit the people of the province as well?

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

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Mr. Speaker, I hope that the Leader of the Opposition is not calling on the government to politicize the courts and the prosecutions. I know they've done this in the past, and I think they've regretted it.

As to the question as to whether we work with the federal government to ensure that most dangerous offenders, the most violent offenders, the offenders who commit serious crimes receive appropriate sentences, yes we do, Mr. Speaker. And we work quite closely with the federal government in that respect, and we campaigned for that.

Saskatchewan has aggressively sought dangerous offender applications and been successful. I think if you compare us across the country, very aggressive and very successful in comparison with other jurisdictions, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, as representatives of the people of this province, I think they expect us to ask questions and the government to answer questions related to justice — the justice system, to the length of sentences and to the kinds of sentences that we have, that the judiciary has available to them here in the country and in the province.

Mr. Speaker, Audrey Black's husband was sentenced to eight years for seven counts. The mother of two of Black's victims said this in February of this year:

I still have all the images of what he did to my kids stuck in my mind and I haven't even seen the pictures or the videos. It's just stupid. He should have got more than eight years.

Mr. Speaker, I agree with that mother. I think the people of the province also agree with that mother. The sentence seemed to be wrong. It seemed to be stupid.

And so the question to the government, to the Premier is this: what is he doing now? What will he do in the future to lobby, to encourage the federal government to move on perhaps consecutive sentences, Mr. Speaker, or mandatory minimums? What's his position?

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

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan government has been very active in pursuing meaningful reform to dangerous offender legislation, meaningful reform to the processes of identifying high-risk offenders and making sure that jurisdictions are aware of the presence of high-risk offenders.

The Saskatchewan government has been very, very aggressive in pursuing criminal justice reform so that the most high risk, the most dangerous, the most serious offenders are identified, that the communities are aware of their existence — particularly the police communities are aware of their existence — and that when they go to court, the courts are aware of who they are dealing with and that they are dealt with appropriately.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the minister and the government on the work that they have done with respect to dangerous offenders. These are other issues that we're asking about today. We're asking about sentencing.

The Crown prosecutor in the case of Donald Black also expressed his dissatisfaction, Mr. Speaker. Rob Parker said the Crown sentence recommendation was based on previous court decisions. Here's what he had to say, quote, "I wasn't necessarily satisfied by the logic even that comes from our Court of Appeal." That's a very honest and courageous statement, I believe, by a Crown prosecutor who is frustrated with what's available right now currently to the justice system.

There are other options that we could be pursuing, that we could be lobbying the federal government on. I've written a letter to the minister of Justice — the then minister — in August '06 in the wake of the Whitmore abduction. We've written another letter today to the current Minister of Justice. There's some options to be pursued — consecutive sentences, mandatory minimums.

What's this government's plan on this count? What is it doing to lobby the federal government for stronger sentences to protect children in the province of Saskatchewan?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Mr. Speaker, I'm glad that we're recognizing the role of the Crown prosecutor here. Crown prosecutors in Saskatchewan have done a very good job. They're extraordinary public servants. They have done good work in appealing criminal sentences that should be appealed. They've had great success in the Court of Appeal in many cases.

And the Court of Appeal over a number of years, I think, has established that Saskatchewan is not a short-sentence jurisdiction. And I need to defend the judges in this province, Mr. Speaker. That's part of my job when they come under attack. Their independence has to be respected. I don't think it's helpful to refer to their decisions, if you weren't sitting in the court during the trial, as stupid. I don't think that's helpful. I don't think that should be done, Mr. Speaker.

The Government of Saskatchewan has campaigned for effective changes to dangerous offender legislation which I am quite willing to outline to the House, Mr. Speaker, if there's another

question.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, the judge in this case quite rightly had this to say, quote, “In reality, words are inadequate in confronting the enormity of the degradation inflicted on three tiny and helpless girls.” I remind the House, five years, four years old, and 18 months. The quote goes on: “The terrible consequences upon their future psychological and sexual development are obvious and it demands denunciation in the strongest terms that the law allows.”

Mr. Speaker, I think the judge is absolutely right. And we are asking questions today about whether this minister agrees that sentences should be tougher for these kinds of crimes, whether or not the federal government should be encouraged to pursue consecutive sentences and mandatory minimums. Does the minister agree with that? And if he does, will he join with the party, with the letter that we’ve sent today, in encouraging the federal government to move in this direction?

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

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Mr. Speaker, the Government of Saskatchewan has been and is, I think, currently the leader in campaigning for more effective dangerous offender legislation, in particular: to clarify the onus and eligibility criteria for dangerous offenders in the Criminal Code and make the breach of a long-term offender order grounds for a dangerous offender application, to double the current 12-months limit for recognizance order for high-risk offenders, to provide more resources for the national flagging system so as to better alert prosecutors in the histories of high-risk offenders in other jurisdictions.

Prime Minister Harper promised to do the latter; he has yet to deliver on that. For some reason, the federal government has declined to move on any of those except to double the current 12-month limit for recognizance order for high-risk offenders. We continue to press the federal government for meaningful reform to dangerous offender legislation, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Rosthern-Shellbrook.

Prince Albert Pulp Mill

Mr. Allchurch: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today is a very sad day for the people of Prince Albert and the surrounding communities. This morning we heard, we learned that the P.A. [Prince Albert] pulp mill will not reopen. We could have guessed that in March that when the minister gave this project the kiss of death, announcing that the deal has been reached with Domtar. Mr. Speaker, what does the minister have to say to the hundreds of families in Prince Albert and area who depend on this mill?

[14:15]

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister Responsible for the Forestry Secretariat.

Hon. Mr. Lautermilch: — Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the member for the question. This morning in Prince Albert I did hold a press conference in which I outlined four points with respect to updating the people of Prince Albert, the people of Saskatchewan as to the process Domtar has been involved in.

I indicated firstly that we had worked with Domtar to put forward a comprehensive business plan that they saw fit not to move forward with. I indicated as well that discussions with Domtar are continuing, and I did indicate as well that the timelines would make the prospects for opening the Prince Albert pulp mill this fall very remote. I also indicated that we are proceeding with a process to seek expressions of interest for the use of wood supply should the Domtar facilities remain closed until April '08 and the wood becomes available for reallocation.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Rosthern-Shellbrook.

Mr. Allchurch: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, Mr. Speaker, obviously the 417,000 taxpayer dollars paid NDP buddy Tom Waller to save the mill hasn’t panned out. And this minister has failed to do what he said he would do. And, Mr. Speaker, we all know well the track record this minister has.

The NDP is now back to square one. What happens now with communities like Big River who supply wood chips to the P.A. mill? What happens to the many spinoff businesses that will be reeling from this closure?

Mr. Speaker, the minister talks about reopening the facility. What is the NDP’s plan B now that Domtar is out?

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister for the Forestry Secretariat.

Hon. Mr. Lautermilch: — Mr. Speaker, we’re not entering plan B. We’re still on plan A. And plan A is to work with the owners of these assets to establish a operational facility and that remains the plan. Mr. Speaker, this is not a process that has been completed.

I want to remind members opposite that there is in that forest management agreement a two-year dormancy clause that was negotiated many years ago when their leader was running around delivering free whisky to the guys who made that decision, Mr. Speaker.

I want to say that we’re still continuing to work with Domtar. We will be moving this forward. And, Mr. Speaker, if this is a horse race, it’s not over. We’ve got a ways to go. There are people who want those assets, and we’re going to ensure that we have these facilities up and operational as soon as we can.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Order please. Order please. I would ask all members to stay away from making remarks that have personal reflections upon other members of the Assembly. And I would ask the member, or the minister to withdraw a statement with respect to the Leader of the Opposition.

Hon. Mr. Lautermilch: — Mr. Speaker, I withdraw that statement.

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Rosthern-Shellbrook.

Mr. Allchurch: — Well, Mr. Speaker, the people of Saskatchewan know all too well about this minister with the \$35 million SPUDCO [Saskatchewan Potato Utility Development Company] deal. It wasn't long ago the minister was in Prince Albert bragging to a room full of people, there was a deal. There is no deal, and there's no answers coming from this minister. Rhetoric does not provide jobs to the people of Prince Albert. In the government's press release this morning, the minister is quoted saying, and I quote, "... we remain committed to our original objectives of reopened facilities and sustainable use of the Crown wood supply."

Mr. Speaker, when is this minister reopening the Prince Albert mill, and what company is going to do it?

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister for the Forestry Secretariat.

Hon. Mr. Lautermilch: — Mr. Speaker, that shows how little this individual understands about the issue. The first thing is, it will not be the province of Saskatchewan, the Government of Saskatchewan, or any individual MLA [Member of Legislative Assembly] or cabinet minister who opens the mill. We don't own those assets.

There were owned by Weyerhaeuser. A merger took place. They're now owned by a company called Domtar. Domtar will make the decision with respect to whether or not they sell the mill, whether or not they run the mill. That's their decision to make.

Our role is to do this. Our role is to do what we can as the province of Saskatchewan to facilitate the opening of that mill under whichever corporate structure may surface. Our responsibility also is, when the dormant period ends and they are totally in breach of forest management agreement in April 2008, that we are prepared to have done everything that we could so that we can establish operations in that forest licensed agreement and in that forest management area. That's exactly what we'll continue to do.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Caucus Personnel and Police Documents

Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, it's now been almost two weeks since the NDP chief of staff, Jim Fodey resigned over his role in the NDP fraud scandal, and the Premier still refuses to

answer a pretty basic question. Why is Jim Fodey getting severance if he resigned? Mr. Speaker, the rules of the Legislative Assembly clearly state that severance is only payable to caucus employees who are dismissed without cause.

I voted for that rule, and the members opposite voted for that rule. Why did we pass the severance package if the Premier is just going to ignore it?

Mr. Speaker, I hope the Premier has the courage to stand up and answer the question. Why is the NDP giving Jim Fodey the Murdoch Carriere golden handshake if he resigned?

The Speaker: — Order please. I would wish to advise the Assembly that the question is out of order. However I will allow a response if it is volunteered. The Chair recognizes the Minister for the Public Service Commission.

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I just want to say to all members of the legislature that the rules as established by the Board of Internal Economy will be followed in this case.

But I do want to talk about what I describe as a very interesting scrum that took place by the Leader of the Saskatchewan Party yesterday out in the rotunda. Mr. Speaker, it was interesting, and if you ... It was a very lengthy scrum, but what I concluded is this, that the Leader of the Saskatchewan Party wants to pretend to take the moral high ground by professing in a scrum that he's actually had the stolen documents from the police for over a year, Mr. Speaker, and he professes that this is — and I quote — honesty.

But you know that's simply not credible, and it's not credible because he's had over one year to manufacture, along with his operatives, the spin, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the police came calling, and he wanted to correct the public record because the police were going to correct ...

The Speaker: — Member's time has elapsed.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Harpauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And in trying to evade an answer to my question, I'm glad that the minister outlined what happened yesterday because she outlined the big difference between the Saskatchewan Party leader and the so-called NDP leader. Our leader did go out into that rotunda ...

The Speaker: — Order please. Order please. The member for Humboldt.

Ms. Harpauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And as the minister pointed out, our leader did indeed go out into that rotunda yesterday, and he answered all the reporters' questions about his actions. And the NDP leader refuses to do that until he finally gets cornered. And then he'll say that he doesn't remember or that he's not responsible for what happened.

Mr. Speaker, I think the Premier does remember the NDP fraud cover-up, and he is responsible of whether or not Jim Fodey gets a severance. Mr. Speaker, once again . . . I'll ask the question once again. Why is Jim Fodey getting the Murdoch Carriere golden handshake, and why is Jim Fodey getting severance if he resigned?

The Speaker: — Order. Order. Order. The Chair recognizes the Minister for the Public Service Commission.

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Let's review the facts. Two weeks ago today the Deputy Leader of the Saskatchewan Party goes out into the rotunda and says that they had these stolen documents since the beginning of session, Mr. Speaker. And then the caucus critic, the Justice critic, he goes out and says it. Then the deputy leader goes out again . . .

The Speaker: — Order please. Order. Order. Minister for the Public Service Commission.

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — So we've got two members of the opposition going out and saying they've had these documents, these stolen documents, since the beginning of the session. And the Leader of the Opposition sits right beside the deputy leader, and, Mr. Speaker, he goes out into the rotunda and tries to create a different spin, Mr. Speaker.

And you know why? Because one member of their caucus has been interviewed by the police, and one of their staff members have been interviewed by the police. And, Mr. Speaker, let's hope they tell the police the truth. And they had to come clean, Mr. Speaker. That's why the diatribe out there yesterday afternoon by the Sask Party.

The Speaker: — Member's time has elapsed.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Four Directions Group Home

Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the media reported that the minister decided to shut down the Four Directions group home only after the Children's Advocate threatened to go public with problems at the facility. The minister tried to justify this by saying, and I quote, "Let me be absolutely clear. The children were not at immediate risk."

Mr. Speaker, a report tabled by the minister yesterday tells a very different story. On page 35 of that report it says that Four Directions centre failed to meet 10 of 35 standards in the area of safety. The report says these unmet safety standards, and I quote, "pose potentially serious safety issues for the residents."

In light of this clear language from his own report, why is the minister still telling the people that the children at this facility were not at risk?

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the minister for Community Services.

Hon. Mr. Belanger: — Mr. Speaker, I'll point out that my officials have been involved at Four D for at least twice as long as the child's advocate. They have been certainly working with the Four D board of directors for two years. And, Mr. Speaker, they identified some of the problems initially on the actual facility, and then of course they expanded their investigation, if you will, onto some other areas which include the lack of recreational programming, the lack of an education program, and so on and so forth, Mr. Speaker.

Our department worked very closely with Four D, and after a year, we looked at other issues that needed to be addressed. And yes, despite the fact that we were patient, at the end of the day, we felt we were patient long enough, and I made the decision as the minister to shut down the facility till all these issues had been resolved. And it will not reopen until they all have been settled, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Merriman: — Well, Mr. Speaker, yesterday in the rotunda, he said that the children were not at risk. His own report says that, and he won't answer the question. He wants to talk around it.

Let me quote from page 31 of the report tabled by the minister yesterday. It says about Four Directions:

Some of the bedrooms do not comply with The Residential Services Act . . .

Fire exits . . . [are] blocked.

The new bedroom doors are incorrectly installed, and open inward rather than outward. This has created the problem of children barricading themselves into their rooms by moving . . . furniture up against the door and preventing staff from entering . . .

Mr. Speaker, has the minister even read this report? And if he's read this report, how can he say that children were not at risk when it's obvious to everyone else in this province that they were?

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the minister for Community Services.

Hon. Mr. Belanger: — Mr. Speaker, let me point out for the record that I have read the entire document, Mr. Speaker. And I take my role very seriously as somebody that's going to help the First Nations establish the capacity to finally have the services and the proper facilities on reserve. They have that right, Mr. Speaker. And all we get from the opposition, Mr. Speaker, is doom and gloom and negative things about First Nations finally trying to assert themselves to have a right to determine their future and their First Nations children's future as best they can.

This government will continue working hard. This minister will continue working through problems and providing solutions,

and we will provide leadership, Mr. Speaker. This is very important we begin to address the problems that many First Nation people have said have existed for years.

We are going to continue pressing the federal government. We're going to continue involving the First Nations. And the last place that we're going to look for advice from, Mr. Speaker, is from that member and that party opposite, because they have nothing but negative things to say about First Nations people, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Saskatoon Northwest.

Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What the minister forgets to realize, this isn't an issue about Aboriginal children — a child is a child is a child. A child under his protection is his duty to protect them, regardless of where they're from, and he's not doing it.

On page 12 of the report states that staff at the facility had not received non-violence crisis intervention training. The staff was not able to describe when physical intervention or restraints were permitted. The treatment these children received may have caused more problems.

[14:30]

On page 13 of the report states that "... too many children with no histories of criminal offences were coming out of the program with a criminal record." What a statement. This place was making kids worse than better. Once again, given this report, how can the minister claim that these children were not in immediate danger?

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the minister.

Hon. Mr. Belanger: — Mr. Speaker, once again the member says, okay a child is a child is a child, and I absolutely, totally agree. Everybody in Saskatchewan agrees. It should not be based on where that child is from.

So perhaps that member should get a hold of his federal cousins and tell them to start anteing up some of the resources needed for First Nations Child and Family Services, which they have ignored for years, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Belanger: — And every time, Mr. Speaker, every time there's some negative publicity, that member and that party jumps up at the opportunity to play politics. And I say to you, get on to your federal cousins and tell them to start finally resourcing the First Nations people to an adequate, respectful level, Mr. Speaker.

And that's a fine party to talk, Mr. Speaker, because that very leader, the ex-leader, and that party promised to cut \$50 million from the Social Services budget last election. How would that help the people at risk here, Mr. Speaker? How would that help? Thank you very much.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

The Speaker: — Before orders of the day, I wish to table a letter received from the Saskatchewan Information and Privacy Commissioner. The letter is dated May 9, 2007, with respect to The Vital Statistics Act, 2007.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 53

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Nilson that **Bill No. 53 — The Miscellaneous Environment Statutes (Inspections and Investigations) Amendment Act, 2007** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Heppner: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to rise today to speak to Bill 53. Among other things this Bill offers additional powers to and for conservation officers — powers to inspect. And it also standardizes terms that would constitute obstruction in the course of the conservation officers doing his or her job. We think this is important so that everybody involved knows what the rules and regulations are . . .

The Speaker: — Order. Order. Member for Martensville.

Ms. Heppner: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This Bill is basically a housekeeping Bill that standardizes terminology in other Bills, which will help clarify the rules and obligations for both conservation officers and residents. Mr. Speaker, if we have further questions on this, we will take those to committee. And therefore I move this Bill to committee.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion proposed by the Minister of the Environment that Bill No. 53, The Miscellaneous Environment Statutes (Inspections and Investigations) Amendment Act, 2007 be now a read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — Second reading of this Bill.

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

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 53, The Miscellaneous Environment Statutes (Inspections and Investigations) Amendment Act, 2007 be referred to the Standing Committee on Economy.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of the Environment that Bill No. 53 be referred to the Standing Committee on the Economy. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried. For what honourable purpose is the member from Saskatoon Nutana on her feet?

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — I'd ask for leave to introduce a guest, Mr. Speaker.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave has been granted.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Mr. Speaker, it gives me a great deal of pleasure to introduce a guest in the west gallery. It's not often that we get visitors from my home constituency of Saskatoon Nutana. I'd like to welcome Louise Buhler who lives in Saskatoon Nutana but also happens to live right across the street from me.

I know that Louise is probably here for SCIC [Saskatchewan Council for International Cooperation], and she is an active member in the city of Saskatoon on all kinds of international issues but also welcoming people from across the globe that come to our province and our city as refugees or newcomers. And she's been actively involved with the Global Gathering Place.

Louise spent 20 years in Vietnam and has been honoured by the Vietnamese government for all of the work that she did with people in Vietnam. She and her husband Jake have returned to Saskatchewan a few years ago. They're making their home here. And I'm so pleased to see her in the legislative gallery, and I would ask all members of the legislature to welcome Louise Buhler to the legislature.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Order please. For what purpose does the member from Saskatoon Greystone wish to be recognized?

Mr. Prebble: — For leave to introduce guests, Mr. Speaker.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave has been granted. The member for Greystone.

Mr. Prebble: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to introduce a visitor in the Speaker's gallery. Louise Buhler's husband, Jake Buhler, has also joined us, Mr. Speaker, and I've had the great pleasure of being friends of the Buhlers for many, many years.

He also of course has served for 20 years in Vietnam but he has also served in Saskatchewan in so many different capacities. And one of the ones that is important to me, Mr. Speaker, is that Jake Buhler has done so much important work in this province in terms of helping people understand how to reduce their ecological footprint on this planet. He has been very involved in the environmental movement and the anti-nuclear movement. He played a very important role in the work in the 1970s to prevent a uranium refinery from being built in his home community of Warman.

Mr. Speaker, I'm very pleased to have Mr. Buhler and Louise Buhler as friends and I want to warmly welcome Jake to this Assembly. Thank you very much.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Why is the hon. member on his feet? The member for Rosthern-Shellbrook.

Mr. Allchurch: — With leave to introduce guests, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — The member for Rosthern-Shellbrook has requested leave for introductions. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Rosthern-Shellbrook.

Mr. Allchurch: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. Through you and to you, to all members of the Assembly, seated in the gallery today, who just walked in, is a group of grade 4 students. There is 38 students and they're from Shellbrook Elementary School in Shellbrook. And it's a pleasure to see them here today because it's a long way from Shellbrook down to Regina. I drive that every Sunday afternoon, and I know. It's nice to see them here.

With them is teachers, Denise McDonald, Emelia Schiller, and Karen Spencer. Along with them, Mr. Speaker, is 14 chaperones. I do not have the names of them but it's nice to see the chaperones, teachers, and the students from Shellbrook here today. And I would ask all members of the Assembly to welcome them to their Legislative Assembly.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — For what purpose is the member from Saskatchewan Rivers wish to be recognized?

Mr. Borgerson: — To introduce guests, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Request for introductions. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Saskatchewan Rivers.

Mr. Borgerson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the member from Rosthern-Shellbrook in welcoming the students here from Shellbrook Elementary School. A few of those students — I would think six or seven or eight of those students — are from my constituency of Saskatchewan Rivers, from communities like Sturgeon River and Holbein, I believe. I'd like to also welcome their teacher, Emelia Schiller, who lives in my constituency of Saskatchewan Rivers.

They are here today to participate in Saskatchewan Council of International Cooperation International Information Day which is going to be held just down the hallway here in the legislature. So I too would like to ask members to join me in welcoming everyone here from Shellbrook area. Thank you.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 37

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Quennell that **Bill No. 37 — The Court of Appeal Amendment Act, 2006/Loi de 2006 modifiant la Loi de 2000 sur la Cour d'appel** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to speak on Bill No. 37, An Act to amend The Court of Appeal Act, 2000. Mr. Speaker, the Bill is very simple. What the government is asking is to reduce the nine-member Court of Appeal down to seven judges.

Now the reasons around why that is necessary or why that is happening, that's certainly open for debate. I understand the reason is that there is not enough work for the nine judges so they're suggesting that the Court of Appeal be reduced to seven as vacancies occur.

It's interesting that this is happening when our population is also dropping in this province. The Justice critic has said that there seems to be a higher . . . there's a backlog of cases that are civil and criminal. So it's interesting to note that they're reducing the court of appeals, Mr. Speaker. But I think this speaks to the government's history, the government's policies in the past, as does the population of this province is becoming reduced, dropping well below 1 million people. Now we see

that the effects of a reduced population in this Bill, when the government's suggesting to reduce the number of judges on the Court of Appeal from nine to seven.

Mr. Speaker, I mean, does this speak to the economic policies of the NDP government over the last 16 years? Well I believe it does. As more and more people leave this province, or the youth of this province leave this province to go elsewhere for jobs, families go elsewhere to look for jobs, this certainly translates into a reduced need for certain services in the province. Instead of having a growing population in this province where we would need to increase services in the province, we're just seeing the opposite effect.

Now, Mr. Speaker, one of the things that we have noticed about this Bill, and a number of people say, that the government did not consult very widely about the need to reduce the number of Court of Appeal justices. And we feel that every Bill that the government introduce, they should take the effort to consult with not only the members of the judicial, but also the people in Saskatchewan and the obvious stakeholders that need to be spoken to about making this type of a change.

And again, we go back again, this seems . . . the evidence suggests that there's a backlog of cases in the court system concerning especially the civil and criminal areas. So there's a lot of interesting information out there that contradicts the need of the government to reduce the Court of Appeal.

But what we would like to do, Mr. Speaker, is let this Bill go to committee and . . . where we will question the government on the need for this change and ask questions that should have been asked to the stakeholders in the province before introducing this Bill. So, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to end my comments by letting this go to committee.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion proposed by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 37, The Court of Appeal Amendment Act, 2006 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — Second reading of this Bill.

The Speaker: — To which committee shall this Bill be referred? The Chair recognizes the Government House Leader.

[14:45]

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 37, The Court of Appeal Amendment Act, 2006 be referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Government House Leader that Bill No. 37 be referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The motion is carried. Bill 37 stands referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure.

Bill No. 43

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Quennell that **Bill No. 43 — The Payday Loans Act** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Elhard: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's my duty and privilege to speak today to Bill No. 43, An Act respecting Payday Loan Agreements, Payday Lenders and Borrowers. And, Mr. Speaker, this Bill has been before the House for a number of weeks now and has had the opportunity of some airing by members of the official opposition. I think several of my colleagues have risen in the House to address this particular piece of legislation and some of the issues that surround it.

I don't think that there is a lot more that I might add today, Mr. Speaker, except to restate once again what this particular piece of legislation is, the segment of our economy that this legislation will address, and some of the issues that will arise out of the introduction of this particular Bill.

As you will know, Mr. Speaker, payday loans are short-term loans. They're not uncommon in our world. These short-term loans usually have to be paid back in a very abbreviated time frame, usually upon receipt of the customer's next paycheck. And these short-term loans are also accompanied by a significantly higher interest rate and service fees than one might ordinarily assume.

The Payday Loans Act will include provisions as a result of the legislation that require licensing of payday lenders. They will set maximum limits on the cost of payday loans and the type of fees that can be charged. And security on loans, they'll be prevented. Security on loans will be prevented by the lenders. The legislation also will prevent lenders from requiring the borrower to sign over future wages or to purchase another product or service before the first loan is paid off. So there are some pretty good provisions to protect consumers and users of payday loans in this legislation.

I think it's important to note that one of the provisions here that has been problematic for the industry and people who have looked at the industry from the outside was the issue of multiple loans at any given time, and this legislation will protect borrowers to the extent that there will only be one loan allowed at a time.

Now lenders will also be required to comply with collection

practices as set out in The Collection Agents Act, and apparently a maximum fee of \$20 for every \$100 borrowed will be established. Now those look like they're pretty straightforward provisions, Mr. Speaker, and I think that, as a whole, the industry has been looking for some kind of regulation under which the industry can operate so as to be protected from charges of usury.

The Payday Loan Association has been very concerned about the activities of some companies operating in this field and felt that legislation would be an appropriate measure. In fact I noticed when I was reading through the paper a couple of days ago that the president of the association in Canada was quite concerned that this particular piece of legislation wasn't going to pass. I don't think there was any ever doubt about this legislation moving through the House in an appropriate and timely manner, and I don't think the fears of the association president were well founded.

But nevertheless, I think as a representative of the official opposition, just because we want to see this legislation move forward doesn't mean that there aren't problems or difficulties with the particular piece of legislation. The fact of that is borne out by communications that, I believe, the Justice minister and our Justice critic have received from one of the companies in this province that provides these types of services. And what the concern revolves around particularly is that the province will proceed with setting rates on an arbitrary basis.

I think the industry wants an opportunity to have their industry regulated appropriately. But as is so often the case, Mr. Speaker, the details are unknown to the people who are going to be impacted by the legislation until such time as the regulations are written and provided for public review. And the concern of these particular companies is that regulation, unknownst to them until a later date, might prevent them from operating in a transparent and well-informed manner. So it's difficult for companies to agree to legislation if they don't know what the details might be and the details won't come until the regulation is announced.

This particular letter says that:

In our discussions with officials of the ministry to this point, we have been provided with no information regarding the rate development process or no assurances that the province's objective is to achieve a competitive outcome.

And, Mr. Speaker, I think the concern that is being enunciated in this particular letter ought to be of concern to the government as well because regulating the industry is one thing. But making sure that the law as it's written and the regulations as provided as follow-up to the legislation provide for a competitive environment and an environment that is completely transparent . . . that all participants and all players will be able to see and understand. And that is not the case at this point.

And so, Mr. Speaker, we have raised this particular concern. I think that we will want to raise it again as it regards this piece of legislation. We will want to ask the minister what he intends to put in the regulations. I think if there's nothing to hide, the minister shouldn't be afraid of providing that information. But

on that understanding, Mr. Speaker, I would move that this particular Bill go to committee.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion proposed by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 43, The Payday Loans Act be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — Second reading of this Bill.

The Speaker: — To which committee shall this Bill be referred? The Chair recognizes the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 43, The Payday Loans Act be referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure.

The Speaker: — The Government House Leader has moved that Bill No. 43 be referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried. Bill No. 43 stands referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure.

Bill No. 46

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Cline that **Bill No. 46 — The Crown Minerals Amendment Act, 2007** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Wakefield: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to add one or two comments for the record on this particular Bill. It is involved of course The Crown Minerals Act and very much involved with the mineral rights associated with land. And in particular my area, the minerals and the mineral rights become a very important issue. And I wanted to put on the record one or two of the things that I believe should be on the record, and then I'm prepared to move this to committee.

But before I do that, Mr. Speaker, this an interesting Act because, although it's housekeeping in nature, it's trying to streamline the language, streamline the whole tax and royalty assessment on the different divisions and different categories of ownership of the minerals, whether it's freehold or Crown. And there was a category called Crown-acquired production that I think deserves a particular comment.

I do recognize the fact that in the oil business and the oil industry that regulations and taxes have been streamlined. And that is a good thing because we want to keep our assessments and royalties and taxes if not in line, at least competitive and going in the right direction with the competitors that we have. And obviously in my area the competitors are very close to the Saskatchewan side.

But one of the things that has come to mind, as in any endeavour, you have to be able to attract investors into this business. It's a very high-risk industry. And to attract investors, there has to be a certain level of transparency, certainly a predictability, and also accountability without changing the rules partway through the business venture that you're in. Without that confidence that has to be built within the investors, investors just will not come.

It is still interesting to note that in my particular area, comparing the Saskatchewan side investment in the drilling of both oil and gas, we are still behind the rate of drilling on the Alberta side by a factor of about 1:5. And there is therefore still a distance to go to build that confidence of the investor, in particular in this case, in the oil industry.

Generally speaking, as in any investment that creates jobs and therefore creates wealth, the risk has to be and is recognized as commensurate with the return. And even though the taxes and royalties and regulations have been streamlined, it is still interesting to note that there is still that discrepancy. Why it's performing so well is maybe not so much to do with the royalties and the competitive nature with our competitors, but maybe something to do with \$60 and more a barrel for oil has changed that ratio of risk to compensation to allow a lot more drilling and production to go on on the Saskatchewan side.

But just let me add another thought here. It refers to, in these amendments to this Act, the time in the 1969, '70, '71 era. And I remember that era in the oil industry when there was a new company that showed up into our area and then across the province called SaskOil. And I didn't realize at the time because I wasn't involved in that industry, but SaskOil was created on the basis of wells that were being abandoned because the royalty assessments on wells were placed at such a high level that there was no return on investment. And in fact there was penalties introduced at that time as well.

A lot of the people that had money involved in investment in those oil rights and in trying to develop those rights had to in fact walk away from it. And a lot of them ended up into a bankruptcy or near bankruptcy and in fact couldn't believe what was happening and moved out of the province, never to return.

SaskOil became an entity, and thus the category of Crown-acquired production, as it's termed in these amendments. And so now we're trying to streamline the categories from the three — Crown royalties, freehold, and Crown acquired — trying to streamline that back into two, just Crown royalties and freehold.

But these people remember well. And if we want to get reinvestment into our industry, we have to make sure that there is a competence level that we can build with these people. And once we do that — and I think we will do that with a change in

government primarily — these people have committed that the economy will grow as quickly with investment into the oil industry as any other industry, including agriculture, in our province. So these people once bitten are twice shy, and we have a ways to go yet to build that confidence level.

I think there's a lot of questions that need to be still asked with regards to this Bill and associated questions as to why this was needed in the first place. And I'm prepared at this time to recommend this Bill go to committee.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion proposed by the Minister of Industry and Resources that that Bill No. 46, The Crown Minerals Amendment Act, 2007 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

[15:00]

The Speaker: — Motion is carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — Second reading of this Bill.

The Speaker: — To which committee shall Bill No. 46 be referred? The Chair recognizes the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 46, The Crown Minerals Amendment Act, 2007 be referred to the Standing Committee on the Economy.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Government House Leader that Bill No. 46 be referred to the Standing Committee on the Economy. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried. This Bill No. 46 stands referred to the Standing Committee on the Economy.

Bill No. 48

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Cline that **Bill No. 48 — The Freehold Oil and Gas Production Tax Amendment Act, 2007** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Wakefield: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wanted to address this particular Act with similar comments that I made on the . . . my comments or remarks earlier. In fact this one really becomes more of a housekeeping issue where the definition of Crown-acquired land is trying to . . . has to be

redefined in the Act so that the royalties and tax structure becomes more streamlined with either the Crown royalties or freehold lands. Those are the two divisions, and they want to apparently reduce the third division — Crown-acquired.

And again I don't want to repeat what I said earlier, but it was Crown-acquired lands seem to flow back to the late 1960s, early 1970s when there was quite a change in the ownership of a lot of the mineral rights. Also there was a lot of people, a lot of investors in oil producing companies that lost confidence in what was happening in Saskatchewan and subsequently moved to Alberta. In fact there's a lot of the companies — I would venture a majority of the companies — operating in Alberta are Saskatchewan-based originally and have moved, lost confidence over the time.

I think, as I mentioned earlier, I think the direction is going correctly with streamlining some of the regulations, making the royalties and taxes more reasonable. But in consultation with oil companies operating in Alberta, they will tell you — and freely tell you — that the royalty rates are not as big an issue as we may make them out to be. It is the regulation and the transparency of the regulation that is more critical.

They will make a business plan on the basis of what is presented to them. And if you change and alter some of the factors in the agreements and the contracts, the confidence goes right out the window. We have to make sure that when we tell these oil companies that we're making these changes for the right reasons, we have to make sure that for long-term investment the confidence of those investors are still there.

Some of these things again will be brought up, I'm sure, under question in the committee. And I would propose, Mr. Speaker, that Bill 48 now proceed to committee.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion proposed by the Minister of Industry and Resources that Bill No. 48, The Freehold Oil and Gas Production Tax Amendment Act, 2007 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The motion is carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — Second reading of this Bill.

The Speaker: — To which committee shall this Bill be referred? The Chair recognizes the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Mr. Speaker, I would move that Bill No. 48, The Freehold Oil and Gas Production Tax Amendment Act, 2007 be referred to the Standing Committee on the Economy.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Government House Leader that Bill No. 48 be referred to the Standing Committee

on the Economy. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt that 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. Wartman that **Bill No. 45 — The Agricultural Societies Repeal Act** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate having the opportunity to speak to The Agricultural Societies Repeal Act, although it's very straightforward and I think something that needed to be done, Mr. Speaker. We also understand that SAASE [Saskatchewan Association of Agricultural Societies and Exhibitions] was part of the changes that are in this repealing of the Act.

Mr. Speaker, we also know that the original Bill actually came into being before Saskatchewan was even a province. So I think the last changes were made away back in 1976, Mr. Speaker.

So we will have a few questions in committee, Mr. Speaker. But at this time we would want to move this Bill on to committee.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion proposed by the Minister of Agriculture and Food that Bill No. 45, The Agricultural Societies Repeal Act be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The motion is carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — Second reading of this Bill.

The Speaker: — To which committee shall this Bill be referred? The Chair recognizes the Minister of Agriculture and Food.

Hon. Mr. Wartman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that Bill No. 45, The Agricultural Societies Repeal Act be referred to the Standing Committee on the Economy.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Agriculture and Food that Bill No. 45 be referred to the Standing Committee on the Economy. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The motion is carried.

Bill No. 52

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Nilson that **Bill No. 52 — The Wildlife Amendment Act, 2007/Loi de 2007 modifiant la Loi de 1998 sur la faune** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Heppner: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to be able to rise today to speak on Bill No. 52, the Act to amend The Wildlife Act. As you know, Mr. Speaker, I come from a family of hunters, and growing up in that environment it's a bit obvious to me that the people who use the land understand the necessity of ensuring the proper use of that land to make sure that our natural resources are protected. And I see by this Bill that wildlife officers are going to be given powers to search, power for seizure, investigation, those sorts of things. And I think it's important that our conservation officers have the tools that they need to ensure that our wildlife is protected.

And, Mr. Speaker, I'm sure we might have a few more questions about this Bill, but at this time I would like to send this Bill to committee.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion proposed by the Minister of the Environment that Bill No. 52, The Wildlife Amendment Act, 2007 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — Second reading of this Bill.

The Speaker: — To which committee should Bill 52 be referred? The Chair recognizes the Minister of the Environment.

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — I move that Bill 52, The Wildlife Amendment Act, 2007 be referred to the Standing Committee on Economy.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of the Environment that Bill No. 52 be referred to the Standing Committee on the Economy. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried. Bill 52 is referred to the Standing Committee on the Economy.

Bill No. 63

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Hagel that **Bill No. 63 — The Royal Saskatchewan Museum Act** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, I'm very pleased to rise today to speak on Bill No. 63, The Royal Saskatchewan Museum Act. Saskatchewan is 100 years old, and I believe it is more than time that the museum finally had its own Act. I understand that the royal museum has not received the attention it deserves if we as citizens really care about preserving our history and our artifacts. The present museum is bulging at the seams. It literally has hundreds and hundreds of boxes of artifacts, and those artifacts are our history. They define who we are.

I believe there's a need for a computer linkage to the warehouse to keep track of historical possessions. I believe that there is need for money to ensure that there is the people to work with the artifacts that we have. There's been cuts in the museum, in the budget to the museum since 1980. And the number of professional archaeologists we have has decreased in the last number of years. I really look forward to learning more about the workings and the responsibilities of the museum and of the staff.

The lab space that is needed to work on the rare books that we have in Saskatchewan, that we should all be very proud of, is very limited and it is critical that we have that kind of space and the technicians to work with the artifacts if we indeed are going to have them around for our children and our grandchildren. We have to be proud of our history.

Responsibility for museums has been moved around from one government department to another for the past number of years. And I do hope with the establishment of The Royal Saskatchewan Museum Act, the importance of museums will become a priority of any government.

I'm especially pleased to see, Mr. Speaker, that this Act acknowledges the extreme importance of, Madam Deputy Speaker, the extreme importance of our First Nations, not only in our future, but in defining who we are based on where we came from. I am sure that many of us know that Treaty 4 specifically describes a keeping house for First Nations artifacts that's important when we come to talking about the treaty rights of our First Nation people, that we have a responsibility to ensure that their history is there for the generations to come — not only First Nations people, but for all of us.

I hear many of the First Nations elders speaking of a . . . [inaudible] . . . of sacred and culturally sensitive artifacts, and I know that when Vice-chief Lyle Whitefish talked about this and when the Act was introduced, he was especially pleased to see that the history of the Saskatchewan First Nations would be included for all to see in the future.

Madam Deputy Speaker, there will be questions that we have to ask on this Bill and the importance of seeing that the government really is, that they really do recognize the

importance of our museums — not only for our First Nations, but for all Saskatchewan people. And I look forward to talking about this in committee, so I will move this Bill into committee at this time.

The Deputy Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the Minister of Culture, Youth and Recreation that Bill No. 63, The Royal Saskatchewan Museum Act be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — Second reading of this Bill.

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

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. I move that Bill No. 63, The Royal Saskatchewan Museum Act be now referred to the Standing Committee on Human Services.

The Deputy Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 63 be referred to the Standing Committee on Human Services. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Bill No. 68

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Hagel that **Bill No. 68 — The Status of the Artist Act, 2007** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Toth: — Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. Madam Deputy Speaker, it's my pleasure to enter into this debate this afternoon regarding The Status of the Artist Act and raise a number of issues in regards to this piece of legislation as it was presented first of all to the Human Services Committee. And the committee was asked to review a number of suggestions and come forward with some suggestions in regards to artists in the province. And the Bill at that time, which was Bill No. 40, which was a fairly simple and straightforward Bill although it did have a major component in it that some of the committee members, myself included, had some difficulties with.

Subsequently, Madam Deputy Speaker, a request was made of the minister asking the minister exactly what the minister was looking for. And I guess part of the question that was placed to the minister was this whole process of the changes that have been made in the Assembly and how committees work and how committees would go about responding to requests from a minister, and in this case the minister responsible for the Bill

regarding the status of the artist as the minister was trying to look at whether or not committee work could take place and participation of the many interested parties in the formation of a piece of legislation.

Many of us on the committee, Madam Deputy Speaker, have been around for a number of years and we're more, if you will, used to the process whereby a piece of legislation is laid on the Table. We get a sense of where the minister and the department is coming from in regards to legislation, and then we start talking to individuals or groups who would be impacted by that legislation. And in the process of debate we move into a committee structure where you go through a piece of legislation item by item, clause by clause to determine whether or not the legislation reflects what the individuals who would be impacted by the legislation would see, whether they perceive how it would impact them, and whether or not they feel that changes should be made through amendment.

And so the minister came forward with a novel idea in view of the expanded committee roles of the Legislative Assembly. And I can say, Madam Deputy Speaker, that my colleagues and certainly the government colleagues found it to be of interesting and worthwhile process. But we still struggled with the fact exactly what is our role. And I think the minister indicated when we invited him to come back and make a presentation to the committee, he didn't see the committee as necessarily formulating a piece of legislation, while we were trying to grab a hold of the fact, whether or not we were to formulate a Bill. And we certainly didn't have the expertise in that matter.

[15:15]

However I think at the end of the day, Madam Deputy Speaker, the committee members certainly had the pleasure of listening to different groups come and make presentations as to how they felt artists should be treated in the province of Saskatchewan. And we certainly heard. We not only heard from individual artists in the province, we heard from some associations that are already effectively working in the province of Saskatchewan. We also heard from national associations. And it was quite apparent to us, Madam Deputy Speaker, that there is even a differing opinion from the different groups and individuals.

One of the interesting components of the whole debate and it centred around a collective bargaining process. And what I noted, Madam Deputy Speaker, and some of my colleagues noted as well, the associations and some groups that already have, if you will, their own collective agreement were really strongly in support of a collective agreement process being part of the legislation. Whereas other individuals felt that that wasn't necessarily the right avenue or the route to go.

And so we, over a period of weeks, if you will, and it turned into over a period of meeting for two or three months of public hearings, the committee members at the end of the day came up with some things that they felt that they could certainly agree with. But there was certainly a major stumbling block in the whole process of legislation and I believe even in the current legislation that's before the Assembly.

Madam Deputy Speaker, it's important for us to realize that all committee members felt that artists in the province should be treated fairly, that they should have avenues open to them

whereby if they want to form associations . . . And most artists agreed that that's certainly a process they agree with. They are not opposed to the ability on their own to become a member of or choose which association, if there's a group of . . . an association already in place that is working on behalf of artists, whether it's in the province or even nationally, that they have that opportunity. And the concern has been raised and continues to be raised about whether or not the putting in place, or in the legislation, recommendations regarding a collective agreement, whether those would significantly impact individual artists in individual associations.

And so, Madam Deputy Speaker, the committee certainly came to an agreement and an understanding that we need to recognize the fact that artists — and whether they be actors, whether they be individuals working with their hands in pottery or painting or whether they be a group of singers — should have the ability to realize that when they have come to an agreement with . . . And as the legislation would acknowledge and the term they use, they come to an agreement with an engager, or if you will, a group or a company that would like to purchase their services. Say it's a band going out to, for example, a small bar in rural Saskatchewan and they've agreed to come in and do a couple of nights at the bar for X-number of dollars. And in the past, and it no doubt continues today, most of these engagements have been done through verbal agreement.

And many of my colleagues were quite surprised to hear that in the past we have found groups have gone out and maybe the clientele wasn't very good over that weekend and as a result, when everything was said and done the band would have ended up leaving their engagement with very little in their pocket because the engager that had invited them found that they didn't really make much money. There wasn't much to give even though they had verbally agreed to, say, a contract of X-number of dollars.

And it was our feeling that people shouldn't have to live like that, that people should be able to . . . And I guess the strong suggestion is that maybe people need to start working under written agreements.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I think many in this Assembly have grown up in the past whereby a man's word and handshake was their bond. And for years many agreements in this province, whether they be amongst . . . Even a farming equipment dealer, going back years ago because I've got a colleague sitting beside me who has worked in the farm equipment dealership and knows all about signed contracts, but I know that years ago, even on the farm that I come from, even with my dad, lots of times people would come and he'd sell, he'd sell for example seed grain and the agreement was that he would receive so many dollars a bushel. And it was a verbal agreement. And when the individual was able to make the payment they would come and the cheque would be made. And sometimes, Madam Deputy Speaker, that cheque may not arrive until the opportunity to sell the next load of grain or the next quota opened up. But farmers and business people operated that way for years.

And no doubt hoteliers and even artists operated that way for years. And in many cases I think there were situations where people felt they were very well treated. They were respected.

Their rights were respected. And we agree, Madam Deputy Speaker, that while it would be nice maybe in some ways to go back to what many people would refer to as the good old days, we've moved way past that and artists today are facing a real challenge when it comes to being appropriately reimbursed for their art.

However, having said that, Madam Deputy Speaker, I think we need to also recognize that the passage of Bill No. 68, The Status of the Artist Act, I do not believe at the end of the day will change a lot of things for a lot of people. And I trust that many of the artists recognize this because there are many groups already operating under contractual agreements. And as we heard from the many presentations, many groups feel that they're being treated quite fairly in regards to their artistry and the different components. Whether it's actors involved in movie making in the province of Saskatchewan, whether it's bands that perform across the province or across the country, Madam Deputy Speaker, many of these groups already operate under certain guidelines that ensure that they are adequately reimbursed as per the contractual agreement they have signed with the engager or the group that have hired them to come and perform.

So, Madam Deputy Speaker, we recognize the fact that artists need to be treated fairly. They need to be rewarded in a monetary way that recognizes their work. But we also, I think, Madam Deputy Speaker, are aware of the fact that with a population of only 1 million people in some ways we're somewhat limited for avenues whereby artists can display their work and receive what, in some cases, would be considered adequate payment for the time and the hours and the work that they put into their individual artistry. And, Madam Deputy Speaker, this piece of legislation won't necessarily change that. However we trust that at the end of the day through our discussions we've brought a greater awareness to artists in the province of Saskatchewan and the heritage that this province certainly holds to.

Madam Deputy Speaker, as a province we're truly blessed. We are not only blessed with individuals who have amazing musical talent, and certainly even aspiring actors. I know that I've had the privilege of attending the Regina Christian School and some of their productions. *Fiddler on the Roof*, for example, was one. And those — I think it was grade 9 through 12 — those young people just did a tremendous job, both vocally and in their acting, and musically in the presentation of a play such as *Fiddler on the Roof*, and that takes a lot of time and effort. And it shows that we have individuals in this province who are very gifted in the area of the performing arts.

We also have a First Nations community that, Madam Deputy Speaker, that is really gifted when it comes to carvings and when it comes to paintings. And, Madam Deputy Speaker, in this Legislative Assembly, in the halls of the Assembly, we see the works of many of the artists across the province of Saskatchewan.

So it's important that we not only recognize the artist, but that we also do whatever we can to ensure that these artists are adequately reimbursed for their work and effort.

There were four recommendations that the committee came up

with, that the committee could agree to, Madam Deputy Speaker, in regards to the status of the artist Bill. One of the recommendations was: the committee recommended that national agreements should be grandfathered. And in our discussion with the minister, it was our understanding that that certainly would be recognized, but the grandfathering would be only to the extent that those who are already party to existing agreements — artists and engagers — continue to be bound by them.

And that was one of the key points that was brought to our attention by many of the presenters, especially the national bodies and individuals who are represented by these national bodies, that these agreements should be allowed to continue and those artists should not be impacted or this legislation should not impact those agreements that are already in place.

And we also recommended that new workplaces that are not currently bound by a collective or scale agreement will have to be certified under whatever process is established for collective bargaining.

We also recognized that and recommended that the definition of engager clearly indicate government and contractors as engagers. And that the definition of artist needs to include the word professional. And that was a recommendation brought to us by a couple of the associations that appeared before us.

And when I talk about government, Madam Deputy Speaker, there were a couple concerns that were raised in regards to even how government displays and the work of artists and how the government actually reimburses artists for displaying their work even in the Legislative Assembly.

The committee also recommend that intellectual property rights remain with the artist unless a contract exists or specifically states otherwise. And there was one group that appeared before the committee and had some real concerns in regards to property rights, and that was the photographers association. And they basically indicated . . . or one of their suggestions was the procurement policy and registration process should immediately be revised to remove any and all requirements which force photographers to give up the copyrights and/or waive moral rights. And they said as part of the registration process professional photographers should have to demonstrate their capabilities and credentials by presenting a portfolio, providing proof of experience and educational background, producing proof of liability insurance, providing evidence of membership in an industry-related association, and supplying work-related references.

And they made those recommendations and the reasons they gave were . . . They gave a bit of a background as to the reasons why they felt this was important. And they said the current Saskatchewan government procurement policy states that photographers, in order to become registered on the supplier list, must agree to give up copyrights and waive moral rights in all work produced for the government and its Crowns.

And, Madam Deputy Speaker, I think most of the members on the committee were quite surprised in that comment and that concern raised by the photographers.

They continue that no negotiation is allowed and no compensation is offered. This is unfair and we agreed with the photographers. As a result there was a growing number of very skilled professional photographers in the province that will not register because of these requirements, in fact not register with the government.

During this past year they say the policy is being expanded to cover the advertising agencies that work for the government and its Crowns, thereby forcing those agencies to sever long, productive, and rewarding relationships with these professional photographers and their clients.

It's quite apparent, Madam Deputy Speaker, that government is not immune from not treating artists with the same fairness that they would endeavour or suggest that they have been or that artists should be receiving. And to many of the . . . in fact I believe all committee members were somewhat surprised by the presentation that the photographers made, and we certainly agree that they brought forward some very strong arguments. And I believe their recommendations became part of the recommendations in the report that was presented to the minister. The committee also agreed that language in the Act must respect the potential mix of self-employed and employed artists — artists as employees. There must be no jeopardizing of the dual status of artists for tax purposes. Madam Deputy Speaker, we think that certainly was important. And like I say, there were the four points that all members could agree with in regards to the legislation and The Status of the Artist Act.

[15:30]

However the one sticker was the collective bargaining process that government members continue to argue and suggest needed to be part of the Act. Now, Madam Deputy Speaker, we don't have a problem with people themselves gathering together and if they felt that they wanted to form an association, that's their right to do. That's their right to make that choice.

We felt that it's imperative though that it shouldn't be just a small body of individuals, that everyone should have that opportunity and voice. We're also concerned that just by putting it in the legislation, does that give a small group the ability to form an association? Then everyone else who happens to be . . . whether it's singers, whether it's musicians, now has to conform to whatever agreement may be drawn up by a small body. And I believe that the information that we were presented with, everyone felt that they wanted to have a voice, that they needed to have a voice before any association or collective agreement could be brought forward.

And that was one of the major stumbling blocks and continues to be a stumbling block in regards to this legislation. Because it's important, Madam Deputy Speaker, that as we look at artists, each and every one indicated that in many ways they're individuals. They have individual abilities. And as they perform whether . . . perform their artistry or their work as actors or singers or musicians, that they felt that they wanted to have the ability to . . . If there was a national association that they could work through and felt that they could be very comfortable with, that was something they felt they should have the opportunity to choose, not be legislated to be part of an organization.

So, Madam Deputy Speaker, this piece of legislation, while it . . . and I believe the minister was indicating the reasons were to bring into place a process whereby we, a more formal way I believe, recognize the contribution of artists to the culture of Saskatchewan.

I think at the end of the day, Madam Deputy Speaker, when it comes to artists and their ability to perform and to continue to operate and to receive fair compensation, we're certainly going to have to look beyond just 1 million people in the province of Saskatchewan. We certainly have to build the province of Saskatchewan.

We need to have more people moving to this province, and not just individuals just to fill the roles of the standard, everyday, 9-to-5 job — jobs that are available. But as well, Madam Deputy Speaker, we need individuals and organizations that will move and bring, set up businesses and large corporations and set up head offices because in some cases they're the type of individuals that really support the higher groups, if you will — artistry — that we have in the province of Saskatchewan: the symphony for example or Globe Theatre.

Not all residents necessarily attend the symphony or attend Globe Theatre, although I believe Globe Theatre is the type of performing arts that more people would take the opportunity to attend. But I do know that anyone who's attended the Regina Symphony has really been amazed at the work and the performance that has been presented.

And there I think, Madam Deputy Speaker, we all know that in the presentation that was made to us, I believe there are 12 individuals actually on the symphony that are full-time employees, and the rest are individuals who are either individually employed or working for a company, but are skilled with different musical instruments, who have become part of the overall symphony. And I know my daughter recently had the privilege of going and was quite amazed. In fact she thoroughly enjoyed the presentation that she attended.

Now one of the comments, one of the questions that was asked of the group that represented the symphony was, in view of the fact that they have sold-out concerts, would it not suit them well to run maybe a series of concerts — two or three nights — and thereby deriving more revenue whereby they could pay the musicians at a higher rate or even the part-time musicians pay them at a higher rate.

And the interesting thing, Madam Deputy Speaker, was the fact that while they are sold-out concerts when they do have them, the issue that was raised was by doing two or three concerts in a row doesn't necessarily mean a sellout every night. And by not selling out every night, they have a diminishing return which means that they have less dollars at the end of the day to work with. And that's therefore . . . I guess their view is if we can do a concert and — two or three a year at separate times — and sell that concert out, we're much better off than trying to do two or three in a row, especially given the fact that we do have a number of members who are just part-time musicians in the symphony. And that speaks, Madam Deputy Speaker, to the fact that we really do not have the large population base to really give their support to organizations like the symphony to ensure that they can derive the revenue they need to pay their

artists in a manner that they feel would be appropriate.

So, Madam Deputy Speaker, the interesting thing about this piece of legislation, I think, is the fact that some people feel legislation would be the saviour for them, if you will, or will provide them with the means whereby they receive greater recognition and as a result of the legislation that they would receive greater remuneration for their works.

And I beg to differ, Madam Deputy Speaker, and suggest that this is not going to be the saviour for a lot of artists. This is not going to give a lot of artists the ability to, if you will, leave their day job and become the full-time artist that they may wish to be. But certainly what it will do, I believe, is bring maybe a little more into the open the fact that this province is blessed with many, many artists.

And when I talk about artists, when I talk about artists, Madam Deputy Speaker . . . and I'm not exactly sure for people in the large urban centres how they perceive artists. They no doubt would look at Globe Theatre or the Regina Symphony or the, I believe it's . . . There's one weekend in the downtown Regina where a number of artists do gather to display their wares.

But I know that around rural Saskatchewan, we have many individuals and many groups who have begun to work together in order to display their art, and through the process of working together they've been able to have a public display of their art. And as a result they've had the ability to sell their art to more and larger audience of people.

And I think, Madam Deputy Speaker, of a group, the Wolseley arts guild. And that group actually formed after a couple individuals were asking each other and talking about, well how do you market your art? How do you let people know what you do and let people be aware of the type of art you're putting together and get a return if you're interested in selling that art?

And two or three people got together, and they decided all of sudden . . . I think what happened was they recognized that they were not the only individuals in the area that were involved in art. Some were involved in painting. Some were involved in photography. A number were involved in sculptural work. And these individuals, as they began to speak amongst themselves, realized that there were quite a number of individual artists in the area who would like to let people know all about their art and would like to display their art and give people an opportunity to purchase that art. And they decided to just form, if you will, in a small way an association whereby they could display that art.

And I've had the privilege, Madam Deputy Speaker, of going to some of their art displays and forums. And I would suggest to you, Madam Deputy Speaker, that it's something to behold when you see the type of art and the artistry that we have in the province of Saskatchewan. And as a result of that association, more people have become aware of the artistic nature of the people in the province of Saskatchewan in the Wolseley area. I know around the Rocanville area, the Whitewood area as well individuals have gotten together.

One of the other concerns we have with the legislation is the term engagers. And the concern about . . . And I believe

engagers, Madam Deputy Speaker, would be individuals or organizations who would apply to or would hire artists to come and perform either through a public concert or in a smaller gathering. And there's a piece of the Bill that talks about engagers forming associations. Now I'm not aware of engagers that really came forward and suggested that they felt they needed to be part of a form of association. We do have some questions in regards to that piece of the legislation.

But, Madam Deputy Speaker, I think as we had the privilege as a committee to talk to the many artists, the many associations, we realize that there's a broad scope of how people visualize the arts in the province of Saskatchewan. We also recognize, Madam Deputy Speaker, that people also felt that it's important that artists have the privilege of having their specific art displayed and receiving proper remuneration for that art or for that gift in music or whatever artist's art they are performing in.

And so, Madam Deputy Speaker, I might add that while I enjoyed the process, we also recognize that there was a split in the committee as to how we should move forward with this piece of legislation. And I would like to add that I think we were, at the end of the day, were pleased that the minister took the time then to sit down and come forward with a number of suggestions as to what he perceived or wanted to see in this legislation.

And we're certainly taking the time and we want to take the time to ensure that all associations, artists and engagers have the ability to look through the legislation — it's quite a complex piece of legislation — to ensure that we have proper communication, and there's a proper consultation process. Therefore at this time I move to adjourn debate.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Moosomin has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 68, The Status of the Artist Act, 2007. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Madam Deputy Speaker, before moving adjournment of the House, I'd ask leave of the House for purposes of making an introduction.

The Deputy Speaker: — The minister has asked leave to introduce guests. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — We don't need a whole motion; just leave is fine thanks, Madam Deputy Speaker. Madam Deputy Speaker, I am pleased that we've been joined over the course of the debate on the status of the artist Bill before us by some very interested people from organizations representing the arts.

And I'd like to ask the House to acknowledge the executive director of the Saskatchewan Arts Alliance, Marnie Gladwell. And seated beside her from ACTRA [Alliance of Canadian Cinema, Television, and Radio Artists] is Mike Burns. And also I recognize Brian Dojack who is the Saskatchewan CEO [chief executive officer] of the American Federation of Musicians.

I would ask all hon. members to show welcome to these people from the arts organizations in the province.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Elhard: — Madam Deputy Speaker, I'd like to join the minister in offering our words of welcome to the members of the arts community that have joined us this afternoon. We've come to know most of them on a pretty personal basis as a result of the process that we've gone through on The Status of the Artist Act. My colleague from Moosomin elaborated a lot of the process. We have learned much as a result of this exercise, and I think the communication and the level of understanding has been enhanced through this process. We've welcomed the input of many of these people and the organizations they represent. And we're glad to see that they're in the House today to observe the proceedings of the House as this Bill moves forward.

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

[15:45]

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

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried. This House does now stand adjourned until tomorrow at 10 a.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 15:46.]

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