



FIRST SESSION - TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

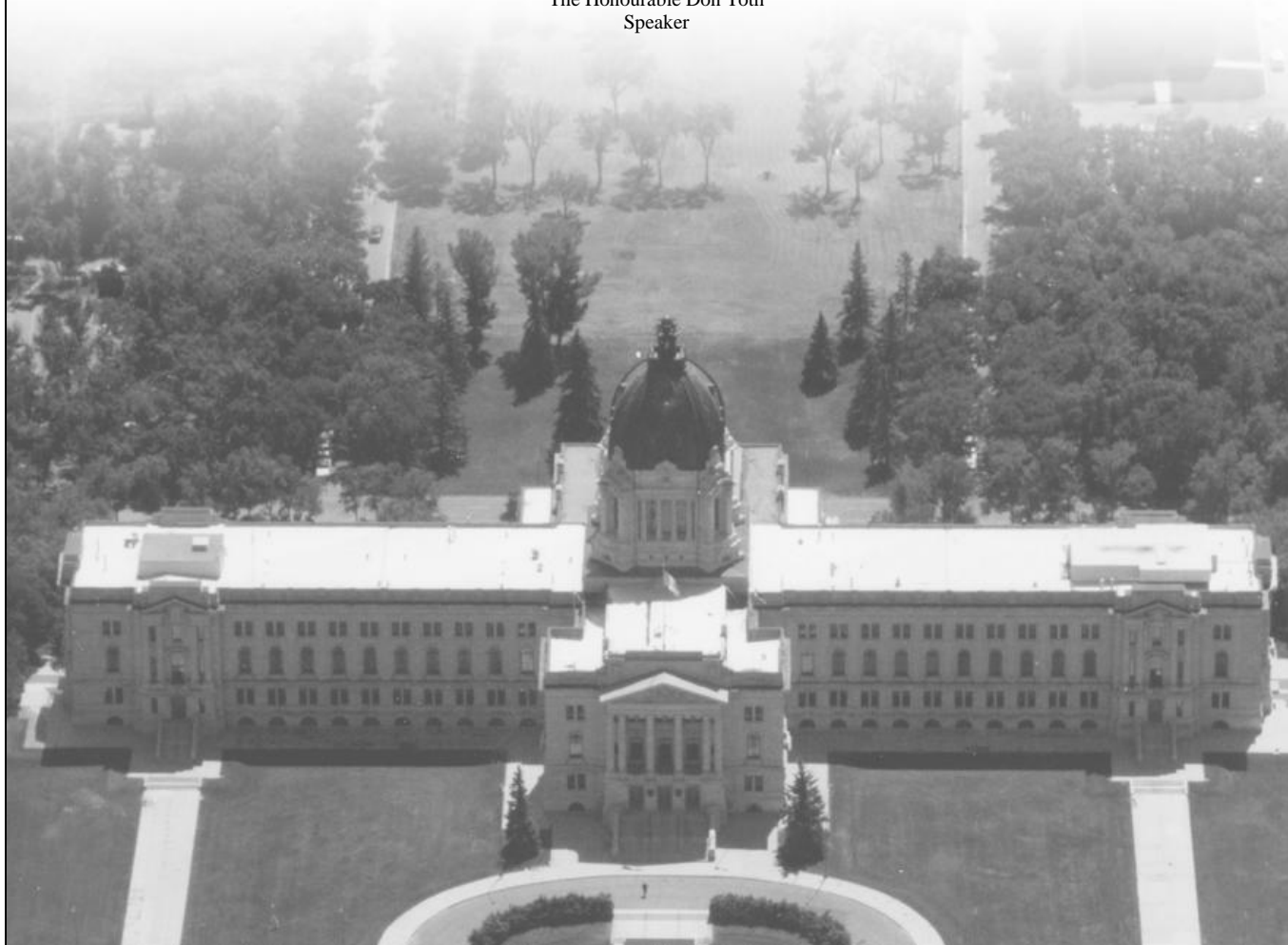
of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

(HANSARD)

Published under the
authority of
The Honourable Don Toth
Speaker



MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Speaker — Hon. Don Toth
 Premier — Hon. Brad Wall
 Leader of the Opposition — Lorne Calvert

Name of Member	Political Affiliation	Constituency
Allchurch, Denis	SP	Rosthern-Shellbrook
Atkinson, Pat	NDP	Saskatoon Nutana
Belanger, Buckley	NDP	Athabasca
Bjornerud, Hon. Bob	SP	Melville-Saltcoats
Boyd, Hon. Bill	SP	Kindersley
Bradshaw, Fred	SP	Carrot River Valley
Brkich, Greg	SP	Arm River-Watrous
Brotten, Cam	NDP	Saskatoon Massey Place
Calvert, Lorne	NDP	Saskatoon Riversdale
Cheveldayoff, Hon. Ken	SP	Saskatoon Silver Springs
Chisholm, Michael	SP	Cut Knife-Turtleford
D'Autremont, Hon. Dan	SP	Cannington
Draude, Hon. June	SP	Kelvington-Wadena
Duncan, Dustin	SP	Weyburn-Big Muddy
Eagles, Doreen	SP	Estevan
Elhard, Hon. Wayne	SP	Cypress Hills
Forbes, David	NDP	Saskatoon Centre
Furber, Darcy	NDP	Prince Albert Northcote
Gantfoer, Hon. Rod	SP	Melfort
Harpauer, Hon. Donna	SP	Humboldt
Harper, Ron	NDP	Regina Northeast
Harrison, Jeremy	SP	Meadow Lake
Hart, Glen	SP	Last Mountain-Touchwood
Heppner, Hon. Nancy	SP	Martensville
Hickie, Hon. Darryl	SP	Prince Albert Carlton
Higgins, Deb	NDP	Moose Jaw Wakamow
Hutchinson, Hon. Bill	SP	Regina South
Huyghebaert, Yogi	SP	Wood River
Iwanchuk, Andy	NDP	Saskatoon Fairview
Junor, Judy	NDP	Saskatoon Eastview
Kirsch, Delbert	SP	Batoche
Krawetz, Hon. Ken	SP	Canora-Pelly
LeClerc, Serge	SP	Saskatoon Northwest
McCall, Warren	NDP	Regina Elphinstone-Centre
McMillan, Tim	SP	Lloydminster
McMorris, Hon. Don	SP	Indian Head-Milestone
Michelson, Warren	SP	Moose Jaw North
Morgan, Hon. Don	SP	Saskatoon Southeast
Morin, Sandra	NDP	Regina Walsh Acres
Nilson, John	NDP	Regina Lakeview
Norris, Hon. Rob	SP	Saskatoon Greystone
Ottenbreit, Greg	SP	Yorkton
Quennell, Frank	NDP	Saskatoon Meewasin
Reiter, Jim	SP	Rosetown-Elrose
Ross, Laura	SP	Regina Qu'Appelle Valley
Schriemer, Joceline	SP	Saskatoon Sutherland
Stewart, Hon. Lyle	SP	Thunder Creek
Taylor, Len	NDP	The Battlefords
Tell, Hon. Christine	SP	Regina Wascana Plains
Toth, Hon. Don	SP	Moosomin
Trew, Kim	NDP	Regina Coronation Park
Van Mulligen, Harry	NDP	Regina Douglas Park
Wall, Hon. Brad	SP	Swift Current
Weekes, Randy	SP	Biggar
Wilson, Nadine	SP	Saskatchewan Rivers
Wotherspoon, Trent	NDP	Regina Rosemont
Yates, Kevin	NDP	Regina Dewdney
Vacant		Cumberland

[The Assembly met at 10:00.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It is just a great honour today to introduce a very, very special guest to members of this Assembly and through the members of this Assembly to our province. Seated in your gallery today, and joined by Ian Hanna who works at Executive Council, is the Hon. Peter Lougheed, former premier of Alberta and great Canadian.

And if I may, Mr. Speaker, by way of I guess informal leave of the House, just provide a bit of a longer introduction to Mr. Lougheed, our special guest here today.

I think everybody understands that Mr. Lougheed as premier attracted national attention and acclaim for his province and for the citizens of Alberta, as a leader in that province throughout the '70s and '80s as Alberta sought to secure its future for the very long term through resource policy but also through very successful efforts to encourage the business community in Alberta to diversify the economy of the province of Alberta. He understood that it is the duty of government to ensure that the resources which belong to the people of the province are developed to the benefit of current and future generations.

He understood the importance of supporting innovation and research into improving the health and welfare of the citizens of Alberta. And he demonstrated a prescient concern for current generations many, many, many years later — since his retirement from politics — when in 1976 he developed the Heritage Savings Trust Fund. That's something we had a chance to talk about very, very briefly this morning. We'll have a chance to meet later and talk some more about that I'm sure.

Mr. Speaker, there are in Canadian politics, there are politicians, and then there are statesmen. And today we're very, very proud to welcome a statesman to our capital and to our Legislative Assembly. And moreover we're very grateful for the opportunity we're going to have to get some counsel from Mr. Lougheed.

I've already been able to ask him in some previous meetings some questions about how do you sustain growth in the long term? What can government do to help with that? How do we ensure that the growth that we have, the development of our resources are environmentally sustainable, are orderly? And it's a term that we talked about again this morning. And how do we ensure we kind of keep the momentum going as long as we can under this circumstance of amazing growth that we see in the province?

And so we can learn from both the successes in Alberta and the challenges. And we can learn from the counsel of the people like Mr. Lougheed who will meet with Enterprise Saskatchewan

board members as well later today to talk about these very issues. And so for taking time out of his schedule . . . And I want to say that he is still very busy because he's here, arrived this morning, and will leave later this day to accommodate a continuing very, very busy schedule. And we're very grateful to have him in the capital today and the Legislative Assembly. Would all members please help welcome the Hon. Peter Lougheed.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition.

Mr. Calvert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the opposition, I also want to join with the Premier in welcoming former Premier Lougheed to our Assembly this morning and again to the province. I may say, and I know the Premier will agree, that in each conversation that I was able to have with Mr. Lougheed during my time as premier in this province, each time we met I found those to be very productive, very productive conversations. And there are many of us in this province, Mr. Speaker, who remember when Mr. Lougheed served as premier of Alberta, how we stood — our two provinces together — in defending the interests of the resources of Western Canada against then a challenging Liberal government. And if I may say, Mr. Speaker, there are many of us today who are very appreciative of the work that Peter Lougheed is doing in terms of wise counsel on oil sands development in the West, and so with the Premier I want to extend greetings on behalf of the official opposition.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Massey Place.

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to introduce to you and through you to members of the legislature two individuals who are not strangers to many of us here, and to the province and the city of Regina: Albert Rapley and Matt Rapley, seated in your gallery, Mr. Speaker.

I had the pleasure of attending a prayer breakfast this morning, and Matt sang a very beautiful song, "Joyful, Joyful." And in speaking with the people around our table, they certainly expressed how they were appreciative for that song and really how it was a good way to start the day on a beautiful spring morning. So, Mr. Speaker, I would ask that all members join me in welcoming these guests to our legislature.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Qu'Appelle Valley.

Ms. Ross: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too would like to join in the member opposite in welcoming Matt Rapley and his father, Albert. We have all worked very hard to put Saskatchewan on the map in a good light, and Matt did a very excellent job in regards to his showing on *Canadian Idol*. Everybody there knows where Saskatchewan is and the fine

talent that we have in Saskatchewan. So again I would like to ask the members to welcome Matt and his father to the House today.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Moose Jaw Wakamow.

Ms. Higgins: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to rise also to welcome Mr. Peter Lougheed to the Assembly today. Now Mr. Lougheed and I, we may not share the same political persuasion, but we do have a bit of a connection in another area in that my cousin, Linda Butler, worked for Mr. Lougheed for a number of years, first in his law firm in Calgary and then followed him to the legislature in Alberta. So while we don't always talk about politics within the family, Mr. Lougheed, we quite often keep that separate, but we do keep up with each other and are aware of the pursuits that we follow during our lives.

So I know my cousin has always spoken very highly of Mr. Lougheed, and I just want to express that when those kind of sentiments come from a long-time employee and someone who has a great loyalty and respect for the people that they work with, it really does bear a great deal of weight. So on behalf of all of us, please welcome to the Saskatchewan legislature.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Yorkton.

Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today in your gallery I'd like to introduce to you, and through you and all the members of the Assembly, Murray and Alida Lincoln. They're visiting their home province from Ontario. Apparently they come here in April because it's the only month that we don't have mosquitoes.

Alida was born and raised in Regina. Murray was born near Ceylon and raised in Regina. Together they have ministered through the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada in numerous locations throughout North America, including Africa and China. The Lincolns returned to their home province during the 1990s and worked in both Yorkton and Regina. During this time Murray was very active in the arts community through woodworking, carving, drawing, and tatting — the art of lacemaking.

Their work has always revolved around social justice issues and broken people, Mr. Speaker. Reverend Lincoln and Alida currently reside in Peterborough, Ontario and have been instrumental in COSA, a 12-step recovering program for men and women whose lives have been affected by another person's compulsive sexual behaviour, and the Peterborough community chaplaincy. The community chaplaincy program is about the reintegration of a person from a correctional institute and has one main objective — no more victims.

And apparently, Mr. Speaker, they have a connection to our Premier. They are very good friends of Pastor Bob Reesor that — Reesor? . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Reesor — that married our Premier and his wife, Tami.

So I'd like all members to welcome them to their Assembly.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Weyburn.

Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure to rise in the Assembly today to introduce a guest that's seated in your gallery. And if he could give a wave, I think he's still up there. There he is, Mr. Speaker.

Seated in your gallery is Jay Mowchenko. Jay is the pastor of the Free Methodist Church in Weyburn, the church that I attend, my wife Amanda and I attend. He was able to join us this morning for the prayer breakfast, and I know he certainly enjoyed that. And he's here to watch some of the proceedings before he attends to other appointments today.

Over the last couple of years, Mr. Speaker, Pastor Jay has become a good friend, a sometimes running companion, and a trusted counsellor and an adviser to myself, which I appreciate greatly. And I'd ask all members to join with me in welcoming him to his legislature today. Thank you.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I'd just like to take one moment. We want to welcome our guests, but we also remind our guests — they may not be aware of this — but they're not to participate in debate. But you're certainly welcome to observe the proceedings on the floor of the Assembly. Thank you so much.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Moose Jaw Wakamow.

Ms. Higgins: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition on behalf of my constituents dealing with health care in our community and in the Five Hills Health Region. And the prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary steps to provide funding for the expansion and renovation of the Moose Jaw Union Hospital.

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

Mr. Speaker, I so present.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Centre.

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I too rise to present petitions today. This one concerns the support of Station 20 and how important it is to the folks of the inner city of Saskatoon. I'd like to read the prayer:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that the your Hon. Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to immediately restore funding to the Station 20 project.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

I do so present. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Walsh Acres.

Ms. Morin: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present a petition today as well, Mr. Speaker. I wish to present several pages of petitions to the Legislative Assembly today on behalf of citizens of the province who are — of Saskatchewan — concerned with the withdrawal of the proposed essential services legislation and withdrawal of proposed amendments to The Trade Union Act. The prayer reads as follows:

We respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan urge the new government to withdraw The Public Service Essential Services Act, Bill 5, and The Trade Union Amendment Act, Bill 6, and hold broad public consultations about labour relations in the province.

I present these petitions on behalf of residents of Margo, Foam Lake, Theodore, Jedburgh, Springside, Sheho, Yorkton, Saskatoon and Delisle and Watson and Quill Lake. I so present. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Eastview.

Cancer Awareness Month

Ms. Junor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. April is Cancer Awareness Month. In 1965, 50 per cent of the population in Canada smoked. By 2005 the smoking rate dropped to 19 per cent. While this is a vast improvement over the '60s, 18 per cent of teens 15 to 19 years are still smoking, as are 26 per cent of those from 20 to 24 years. And 21 per cent of youth from grade 5 to 9 are experimenting with tobacco.

These numbers are frightening when added to the effects of passive smoking that have resulted in cancer, heart disease, and respiratory illness. The cost to our health system is enormous.

The Cancer Society is educating government and business on the value of smoke-free workplaces that promote a healthy choice for current and future workers.

[10:15]

The society has pointed out that success rates increase when an employee's attempt to quit is employer-supported. Companies are encouraged to include all workers in efforts to promote a healthy workplace. By choosing and enforcing a smoke-free environment and providing resources to those who want to quit, companies can realize economic spinoffs and improve morale through less downtime from smoke-related illnesses.

Workers have become the most valuable asset in our new economy. Wise governments and employers will take measures

to protect and maintain their employees' well-being. Smoke-free workplaces make perfect sense. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Northwest.

Prayer Breakfast

Mr. LeClerc: — Mr. Speaker, this morning I had the opportunity, along with the Premier and many of my colleagues, of attending the annual Saskatchewan Prayer Breakfast which is organized by the Lieutenant Governor and the Chief Justice.

This year's event at the Conexus Arts Centre also featured an inspirational message from a man who is well known to sports fans in Saskatchewan, Richie Hall. He spoke about being part of the team rather than on a team and the importance of giving back and thanks for all the blessings that we have received.

I believe that the Mayor of Hudson Bay in her breakfast prayer encapsulated Richie's message. It reads:

Almighty God, Creator of the Universe, you have given us this good land as our heritage — this land of abundance with rich soil . . . [clean] waters and rich minerals, for which we are so thankful. May we prove ourselves with honest industry, truthful education and an honourable way of life.

Mr. Speaker, as last year's guest speaker at this breakfast, I know how much time and effort goes into the event. I would like all the members of the Assembly to join me in thanking all of those who worked so hard to ensure that this year's prayer breakfast was a success and to also thank Mr. Richie Hall for his inspirational message about being part of Christ's team in giving back.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

St. John Ambulance 125th Anniversary

Ms. Higgins: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 125th anniversary of St. John Ambulance, and they now have a new location to serve the area in Moose Jaw, and it serves Moose Jaw and Regina.

Tammy Hincks, a former customer service representative for the organization's Regina office, took over the position of location manager in February of this year. Tammy's first order of business is to bring St. John Ambulance back into our Moose Jaw community.

The organization is most recognized for its delivery of first aid and CPR [cardiopulmonary resuscitation] training, but is certainly not limited to those programs. They maintain a huge volunteer aspect and provide training in a wide variety of areas.

Tammy wants Moose Jaw to be known as their number one training location.

Tammy will be splitting her time between Moose Jaw and Regina and will be promoting the work of St. John Ambulance at major events in our community such as Sidewalk Days and the Moose Jaw Hometown Fair.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask that all members join me in recognizing the good work of the St. John Ambulance, congratulate them on their 125th anniversary, and welcome them back to our community in Moose Jaw. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Humboldt.

Humboldt Broncos Win League Championship

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Well, Mr. Speaker, the member from Kindersley and myself were sitting on the edge of our seats yesterday in anticipation of the big game last night.

And now, Mr. Speaker, it is my honour today to rise and acknowledge the accomplishments of the Humboldt Broncos who last night captured the Credential Cup as champions of the SJHL [Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League]. Though they trailed in the series three games to one, the Broncos fought back and won game 7 — 8 to 2 over the Kindersley Klippers.

This is the second year in a row that the Broncos have won the league championship, and it is their seventh overall. Jordan Schindel of the Broncos was named the Credential Cup most valuable player, but we all recognize the hard work that members from both teams put in throughout the series and the whole year. The Broncos will now move on to the Anavet Cup on Friday against Portage la Prairie.

Mr. Speaker, we all recognize the importance hockey has to our communities in terms of community spirit. I understand that there were at least 1,800 fans in attendance last night, and, Mr. Speaker, I can assure you that the community of Humboldt is swelled with pride this morning and very, very proud of their young men's accomplishments.

I ask all of the members to please join me in congratulating the Humboldt Broncos on their season thus far and extend their support to the Broncos in their pursuit of the Anavet Cup.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Centre.

Parkridge Centre Fundraiser

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Mr. Speaker, Parkridge Centre is a long-term care facility situated in my Saskatoon Fairview constituency. Since the opening in 1987, Parkridge Centre has been considered one of the finest examples of barrier-free living for the physically challenged. The centre was designed with an emphasis placed on quality of life for residents and their families.

Mr. Speaker, through the month of May, Parkridge Centre will be hosting its annual Pennies for Parkridge campaign. Last year 11-year-old Brenden Affleck, grandson to a previous resident of Parkridge Centre, personally raised \$1,200 for the campaign and has become something of an ambassador, doing media and speaking engagements. He not only involves the community in the campaign, but he is a role model for other children around the importance of family in community.

Brenden was successful in engaging students from different schools to participate as they raised \$3,000 for last year's campaign. This year Brenden has a personal goal of collecting 1 million pennies, while Parkridge Centre would like to double that amount and collect 2 million pennies. All money raised will go towards the redevelopment of their atrium. Parkridge Centre needs a space that both young and elderly can enjoy as some residents may call Parkridge home for their entire lives.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in thanking Brenden Affleck and the Parkridge Centre for their enthusiasm and support to help and improve the quality of life for the residents who call Parkridge Centre home. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Curling Champions

Hon. Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan has the right to feel proud even more of our athletes. Our Saskatchewan men's curling team won the Canadian senior men's curling championship in Prince Albert. The championship game was a close match and one that kept the Saskatchewan fans on their seats until the final rock had slid into place with a perfect draw.

The team was skipped by Eugene Hritzuk, and the third was played by Kevin Kalthoff. Second was Verne Anderson from my very own Wadena, and the lead was Dave Folk. This extraordinary team has now earned Saskatchewan a ticket to the 2009 worlds in New Zealand.

As well Saskatchewan's representative at the Canadian senior women's curling championships was Delores Syrota, including third Sylvia Broad, second Gloria Leach, and lead Bev Krasowski. They ended up in fourth place, just short of a berth in the playoffs. And they also are from Kelvington-Wadena.

Another Saskatchewan curling team is heading to the 55-plus Canadian games in New Brunswick in August. This mixed rink hails from Wadena with Don Adams, Florence Carbo, Earl Haugerud, and Vie Haugerud. They came home with a gold medal from the 55-plus mixed category at the curling playdowns in Watrous.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the Assembly to join with me in congratulating these three teams for working hard and giving their best for curling. May they continue their tremendous teamwork as they represent Saskatchewan at the next level.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Thank You, Sister Maria

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As the people's northern representative in the province of Saskatchewan, Canada, I am proud to stand today to pay tribute to Sister Margaret McMahon, affectionately known as Sister Maria, who has dedicated part of her life and service to the people of the North.

Mr. Speaker, Sister Maria has spent the last 12 years serving parishioners and God throughout my region. Sadly, this service has come to an end as Sister Maria is now preparing to travel back home to England. While our parting is sad, the memories and more importantly the work that Sister Maria has done will last a lifetime, and I want to say to her thank you and thank you again.

Mr. Speaker, I must say that people who dedicate themselves to serve God and humanity want to know that this service has made a positive difference. As Sister Maria leaves our land, I want her to take with her our love, our gratitude, our appreciation and, above all else, our commitment to continue to building her faith, our faith. Mr. Speaker, I wish Sister Maria a safe journey and a good life. I hope she keeps a small place in her heart for our people and our communities.

At this time I also want to pay tribute to all the sisters, the clergy, the lay service, and the parishioners that build on a foundation of faith and hope for all humanity. It is the greatest work that any single human can do, and many of us need to say thank you. And many more of us need to continue that work.

Sister Maria, we know you have more work to do, but know this — your work in our region was well done. God bless you for that work and may he keep you safe on your journey home and on. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

QUESTION PERIOD

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Moose Jaw Wakamow.

Revenue Sharing With Municipalities

Ms. Higgins: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, despite knowing for weeks that municipalities were struggling under this government's inadequate funding, yesterday the Premier suggested, out of the blue, help may be on the way. And while the message may mean good news for taxpayers, it certainly was a surprise to many, including the minister responsible who, just the day before, was following his own stellar advice — sit back and wait and see what happens.

Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure if he's in the loop or not, but to the Minister of Municipal Affairs: will the minister commit to getting money to the municipalities in time to avoid a huge tax increase?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Wall: — I want to thank the member for her question. And I want to recognize a bit of the preamble to her question where she talked about a surprise.

What a welcome surprise it was for the province of Saskatchewan, for all the people in the province, last Thursday when the Ministry of Energy and Resources announced land sales, oil and gas land sales, at over a quarter billion dollars in just two months — this on the heels of a land sale of \$197 million for the two-month period after that. That was a surprise. Our ministry officials had generously forecast \$100 million in land sales. Two and a half times that came in.

So our government, Mr. Speaker, I'm . . .

The Speaker: — Order. Order. I ask all members to come to order. I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Well I hear some doubt over there that this was a surprise that we'd have a quarter billion dollars in land sales in a two-month period, from the current House Leader. I'd say that it surprised everyone. It's a welcome surprise.

And what the current government believes, Mr. Speaker, is that when changes like this happen, we ought to be able to react very quickly to partner with those who are on the front line to ensure that we have the infrastructure in place to keep the growth going to continue to put Saskatchewan in a leadership position in the country.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Moose Jaw Wakamow.

Ms. Higgins: — Well, Mr. Speaker, the surprise wasn't that our economy's growing. We all know that's happening. The surprise was that it took the Premier five months to realize that his commitment to municipalities was inadequate and that his budget commitment of a 7 per cent increase for municipal funding was inadequate. Mr. Speaker, that was the surprise, that it took him so long to realize it. And they know that at the end of the day it took the voice of taxpayers, municipalities, and this opposition to finally goad them into some action.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Ms. Higgins: — Mr. Speaker, will the minister responsible finally admit — or the Premier if he's doing the answering for the minister now — will he finally admit that his budget commitments were inadequate and that it's about time he made some movement on this file?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, let's talk about some things that are not a surprise at all. It's no surprise that Saskatchewan — with all of our resources and with our most important resource, our people — it's no surprise that we are leading the country. It's no surprise, Mr. Speaker, that a government that campaigned on keeping that momentum going would then introduce in its first budget an historic billion dollar ready-for-growth initiative. It's no surprise that in the course of delivering that budget that that new government would keep its promises to municipalities for a 7 per cent increase in revenue sharing.

The surprise occurs with the sheer magnitude of the momentum of the economy, in no small way aided by the efforts of the new government on the royalty structure, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Wall: — And so, and so what a good government would do and what we never saw from the previous administration, but what a good government would do is react to a quarter billion dollars in two months in land sales. We're going to do that, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Moose Jaw Wakamow.

Ms. Higgins: — Mr. Speaker, there's no surprise in the economy. There's no surprise in this government sitting on a huge, fat pile of cash. The surprise was that it took that Premier so long to realize that his inadequate commitments were hurting municipalities, and he just . . . the minister sat back and said, wait and see, wait and see. That's all you do. So with a billion and a half dollars in cash sitting in surplus, these commitments were inadequate, first and foremost.

And I'm not a clairvoyant, Mr. Speaker, but I suspect that there won't need to be much negotiations with municipalities. This government just needs to decide to put the money on the table. Mr. Speaker, he has the support of this opposition, and will he commit today to at least doubling the current commitment in the budget for municipalities?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Municipal Affairs.

[10:30]

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Hutchinson: — Mr. Speaker, the hon. member opposite flatters herself and her party. The Premier has made a very clear, compelling statement about this government's interest in remaining flexible, in remaining interested and able to adopt to changing circumstances and taking full advantage of opportunities as they arise, in stark contrast to the performance of the previous government opposite.

Mr. Speaker, what I'm wanting to know is, when will members

of the opposition have the courage and integrity to get up in this House and freely admit that they broke the back of the revenue-sharing program by clawing back \$300 million from municipalities, crippling their ability to manage their finances without continual property tax increases?

I would like to know when they will have the courage to get up and admit that they had 16 years to negotiate a new revenue-sharing deal and didn't get the job done, Mr. Speaker. And finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to know when they'll admit that they had 16 years to do this, to find a solution, and it's going to take more than 16 weeks to create one.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Moose Jaw Wakamow.

Ms. Higgins: — Well, Mr. Speaker, the minister likes to go back to the early '90s. He likes to think he's in charge, but his advice to me was, sit back and wait and see what the municipalities are going to do. Don't get in a panic. Sit back and wait.

Then the Premier jumps up in the middle of question period and says, oh well maybe, you know, we've got lots of dollars. He finally realized. That's a surprise. It took him five months to figure out how much money the coffers of Saskatchewan actually has in it. They're overflowing.

Well, Mr. Speaker, if the member wants to compare himself to this former government, this former government gave the municipalities \$30 million extra last year.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Ms. Higgins: — Maybe that should be the benchmark they should be looking at.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Municipal Affairs.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Hutchinson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thirty million dollars indeed after taking \$300 million — you give a dime; you take back a dollar. I don't think that's respectful to municipalities. And it didn't just take one or two years in the early '90s to do it. It was a campaign of destruction and disrespect that lasted for an entire decade. They broke it, Mr. Speaker. We intend to fix it.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Moose Jaw Wakamow.

Ms. Higgins: — Well, Mr. Speaker, when he said they're fixing it, that's one thing. But how long are they going to take? And, Mr. Speaker, if they're going to sit on a pile of money when the municipalities are . . .

The Speaker: — Order. Order. I call members to order. Member from Moose Jaw Wakamow.

Ms. Higgins: — Mr. Speaker, clear and simple, will the minister commit a dollar value to the increase for municipalities, so they can work it into their current system of budgeting which is well in progress? Can he commit today to the dollar value offered for the municipalities?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Municipal Affairs.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Hutchinson: — Mr. Speaker, hopefully the hon. member on the opposite side of the House will realize that it will take some time to repair the damage of 16 years of abuse and neglect. Sixteen years, Mr. Speaker, is a long, long time. We have to repair and rebuild a shattered relationship, one that is actually based on respect, collegiality, and a government-to-government partnership with our municipal partners. That is already well under way. I've already visited all 13 of our major municipalities, a number of the towns, the villages, and even some of the northern, even some . . .

The Speaker: — Order. Order. The Minister of Municipal Affairs.

Hon. Mr. Hutchinson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And with respect to this extraordinary opportunity to . . .

The Speaker: — Order. The member will complete his response.

Hon. Mr. Hutchinson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to the extraordinary opportunity that's been presented to us by this unprecedented sale, \$265 million in revenue, we have already contacted our municipal partners in SUMA [Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association] and SARM [Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities] to get some discussions going as early as next week to get this process under way immediately.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Saskatchewan Government Insurance

Mr. Harper: — Mr. Speaker, earlier this week the minister revealed that SGI [Saskatchewan Government Insurance] would not be issuing rebates to drivers this year — this in spite of the fact of the extreme financial position that saw a net surplus. The company will not be passing any money along to drivers in Saskatchewan.

My question is for the minister. Did SGI make the decision not to issue rebates to drivers this year based on its own financial projections, or has the minister been imposing his views on one of Saskatchewan's Crown corporations?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Crown Corporations.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. SGI did make a profit this year, \$35 million down from 52 million the year before because of some summer storms that we incurred in Saskatchewan; \$22 million dividend to the Crown Investments Corporation to help in the future years to establish programs like the ready-for-growth \$1 billion fund that this government put forward. The Auto Fund is in a situation where we have \$141 million in the fund. Industry standards indicate that we should be at about the \$130 million mark. So we have a little bit of a surplus there.

The decision was made not to, not to extend a rebate right now. It was made in accordance with industry standards. It was a sound, sound financial thing to do, and it's in keeping with our commitment to run the corporations in that manner. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Northeast.

Mr. Harper: — Mr. Speaker, SGI's out-of-province investments have been extremely successful in recent years. Last year alone they accounted for \$9 million in profits. Investing outside of Saskatchewan has been so successful in fact the SGI president has said that the corporation plans to expand these operations to 26 per cent of revenues by 2010 from the current level of 18.5. But, Mr. Speaker, apparently this plan does not sit well with the minister.

My question to the minister: is it the minister's intentions to impose his views on SGI as they relate to investments outside of Saskatchewan?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Crown Corporations.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Mr. Speaker, I want to be clear for the member opposite that yes, we will impose our views on the Crown corporations. That is, that is to provide the service at the lowest possible cost. That was the commitment that we made, that what we made. If that's an imposition, you know, if that's an imposition I'd agree that that's what we're doing. We are providing the service at the lowest possible cost to Saskatchewan taxpayers. But what we did on November 7 is we promised that, and what we announced when we tabled the annual report is that we're keeping that promise, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina

Northeast.

Mr. Harper: — Based on that answer, Mr. Speaker, obviously the minister didn't read the editorial in *The Saskatoon StarPhoenix*. Mr. Speaker, SGI is an incredibly successful Crown corporation that contributes much to Saskatchewan, but for some reason the minister and the Sask Party seem to think that they know better than those who operate SGI on behalf of the province.

My question to the minister: will the minister force the Crowns to operate in ways based on his own views, or will he allow them to do what they do best in the best interests of Saskatchewan people?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Crown Corporations.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Mr. Speaker, let's be clear for the member opposite and all members in the House. SGI made a profit based on business in Saskatchewan and outside the province. \$26.4 million of the \$35 million profit were made in Saskatchewan. Our commitment to Saskatchewan people are to provide that service at the lowest cost and to make, make Saskatchewan and any expansion necessary in Saskatchewan a priority. That was the promise of this government on November 7. That continues to be the promise today.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize . . . Why is the member on his feet?

Dental Sealant Program

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Minister of Finance took notice of questions from the critic from Health, and I'd be glad to answer those questions today.

The question was around the dental sealant program which is a pilot program that was started under that opposition when they were in government. In the short time that it operated, it was only available in two health authorities at a cost of \$300,000 . . . is what those health authorities spent on this dental sealant program. That serviced 225 children. That's a cost of over \$1,000 a child under that dental sealant program, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, if you look at what that would have cost through the dental services already provided in our province, for 225 children to receive the same service through a dental office, it would have been \$24,000 compared to the \$300,000 in a pilot project that government spent, Mr. Speaker.

It was a good decision, Mr. Speaker. Our government is committed to human resources, capital investment in this province, and that's what we'll be doing.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition.

Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement

Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, yesterday we learned that a delegation from the Pacific Northwest Economic Region, known as PNWER, was in the province, is in the province meeting with government officials and members of the cabinet and the caucus of the government. According to PNWER's website, Mr. Speaker, one of the goals of PNWER is to expand the BC [British Columbia]-Alberta Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement known as TILMA.

Now, Mr. Speaker, many remember that this party now in government, when in opposition, called upon our then government to sign TILMA. With urgency, they called upon government to sign TILMA. Somewhere as the election loomed, they had a conversion experience. They heard the voice of Saskatchewan people. They saw an election coming and changed their position and said we will not sign TILMA.

So my question today is to the Premier. In the discussions with PNWER that are happening, is TILMA on the table? Is it part of the discussion?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank the member opposite for the question. I will say that the position with respect to the new government and TILMA has not changed since the election campaign.

We highlighted concerns last summer after some hearings in the province that were conducted by the appropriate committee of this House. We had some concerns with respect to the lack of clarity in TILMA on the treatment of subsidiaries of Crowns. Certainly Crown corporations are fully contemplated in TILMA, but the question around subsidiaries just remains unclear, as does our desire to pursue new-growth tax incentives and to have municipalities pursuing new-growth tax incentives. We also couldn't get a definitive answer as to whether that would be allowed in TILMA.

However our government is going to continue to work very hard with our western partners, with groups like PNWER, with The Energy Council, through economic co-operation initiatives, Mr. Speaker. We believe that it is Saskatchewan's time to lead in these efforts. We believe there is greater strength for the West if we work together as has been the example in the past. And we will find those ways to work together, Mr. Speaker, in the future.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition.

Mr. Calvert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well this is very

interesting. The Premier stands in the House today and says that they have not changed their position on TILMA.

Well just last night, Mr. Speaker, in this legislature we had a very interesting circumstance. The member from Cut Knife-Turtleford was chairing a meeting involving members representing PNWER and various groups and individuals from Saskatchewan. The member from Cut-Knife-Turtleford was asked whether a Saskatchewan Party government will review TILMA. The answer was yes.

Meanwhile the member of Melfort, the Minister of Finance, was in committee in this same legislature, and when he was asked will the Sask Party government review TILMA, the answer was no. Now, Mr. Speaker, to the Premier: which is it? Is the Sask Party now reviewing TILMA, yes or no?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, if the concerns of the new government could ever be . . . and this is something I stated publicly during the election campaign and since. If the concerns we have, the way TILMA exists today, cannot be addressed, i.e., with respect to municipalities — and this is part of the review that the member for Cut Knife would be talking about — it's simply the notion of ongoing discussions between provinces.

If, Mr. Speaker, the concerns of our province cannot be met with respect to the autonomy of municipal governments, if our concerns with respect to treatment of subsidiary Crown corporations cannot be met, then TILMA is simply not on.

But should we, as a province, be advancing the improvement of labour mobility in our jurisdictions? Yes. Should we be improving trade opportunities? Yes. Mr. Speaker, should Saskatchewan step up and lead in the new West? Yes. Should we be joining groups like PNWER to advance the Asia-Pacific Gateway and trade opportunities for our residents? The answer is yes.

Should we be involved in The Energy Council and advancing North American energy security, not just sitting at the back of the room, stealing the muffins as the previous government used to do? The answer is yes, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, well I thank the halleluia chorus for the applause. Mr. Speaker, what this government needs . . .

The Speaker: — Order. Order. The Leader of the Opposition has a right to place his question.

Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, should this government get its act together? The answer is yes.

[10:45]

Mr. Speaker, I want to quote for you reports that are coming from the province of Alberta. This week we read in media reports in Alberta from Jim Macdonald with Canadian Press, and I'll just quote Mr. Macdonald, quote:

Alberta is already talking with Saskatchewan's newly elected right-wing government which, unlike the previous NDP administration [note these words, Mr. Speaker], is keen to become part of a western trade deal with Alberta and B.C.

It is being reported in Alberta that this government is now keen, quote, ". . . keen to become part of a western trade deal with Alberta and B.C." It seems to some of us that the Premier's trips to Alberta now are engaging in more than just fundraising for his political party.

I want to ask the Premier what discussions has he had with the Government of Alberta that would convince that government and the people of Alberta that he is now keen on signing TILMA.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, I will tell that member opposite and all of my colleagues in this Assembly exactly what the message has been from this province with respect to TILMA. I will say that we have said to the newly elected Premier Stelmach and also to Premier Campbell that we do like the principle and the concepts of western economic co-operation, that our new government wants to advance in areas where we can reduce any barriers to trade that exists, where we can see labour mobility increase between our two provinces.

But what I have said very clearly to those two Premiers and what our officials have been saying to their officials is that we have concerns the way TILMA existed. We expressed them before the election with respect to the autonomy of municipalities, with respect to subsidiary Crowns. Those concerns have not been addressed to this date.

We understand that TILMA's take it or leave it, and under those circumstances we will not take it. We will, however, pursue other opportunities to improve Saskatchewan's position with the new West. And for once, we would hope that the members opposite would join with us and have an outward, bolder vision for what Saskatchewan can do within the West and within the country, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, and my question is this. My question is this. The Premier maintains he's not changed his position. How is it then that the Government of Alberta seems to have a different view? How is it that it's being reported publicly by Canadian Press in Alberta that his government, that this government is now keen — keen, note the word — on signing in to TILMA?

The Premier's right; it's a take it or leave it. There's no negotiation. It's a take it or leave it. In Alberta we seem to be hearing one story, a different story that we're hearing in this legislature.

So my question again to the Premier is, how is it that the Government of Alberta and the press in Alberta now believe that this government is keen on signing TILMA?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, it is really and truly an honour and a privilege to be able to answer questions on behalf of the new Government of Saskatchewan. I, however, cannot answer questions on behalf of Canadian Press or Mr. Macdonald in Edmonton. I simply can't do that. I would encourage the member opposite if you had some questions of him, you ought to ask questions of Mr. Macdonald. I've told him exactly the position of the government.

But here's an interesting point, Mr. Speaker. We've lost a little bit of ground in Saskatchewan over the decades under the previous government because there was this sort of inward vision, inward-looking vision the government would have.

The member opposite would say, after we attained have-province status, he said, oh we'll always be in and out of equalization payments. That's what he said. We knew that they wouldn't join up with Energy Council except to go to the meetings as an observer for free. They wouldn't be engaged in PNWER. They wouldn't talk to BC and Alberta about opportunities to co-operate on health care delivery on the purchasing of pharmaceuticals.

We have a different vision, Mr. Speaker, in this new government. That vision is outward looking. That vision sees Saskatchewan leading in the new West and in Canada. And we'll pursue those aims and objectives, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Calvert: — Well, Mr. Speaker, what we have here is a government that clearly says one thing before an election and does something completely different after the election. That's what we have here.

We are debating in this legislature something they call the growth and stability fund, which is simply the Fiscal Stabilization Fund which they said they would never have. We're debating in this legislature a Bill to take away the rights of working people in regard to essential services. Before the

election, they said they'd never do it.

And by the way, Mr. Speaker, before the election they didn't tell us that they were going to cancel the funding for Station 20. They didn't tell us they were going to cancel the funding for the dental sealant program. What they told us before the election is no, never on TILMA.

What do we find after the election? We're having discussions with PNWER. We got a backbencher over there saying, yes we're reviewing TILMA. We've got the press in Alberta reporting from the Alberta government that this government is now keen on signing TILMA.

What we've got here, Mr. Speaker, is a government that goes and gets its money to run its political party in downtown . . .

The Speaker: — Order. The member has his right to place the question in an allotted period of time. And the Speaker is keeping his eye on the clock, as the minister does have the opportunity to respond. The member can place his question.

Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, what we've got here is a government that says one thing before an election and one thing after an election. We've got a government that goes to get its political money in downtown Calgary.

My question is to the Premier. Who is calling the shots here? Is it downtown Calgary, or is it your commitment to the people of Saskatchewan?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, downtown Calgary is talking a lot about Saskatchewan today to be sure. They're talking about the new government in Saskatchewan. And more than that, we see millions of dollars and people coming to the province of Saskatchewan because of . . .

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Because of the confidence they have in the new government. And, Mr. Speaker, it's interesting. The context of the hon. member's question is interesting to me because he wants to try to press the point that the government is doing something different than when it campaigned.

I want to tell you that in the first five months this government has kept 60 of its election promises, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Sixty of its election promises. We will soon actually exceed the promises that we've made to the municipal sector, Mr. Speaker. And there is more to come.

The theme of this government has been promises kept and being ready for growth in the province of Saskatchewan. The theme has been a vision that is worthy of the great potential of the province, something that we didn't see coming from those members. And I'll just tell the members opposite they can

expect more promises kept, Mr. Speaker, and a vision worthy of the future of this province.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I just want to bring to the attention of members, while it certainly is appropriate for . . . Order. Order. While it is appropriate and certainly appreciated when notice is taken of questions and the minister to respond, that I believe in the future rather than breaking the train of thought where the questions may be coming from, the responses will be taken at the end of question period. So I pass that on, and that is the way it will be. So I want to . . . At this time we will move on to ministerial statements. Order. Order.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 34 — The Graduate Retention Program Act

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Advanced Education, Employment and Labour.

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill 34, An Act respecting a Graduate Retention Program and repealing The Graduate Tax Exemption Act be introduced and read for the first time.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Advanced Education, Employment and Labour has moved first reading of Bill No. 34, The Graduate Retention Program Act be now read a first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Agreed. Carried.

Clerk: — First reading of this Bill.

The Speaker: — When shall the Bill be read a second time?

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Next sitting of the House, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

Bill No. 35 — The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2008

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Mr. Gantefer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that Bill No. 35, The Income Tax Amendment Act be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Finance has moved first reading of Bill No. 35, The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2008 be now read a first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Agreed. Carried.

Clerk: — First reading of this Bill.

The Speaker: — When shall the Bill be read a second time?

Hon. Mr. Gantefer: — Next sitting, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

Order. Order. Order. I ask the members to come to order so that we can hear the Bills as they're called and the ministers can respond.

Bill No. 38 — The Corporate Capital Tax Act

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Mr. Gantefer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I now move that Bill No. 38, The Corporate Capital Tax Act be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Finance has moved first reading of Bill No. 38, The Corporate Capital Tax Act. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Agreed. Carried.

Clerk: — First reading of this Bill.

The Speaker: — When shall the Bill be read a second time?

Hon. Mr. Gantefer: — Next sitting, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

TABLING OF REPORTS

The Speaker: — Before orders of the day, I lay on the Table the report from the Provincial Auditor of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan on the financial statements of the Crown agencies for the years ending in the 2007 calendar year.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the government I wish to table answers to questions 578 to 587.

The Speaker: — Questions 578 to 587 are tabled.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 33 — The Active Families Benefit Act

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport.

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Bill No. 33, An Act respecting an Active Families Benefit, 2008 will encourage

healthy, active families through culture, sport, and recreational activities.

The purpose of the new active families benefit Act is to help families with the cost of their children's participation in cultural, recreational, and sport activities. This government believes that sport, especially organized sport, helps children and youth realize their potential and grow into engaged, healthy citizens. Sport develops their confidence and, very importantly, it establishes positive lifelong habits.

As adults, sport helps us build stronger relationships with our children and gives us a framework for teaching them valuable lessons about teamwork and leadership. Sport enhances the quality of life in our communities, as well making them a more attractive place to live, to work, to play, and to do business.

We will be providing \$150 per year per child refundable tax benefit. Parents and legal guardians of children aged 6 to 14 years registered in cultural, recreational, or sport programs can claim an active families benefit of up to \$150 per child. Families will need to retain receipts and complete an application form as part of their Saskatchewan income tax return and submit it to the Canada Revenue Agency with their annual return. Families will not be required to submit their receipts with their tax return but will be expected to retain their receipts for future reference if they need to verify their claims. It is anticipated that up to 120,000 Saskatchewan children and youth will benefit from the active families benefit.

The Ministry of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport will be consulting with major stakeholder organizations such as Sask Sport, SaskCulture, the Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association, and In Motion to help define eligible cultural, recreational, and sport activities and to engage these agencies in helping to promote the active families benefit to families who will gain by its assistance. It is expected the program guidelines defining eligible activities will be completed by the fall of 2008. The active families benefit will take effect beginning January 1 in the 2009 tax year. Mr. Speaker, this is one more promise kept.

Mr. Speaker, I move second reading of Bill 33, The Active Families Benefit Act, 2008. Thank you.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport has moved second reading of Bill No. 33, The Active Families Benefit Act. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Regina Dewdney.

[11:00]

Mr. Yates: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased today to stand and enter into debate on this particular piece of legislation. Mr. Speaker, we are all in favour of encouraging young people and our citizens to participate in physical activity and organized sports, Mr. Speaker.

We with keen interest look at this Bill, and ask a number of questions of ourself. Why the arbitrary \$150 figure? How does it impact families that may or may not have the ability to ever file income tax, Mr. Speaker? Those are of the lowest income in our society, Mr. Speaker. Many of those families don't in fact

file income tax, so how do they access benefit from this particular provision, or can they?

Well, Mr. Speaker, this is a piece of legislation where we'll have a number of very important questions that need to be answered in committee. So with that, Mr. Speaker, I would move that we move this Bill to committee.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion by the minister that Bill No. 33, The Active Families Benefit Act be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Agreed. Carried. Second reading.

Clerk: — Second reading of this Bill.

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

Hon. Mr. Gantfoer: — Mr. Speaker, to Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

The Speaker: — This Bill stands referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

Bill No. 17 — The Highways and Transportation Amendment Act, 2008

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Highways.

Hon. Mr. Elhard: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to move second reading of An Act to amend The Highways and Transportation Act, 1997. These amendments are largely of a housekeeping nature.

The first amendment is to The Highways and Transportation Act. The intent of this amendment is to complete the transfer of authority to set speed limits to the Minister of Highways and Infrastructure from the Highway Traffic Board. What this will do is put into legislation what has been practised through delegation for a number of years. This transfer of authority will also be reflected in a consequential amendment to The Traffic Safety Act.

Other amendments to The Highways and Transportation Act will be to clarify provincial jurisdiction for the appointment of weigh scale inspectors. It will remove references to duties that the federal government does not perform in Saskatchewan or other provinces. The Highways and Transportation Act will also be amended to transfer the power to issue hours of service permits to the Minister of Highways and Infrastructure from the Highway Traffic Board.

Mr. Speaker, I move second reading of this Bill.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Highways has moved second

reading of Bill No. 17, The Highways and Transportation Amendment Act, 2008. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

I recognize the member from Regina Northeast.

Mr. Harper: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it gives me a great deal of pleasure to join into this debate on Bill 17. Mr. Speaker, it's been a long-time tradition in this House that on second readings the minister will make his remarks. Usually advance copies of those remarks will be sent to the critic, so the critic has the opportunity to review those remarks before the presentation of the Bill.

Unfortunately that was not done in this case. But I'm sure it's just an oversight by the minister or his staff, and I'm sure it's not something that'll happen again. So I'm looking forward to — at some point in time in the future — to take part in the second readings of another Bill, and I'll be able to thank the minister then for his advance copy of his remarks.

As we glanced through this Bill, Mr. Speaker, we see some things that could possibly be alarming. We see the minister has indicated that he believes that this is a housekeeping Bill, and that basically what it does, it puts into legislation what is already being carried out in practice. That of course, Mr. Speaker, doesn't necessarily mean because it's being carried out in practice that it's right.

What we look at here is . . . we see the shifting of power. We're shifting power from the Highway Traffic Board in particular, which is a board made up of representations from people from all across this province, from all walks of life who bring different viewpoints to the table and to the issues before them. And as a result of that, we have a good cross-section of people who make decisions on behalf of Saskatchewan people when it comes to such things as the Highway Traffic Board, highway traffic Act.

And now we're seeing this power that's been dispersed by a public board now being put in the hands of the minister. And I think that's something that we have to look at closely. We'll have to see if it's in the best interests of Saskatchewan people, try to ascertain the ramifications of this for Saskatchewan people and for stakeholders.

I mean, for example, we have the ability now . . . If this legislation was passed, the minister would have the ability to fix speed limits on provincial highways or portions thereof. But I wonder, Mr. Speaker, how this would work if perhaps a community that perhaps has strong representation to the Sask Party was to make representation to the minister? Would that interfere with the minister's decision process and perhaps give a special preference to that community in that decision making — the decision as to the maximum speed of traffic through that particular community?

Those are just, you know, some of the things. We see the shifting of authority for weigh scales that has always been invested in the federal government now being shifted over to the minister's office to make those decisions. So it's a little concerning when you look at the fact that the minister is now enjoying a greater range of powers in his office rather than

having that decision-making process dispersed amongst a broad range of membership of the board, of the Highway Traffic Board.

But I think, Mr. Speaker, that we will have plenty of time in committee to ask the questions of the minister, those particular questions of the minister on this particular Bill so that we can be comfortable, so we can be comfortable that at the end of the day the legislation will be in the best interests of Saskatchewan people.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I move that this Bill be moved to committee.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Speaker: — Question. The question before the Assembly is a motion by the minister that Bill No. 17, The Highways and Transportation Amendment Act, 2008 be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Agreed. Carried.

Clerk Assistant: — Second reading of this Bill.

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

Hon. Mr. Gantefoer: — Mr. Speaker, to the Standing Committee on the Economy.

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

Bill No. 26 — The Midwifery Amendment Act, 2008

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to move the second reading of The Midwifery Amendment Act.

Before I get into my remarks on this Act, I do want to comment on the previous . . . the member opposite talking about getting second reading speeches in advance. In all the years that I've been in this House, that has never happened. The odd ministerial statements will be passed on beforehand, but it is that work of the opposition to read the Bill which has already been for first reading and make their comments on that basis, not on the second reading speech which has never, that has not been the tradition of this House.

Just a few weeks ago, Mr. Speaker, the government proclaimed additional sections of The Midwifery Act that make midwives a provincially recognized and self-regulated profession. It was a joyous day for the province's midwives and a proud moment for our government. At that time we indicated our intentions to amend The Midwifery Act to entrench provisions allowing midwives to provide postpartum care to mothers and babies.

Mr. Speaker, we are following through on that commitment.

Presently midwives can provide postpartum care under a bylaw passed by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan and approved by the government. This was intended as an interim measure until the legislation could be amended. That bylaw expires at the end of this year.

The midwife amendment Act clarifies the role of the midwife in providing care to a mother and her newborn through the prenatal period and delivery and the postpartum phase of a normal, low-risk pregnancy. The amendment also clearly defines the regulatory role of the Saskatchewan College of Midwives and the requirements of the licensure for the midwives wishing to work in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, the government consulted widely in developing this legislation. The Saskatchewan Registered Nurses' Association, the Saskatchewan Medical Association, the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan, the Midwives Association of Saskatchewan, the College of Pharmacists, and regional health authorities are all supportive of these amendments. I want to thank all of these parties for their work and support.

With a sound regulatory structure in place, midwives will be able to make a significant contribution to improving Saskatchewan's publicly funded, publicly administered health care system.

Midwives are expected to on the job in Regina and Saskatoon later this year, working as employees of the regional health authorities. Services will be expanded throughout the province as more midwives are licensed.

Mr. Speaker, the International Day of the Midwife is held each year on May 5. This year's event will be a special day for Saskatchewan midwives, their clients, and this government. Midwives are now in the position to make a full contribution to the province's health care system by providing safe and flexible care centred on the needs of the mother and her family — truly something to be celebrated.

Mr. Speaker, I move second reading of The Midwifery Amendment Act.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Minister of Health has moved second reading of Bill No. 26, The Midwifery Amendment Act, 2008. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Saskatoon Eastview.

Ms. Junor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, before I begin my remarks, leave to introduce a guest?

The Speaker: — The member has asked for leave to introduce guests. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Agreed. The member.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Ms. Junor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In your gallery is my cousin Lynn McGregor from Winnipeg. She's here doing business in Regina. I'd like to welcome her to our Assembly. It's the first time I think she's been here, and I think it's going to be an interesting day to watch the proceedings. So welcome, Lynn, to Saskatchewan.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 26 — The Midwifery Amendment Act, 2008 (continued)

Ms. Junor: — Mr. Speaker, The Midwifery Act is something I've been involved in since probably '97. I was on the implementation working group of the committee as the past president of SUN [Saskatchewan Union of Nurses]. The initial discussions around the midwifery profession and bringing it into Saskatchewan began under Louise Simard, the previous minister of Health, and has moved through many years of discussion about how you bring a new profession into the province, whether you need that profession, how it's regulated, how people are educated.

Many of the things that happened over the years I was party to and was pleased when the then minister of Health, the member from Nutana, brought the Act, The Midwifery Act, into this legislature in 1999.

Since then there has been a lot of work done on regulating. There was a lot of discussion on whether we needed our own college or not. Many of those things had to be discussed with the various organizations that the minister mentioned — the SRNA [Saskatchewan Registered Nurses' Association], the College of Physicians and Surgeons, the pharmaceutical community — all of those things. This was not an easy process. And having been part of it, wearing several different hats, I am very pleased today to see that this amendment has now added the postpartum care, which I think was just omitted. I don't think there was any intention to omit postpartum care because that is an integral part of what a midwife does.

I am an obstetrical nurse, so I am well aware of the value that midwives will bring into the birthing experience of women. I've just had two recent experiences as a grandmother, so I can see how valuable it would be to have had a midwife in these experiences — the follow-up, the one-on-one care, all the things that I think the women have now, the option to choose.

And I'm very happy to see that the way the midwives will fit into the system is going to be through the health districts, and we don't have another fee-for-service or stand-alone profession. I think this is a really good way to put midwives into the health system. And I think women will access those services quite readily and they'll welcome it.

So I do like, I do welcome this amendment, and I look forward to speaking to it in committee. So I will now move that it does move on to committee.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Speaker: — Question. The question before the Assembly is the motion by the minister that Bill No. 26, The Midwifery Amendment Act, 2008 be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Agreed. Carried.

Clerk Assistant: — Second reading of this Bill.

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

Hon. Mr. Gantefer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would direct that The Midwifery Amendment Act be directed to the Standing Committee on Human Services.

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

Bill No. 19 — The Social Workers Amendment Act, 2008

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Social Services.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to rise today to move the second reading of The Social Workers Amendment, 2008.

The Social Workers Act establishes the Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers, an organization which currently has about 1,200 members in the province. When it was proclaimed in 1995, the Act gave the Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers or SASW [Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers] as it is commonly referred to, ownership of the title social worker.

In Saskatchewan an individual can only use the title social worker if he or she is registered with the SASW. While the SASW establishes credentials for social workers and establishes standards for their professional conduct, it also provides a forum for a variety of other activities. These include such things as conducting specialized research, taking action on issues related to social welfare, and publishing and distributing information to both social workers and the public.

[11:15]

Increased public representation on SASW council. The SASW council is made up of no fewer than six members, one of whom is a member of the public with no professional connection to the field of social work. Along with being a member of the council, the public representative is a member of the discipline committee. The public representative brings a valuable external perspective to the work of the SASW. He or she presents a consumer viewpoint on issues of public concern, ensures the profession follows the Act and its bylaws, and promotes

standards of practice and professional ethics.

Our government agrees with the SASW that this external viewpoint, advice, and perspective is important to making certain the SASW keeps sight of the wider public view, a view outside the field of social work. Mr. Speaker, we will amend section 8(2)(b) of The Social Workers Act to increase public representation on the SASW council from one member to two. We will repeal section 9 subsection 4(1) and replace it with a new section which will permit the Lieutenant Governor in Council to appoint two persons who reside in Saskatchewan as members of the council.

Our government and the SASW wholeheartedly welcome the additional input, advice, and perspective that an additional member represents. At the same time, Mr. Speaker, we will amend section 9(2) to increase the term of office of the public representatives from two years to three. This will enhance the role of the public representatives because their familiarity with and better understanding of the work of the SASW and their knowledge of social work issues will result in a greater contribution and influence over time. We believe, as does the SASW council, that these changes will strongly support its responsibility to protect the public.

Mutual recognition agreements. Mr. Speaker, the SASW participated in a national project that concluded in the spring of last year to develop a mutual recognition agreement for registered social workers across Canada. The agreement addresses registration requirements for social workers and recognizes equivalent educational qualifications, credentials, and work experience acceptable to and implemented in other Canadian jurisdictions. Mr. Speaker, this means that, subject to the SASW bylaws, a social worker registered with a social work association in another province would be eligible for registration with the SASW. Mutual recognition would facilitate the movement of social workers between jurisdictions and allow for social workers to respond to short-term emergencies in other jurisdictions.

While mutual recognition agreements are not legal documents and governments are not signatories to them, by taking part Saskatchewan will enhance its ability to enable labour movement into the province. Mr. Speaker, we will therefore repeal section 18 and 21 of The Social Workers Act and replace them with new sections which will facilitate the issuance of an annual licence to registered social workers from other jurisdictions as well as the issuance of restricted and temporary licence.

Mr. Speaker, social workers are employed not only in the Ministry of Social Services all across this great province, but also in schools, hospitals, nursing homes, community-based organizations, medical offices, and with the police forces as well. The work they do enhances the lives of the Saskatchewan people each day.

My ministry enjoys a very positive working relationship with the Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers, a relationship that we intend to continue to build upon. My staff have worked closely with the SASW to bring forth the amendments to The Social Workers Act which I have just described. Mr. Speaker, therefore I move second reading of The Social Workers

Amendment Act, 2008.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Minister of Social Services has moved second reading of Bill No. 19, The Social Workers Amendment Act, 2008. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Saskatoon Centre.

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It is a pleasure indeed to speak to Bill No. 19, An Act to amend The Social Workers Act. And it is important to keep these kinds of Acts current. I understand it was first proclaimed in 1995. Membership at that time was about 500; now it's 1,200. And so it is important to reflect back on what we can do to make sure it's appropriately serving the membership and the public here in Saskatchewan.

The minister went through the amendments individually, and I won't spend a lot of time right now reflecting on each, but it is an important one. And while straightforward, some of these ones about increasing some of the public representatives, that's very important. And I understand the parts about the MRA was one that the association was really involved in, the mutual recognition agreement. And it's something that they were looking for as the minister talked about a national project, very important that we get that work going as quickly as we can.

I would say that this is an important piece that we should move forward. There are some concerns. I have talked to some of the stakeholders, including the Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers about this. Obviously they've been watching this, been very involved, and so they're very supportive of that. So we would like to see that moved forward. I do have some questions, and one would be about the number of public representatives is increasing, but what is the process of appointing those people?

I know that social workers play a huge role right across this province, but I can tell you from my own experience in Saskatoon Centre, if there's one person you hear a lot of talk about is social workers and the good work they do. So who will be appointed to this to serve the needs or represent the public at large? So those are the kind of questions that we would be asking in committee, and we would be asking more questions in committee to seek clarity on this.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I would move that this Bill No. 19 move forward to committee. Thank you.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Speaker: — Question. The question before the Assembly is a motion by the minister that Bill No. 19, The Social Workers Amendment Act, 2008 be now read a second time.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Agreed. Carried.

Clerk Assistant: — Second reading of this Bill.

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

Hon. Mr. Gantfoer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that this Bill be directed to the Standing Committee on the Economy.

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

Bill No. 28 — The Vital Statistics Administration Transfer Act

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Crown Corporations.

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to move second reading of The Vital Statistics Administration Transfer Act, Bill 28. The Vital Statistics Administration Transfer Act facilitates the reassignment of responsibility for the administration of The Vital Statistics Act, 1995 and the name change Act, 1995, from the Ministry of Health to the Minister of Crown Corporations through the Information Services Corporation, ISC.

The proposed Bill will facilitate the transfer of vital statistics employees to ISC, permit the transfer to and vesting of ISC of the assets, liabilities, contracts, and causes of action respecting the operation of the vital statistics branch of the Ministry of Health. It will provide for the opportunity of a registrar of vital statistics by the Lieutenant Governor in Council on the recommendation of the Minister of Crown Corporations and the Minister of Justice and Attorney General.

It will authorize the continued sharing of information in the vital statistics registry with the Ministry of Health for health research and programming purposes. It will authorize the continued sharing of registration information by the Ministry of Health with the registrar of vital statistics for purposes connected to the administration of the vital statistics registry.

It will authorize ISC to retain all revenues derived from the vital statistics registry and the delivery of products and services under The Vital Statistics Administration Transfer Act; The Vital Statistics Act, 1995; and the name change Act, 1995. It will ensure the continued confidentiality of information in the vital statistics registry.

The Ministry of Health, Mr. Speaker, wanted to improve records management, security, and disaster recovery of the vital statistics registry. ISC's core business is registry services. And since vital statistics is a registry, it's a natural fit, Mr. Speaker, within the ISC responsibility.

After reviewing these needs with ISC, the Ministry of Health and ISC agreed it would be beneficial for employees, customers, taxpayers, and the people of Saskatchewan that we proceed with the transfer of vital statistics to the ISC. The transfer of vital statistics registry will provide vital statistic employees with a greater professional growth opportunity within Information Services Corporation.

The Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Health, and ISC have agreed that the Minister of Crown Corporations and the Minister of Justice will share responsibility for public policy relating to vital statistics information and legislative governance, Mr. Speaker. This unique, ongoing governance relationship involving Justice and ISC will be comparable to the very successful current governance regime and relationship between ISC and Justice with respect to their joint responsibility for the existing land titles registry and land surveys directory and the roles of the statutory officials for those registries, namely the registrar of titles and the controller of surveys, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker I am pleased to move today second reading of The Vital Statistics Administration Transfer Act. I so move.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Minister of Crown Corporations has moved Bill No. 28, The Vital Statistics Administration Transfer Act. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Saskatoon Meewasin.

Mr. Quennell: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a few moments, remarks in response to the minister's second reading speech on this Bill. The opposition doesn't have any difficulty with the principle being expressed here. As I think the minister would concede, this is a process started by the previous government.

And it makes a good deal of sense in principle to move this type of registration — the storage and retrieval of this kind of information — to ISC so that it can be stored and used properly by ISC, a corporation set up for just this type of purpose, for this kind of vital information to be kept, to be kept properly and to be accessible when appropriate and not to be accessible when not appropriate. That's where the skills are. That's where that expertise has been built up, Mr. Speaker. So depending on what type of topic you're talking about, either God is in the details or the devil's in the details, but one or the other is, Mr. Speaker.

And it's not a matter of the principles of what the government's proposing in this legislation. It's the matter of the details about the transition and to make sure that again there are no unforeseen consequences resulting from the transition from Health, which doesn't necessarily have to be their repository to Vital Statistics to ISC. Those questions and detail are best dealt with in committee. And therefore, Mr. Speaker, I would move that this Bill move to committee.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion by the minister that Bill No. 28, The Vital Statistics Administration Transfer Act be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Clerk Assistant: — Second reading of this Bill.

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

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Thank you. Mr. Speaker, the Crown and Central Agencies Committee.

The Speaker: — This Bill stands referred to the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

**Bill No. 27 — The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation
Amendment Act, 2008/Loi de 2008 modifiant
la Loi de 1997 sur la réglementation
des boissons alcoolisées et des jeux de hasard**

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Government Services.

Hon. Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise today to introduce amendments contained in Bill No. 27, The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Amendment Act, 2008.

The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Act provides the statutory basis upon which the Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority regulates gaming, the distribution and sale of alcohol in the province. This Bill will increase flexibility and opportunity for businesses involved in the liquor industry, strengthen the socially responsible sale and service of beverage alcohol, and implement some housekeeping items aimed at reducing red tape and ensuring consistencies with current practices and processes.

I will begin with the amendments to the Act that will increase flexibility and opportunity for businesses involved in the liquor industry. Our government is focused on meeting the needs of the province that continues to grow. We recognize that as Saskatchewan economy shifts and increases in size, so too must our liquor regulations. It doesn't mean the regulations need to increase in size, but that our economy is increasing in size.

One of these changes will allow businesses the opportunity to offer you-brew and you-vin services in Saskatchewan. Such you-brew and you-vin businesses will be able to offer supplies, space, equipment and expertise at their store for customers who want to make their own beer and wine for personal consumption at home.

[11:30]

You-brew and you-vin services are also going to benefit home wine and beer hobbyists. People who have contemplated making their own home batch of wine or beer but just don't have the space required in their home will be able to come to a permitted business where they can rent the space and equipment. Similarly other hobbyists who have tried to make their own wine or beer with limited success will be able to come to a permitted establishment and work with a knowledgeable professional who has the experience to help them make a quality product.

Since announcing this in mid-March, SLGA has received

numerous inquiries from individuals interested in setting up you-brew, you-vin operations. We're hearing from people throughout Saskatchewan and also from people who live in other provinces. SLGA will be consulting with these existing wine and beer kit businesses and interested individuals to develop regulations related to these you-brew and you-vin operations.

Mr. Speaker, Bill No. 27 will also strengthen the socially responsible sale and service of beverage alcohol in Saskatchewan. One of these changes involves the recorking of wine for patrons dining in liquor-permitted restaurants. This change will give patrons the option to take home their unfinished wine rather than feeling compelled to finish the bottle before leaving the restaurant simply because they have already paid for it.

Another amendment related to social responsibility pertains to fines charged to liquor-permitted establishments that serve minors or over serve patrons. Mr. Speaker, it's important to note that the majority of the province's 1,700-plus liquor permittees follow the rules on a regular basis. I think that's a very important distinction to point out.

The increased fines will only affect those liquor-permitted establishments that do not follow the rules associated with their liquor permits. Many fines will be increasing, particularly those related to issues of public safety such as serving alcohol to minors, over serving, and overcrowding.

The amount of the fine increase will depend on the infraction or offence. For example the current maximum fine for any person who gives or sells alcohol to minors is \$2,500, but when this Bill is passed, it will increase fourfold to \$10,000. Fines will also increase for the consumption of alcohol in a vehicle and the failure of a minor to leave a permitted premise after failing or refusing to supply proof of age.

Furthermore once the new penalty structure is in place, SLGA sanctions will involve more direct penalties and fewer warning letters for those liquor-permitted establishments that do not follow the terms and conditions associated with their permits.

I have also asked the officials at SLGA to find a quicker way of informing permittees when an infraction occurs involving establishment patrons. Currently the permittees are unaware of the infraction until their licences come up for renewal, giving them no chance to address the problem in a timely fashion. This has to change.

Finally, these amendments will toughen our laws on the use of false identification by minors to gain access to or remain in a permitted premise, doubling the fines for such infractions to \$2,000. Mr. Speaker, those are the main amendments contained in this Bill.

We will also be taking this opportunity to implement a number of smaller housekeeping items aimed at reducing red tape for those businesses involved in the liquor business, making the Act consistent with current practices. For example, rather than requiring permittees and manufacturers to have all of their advertising approved by SLGA in advance, SLGA will provide a set of standards that require that people will be required to

follow when planning their advertising. No longer will Big Brother run the manufacturers' and permittees' advertising campaigns.

We will also remove the provision that requires SLGA to publish notice of an application for a liquor permit in a municipality with no permitted premises or store where a previous operation has closed within 60 days of the new applicant.

Mr. Speaker, these are among the host of housekeeping changes included in this legislation aimed at reducing red tape and updating Saskatchewan's antiquated liquor regulations, but they are not the only ones. A few other examples include SLGA will no longer have to approve the type of glass or containers permittees use. Remember the old draft glass with the white ring around the rim? That will no longer be SLGA's job. Churches and clergy will no longer require permits for the use of wine for sacramental purposes.

We will eliminate outdated and unenforced regulations still on the books, such as the prohibition on the use of credit cards or debit cards as a means of paying for beverage alcohol. Imagine that, Mr. Speaker, an opportunity to use credit cards to pay for beverage alcohol in Saskatchewan. Not that it hasn't been happening for the last 16 years, but it will now be legal.

All of these amendments are consistent with the government's desire to modernize regulations and minimize the red tape for business in all sectors of the province's economy. I am certain that these changes will be welcomed by those with an interest in more socially responsible use of alcohol, as well as those currently in the hospitality industry, and those contemplating opening new businesses in this great province.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to move that Bill No. 27, The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Amendment Act, 2008 be now read a second time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister Responsible for Government Services that Bill No. 27, The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Amendment Act, 2008 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Regina Dewdney.

Mr. Yates: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm extremely pleased this afternoon to get up and talk about the amendments to The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Act, Mr. Speaker, of 1997.

Mr. Speaker, there is significant changes in this piece of legislation, some of which are simply housekeeping that are putting in effect rules, changing the rules, to what has been the practice for a number of years. But there are also some significant changes that could affect various stakeholders within both the industry and the general public, Mr. Speaker.

For those reasons and to take the time, adequate time, to consult those individuals and the public, Mr. Speaker, I would move that we adjourn this debate at this time.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Agreed. Carried.

**Bill No. 20 — The Administration of Estates
Amendment Act, 2008/Loi de 2008 modifiant
la Loi sur l'administration des successions**

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to move second reading of The Administration of Estates Amendment Act, 2008.

The Administration of Estates Act is Saskatchewan's principal legislation regarding the rights and liabilities of executors and administrators of an estate. Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this Bill is to update and clarify current provisions in The Administration of Estates Act. The Devolution of Real Property Act was adopted in Saskatchewan in 1928 and has been largely retained in its original form. The proposed legislation will repeal The Devolution of Real Property Act and retain relevant provisions within The Administration of Estates Act.

The proposed legislation will also repeal The Crown Administration of Estates Act and amend The Administration of Estates Act to authorize the Public Guardian and Trustee to apply for letters of administration on behalf of the Crown. The Public Guardian and Trustee, as official administrator for the province, may apply for letters of administration in broad circumstances, which effectively overlaps with the powers given under The Crown Administration of Estates Act. The amendments will clarify the role of the Official Administrator in the administration of estates on behalf of the Crown. Mr. Speaker, in addition this Bill updates the Official Administrator provisions. These amendments will provide clarity for users and update the Act to reflect the current role of the Public Guardian and Trustee as the only Official Administrator in the province.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill will also update provisions dealing with small estates to increase the value of small estates which will be prescribed in regulations. In order to administer a small estate, people should not be required to undertake the same procedures where the expense of preparing letters or other court documents would exceed the value of the estate. The current limit of \$5,000 for what would we regard as small estates no longer reflects an appropriate value for small estates in our province and very much needs to be increased.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill is intended to continue Saskatchewan's commitment towards legislative reform, to provide current and accessible legislation for the people of Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, it's my privilege to move second reading of The Administration of Estates Amendment Act, 2008.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Justice has moved second reading of Bill No. 20, The Administration of Estates Amendment Act, 2008. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Regina Lakeview.

Mr. Nilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This legislation is legislation that we on this side of the House know the purpose of and we're in favour of it. And what I would say is that this

type of legislation comes from many years of work in the Department of Justice working with the community and with the judges across the province to make sure that the rules as it relates to administration of estates actually accomplish the goals that have been set out.

Mr. Speaker, quite a number of years ago when I was first appointed attorney general in 1995, this whole area of review became a priority. And over the last 12 years, going on 13 years now, the Ministry of Justice has brought forward amendments and new Bills and new Acts in a whole number of areas, which have simplified the processes for the people of Saskatchewan. And this particular legislation I think is legislation that fixes some identified problems after other new legislation was brought forward. And I know that all of us will be appreciative of this even though this probably doesn't have a huge, wide application much of the time.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would move that we send this to the committee where there may be a few questions that we could ask that will clarify some of the issues. Thank you.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion by the minister that Bill No. 20, The Administration of Estates Amendment Act, 2008 be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Agreed. Carried.

Clerk Assistant: — Second reading of this Bill.

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

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I designate that Bill No. 20, The Administration of Estates Amendment Act, 2008 be moved to the Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice Committee.

The Speaker: — The Bill stands referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

**Bill No. 21 — The Teachers Superannuation and Disability
Benefits Amendment Act, 2008**

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to move second reading of Bill No. 21, The Teachers Superannuation and Disability Benefits Amendment Act, 2008. I am pleased to outline today for all members the background and changes to the Act that are included in this Bill.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak briefly about what led to the proposed changes to the Act. As members may know, in August 2007 a new collective agreement between boards of education, the government, and the teachers of Saskatchewan was ratified. The Teachers Superannuation and Disability Benefits

Amendment Act is a negotiable item under the provincial collective bargaining agreement. The collective bargaining agreement is for a three-year term from September 1, 2007 to August 31, 2010.

Changes are required in the Act to update provisions agreed to in the collective agreement and housekeeping amendments agreed to by all parties. The proposed amendments will allow teachers to purchase and count up to one year of compassionate leave as pensionable service. Teachers will also be able to purchase maternity, adoption leave, and parenting leave taken prior to February 3, 1998, to the maximum allowed under the Income Tax Act.

As noted, Mr. Speaker, there are also a number of other amendments that are not part of the collective agreement but have been agreed to by all parties. Teachers may receive a lump sum pension rather than a monthly allowance. This amount will change as provisions in The Pension Benefits Act, 1992 change. Also while a teacher is receiving disability benefits, their time will count towards their future retirement allowance. Members should know that over the lifetime of the plan the cost will be approximately \$5.5 million from plan members and \$5.5 million from the General Revenue Fund. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to note that approximately 500 teachers will be eligible for this extended coverage.

[11:45]

Consultations regarding the proposed amendments took place between the parties at the collective bargaining table. As such the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation and the Saskatchewan School Boards Association are fully supportive of the amendments.

I am pleased to move therefore, that Bill No. 21, The Teachers Superannuation and Disability Benefits Amendment Act, 2008 be now read a second time.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Education has moved that Bill No. 21, The Teachers Superannuation and Disability Benefits Amendment Act, 2008 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Regina Rosemont.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the brief opportunity to speak to Bill No. 21, The Teachers Superannuation and Disability Benefits Amendment Act, 2008.

And as the minister pointed out, it was a result as I understand from the collective bargaining process of last year. We definitely value the collective bargaining process between government and associations. We're pleased that the Saskatchewan School Boards Association and the STF [Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation] support this amendment.

It includes some housekeeping, but it also includes some extensions of security for teachers having the ability to purchase the one year of pension for a year of compassionate leave. We will have some other comments on this Bill, but at this time, Mr. Speaker, I move this Bill be referred to a committee. Thank you.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the minister that Bill No. 21, The Teachers Superannuation and Disability Benefits Amendment Act, 2008 be now read a second time. Is the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Clerk Assistant: — Second reading of this Bill.

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

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, the Standing Committee on the Economy.

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

Bill No. 22 — The Irrigation Amendment Act, 2008

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, at the end of my remarks I'll move second reading of Bill No. 22 to amend The Irrigation Act, 1996. The Irrigation Act was implemented to provide uniform legislation for all irrigators in the province. The Act provides and simplifies the administration of irrigation in the province by clarifying the respective roles of the irrigation district boards, the minister in charge of the Act, and Saskatchewan Agriculture, to whom the administration of the Act is assigned.

An amendment to the clause 3(1)(b) of the Act is required to clarify that the Minister of Agriculture has the authority to enter into agreements respecting the operation and maintenance of irrigation, water control, and water supply works for the purposes other than irrigation. This clarification would allow water conveyed through Saskatchewan Agriculture-owned facilities to be used for purposes other than agriculture irrigation.

On January 24, 2007, Treasury Board finalized the transfer of irrigation assets from Sask Water Corporation to Saskatchewan Agriculture. These assets include the Macrorie, Lucky Lake, Riverhurst, and South Saskatchewan River irrigation projects. The transfer is effective April 1, 2006. As a result of this transfer, all provincial irrigation projects are now administered by Sask Agriculture.

Some of these projects transport water for purposes other than irrigation. These purposes include domestic, municipal, recreational, industrial, and wildlife uses. For example, Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan Agriculture supplies water, under contract, to Sask Water Corporation who in turn delivers water through the Saskatoon southwest water supply system to five reservoirs. These reservoirs provide water for Blackstrap Lake

in the provincial park, individual irrigators, golf courses, potash mines, towns, villages, and Ducks Unlimited.

The current Act does not make clear whether the Minister of Agriculture has the full authority to enter into these agreements. As such the Ministry of Justice has recommended that changes be made to The Irrigation Act to clarify this authority. Mr. Speaker, an amendment to The Irrigation Act is required to clarify that the Minister of Agriculture has the authority to enter into agreements for purposes other than irrigation.

Therefore I move that an amendment to The Irrigation Act be read a second time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Agriculture has moved that Bill No. 22, The Irrigation Amendment Act, 2008 be now read the second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Regina Dewdney.

Mr. Yates: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased to get up to speak on this Bill. Mr. Speaker, this Bill largely seems to be housekeeping, moving forward, making some amendments within the legislation that clarifies the authority to continue the practice which has largely been in place for some time, Mr. Speaker. We may have a number of questions when this Bill goes to committee, so at this time, Mr. Speaker, I move this Bill be moved to committee.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the minister that Bill No. 22, The Irrigation Amendment Act, 2008 be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Agreed. Carried.

Clerk Assistant: — Second reading of this Bill.

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

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Standing Committee on the Economy.

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

Bill No. 25 — The Wildlife Habitat Protection Amendment Act, 2008

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for the Environment.

Hon. Ms. Heppner: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. After my brief remarks, I'll be moving second reading of The Wildlife Habitat Protection Amendment Act, 2008.

I have a great appreciation for the ongoing need to protect

important wildlife habitat. Much of the best remaining wildlife habitat in Saskatchewan is on Crown land. These natural areas are very important for maintaining existing wildlife populations. The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act currently protects 1.4 million hectares of natural uplands and wetlands in the province's agricultural areas.

This land remains available for some agricultural use and oil and gas activities. This reflects the philosophy of The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act, which is to conserve wildlife habitat while allowing traditional and compatible uses to continue. As a matter of fact, much of the land under The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act is leased to cattle producers who use it for grazing or haying. Agricultural producers who lease land included in The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act have proven to be good stewards. As a result, wildlife is benefiting.

The habitat protected by this Act provides food, water, and shelter to more than 400 species of wildlife. Sometimes maintaining a balance between environmental stewardship objectives and other objectives means we have to remove some land from the protection of the Act. This is the case today as we recommend removing 560 hectares of land from the Act.

This will allow proposed sale and development opportunities to proceed and will address three situations where privately held lands had been inadvertently designated. At the same time, as an additional step, this amendment also proposes to add another 288 hectares of suitable Crown land under the protection Act to compensate for these withdrawals. Additional land with a similar ecological value will be added to the Acts in future amendments.

Mr. Speaker, I now move second reading of The Wildlife Habitat Protection Amendment Act, 2008.

The Speaker: — The Minister of the Environment has moved that Bill No. 25, the habitat protection amendment Act, 2008 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Regina Dewdney.

Mr. Yates: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. We have before us a Bill that is very important to the people of the province of Saskatchewan. The protection of our natural habitat is important to all citizens of the province. Mr. Speaker, this particular Bill will move a number of acres out, Mr. Speaker, and replace it with a similar amount either now or in future Bills, and that's been practice for some time, Mr. Speaker.

But this particular Bill is going to facilitate the commercial development of pieces of land in the province, Mr. Speaker, which will affect many stakeholders in those particular areas. So as a result of our needing some additional time to consult with stakeholders, talk to individuals about the impact of these developments in their specific areas of the province, Mr. Speaker, I'd move that we now adjourn debate on this Bill.

The Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment of the debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Agreed. Carried.

Bill No. 29 — The Education Amendment Act, 2008/Loi de 2008 modifiant la Loi de 1995 sur l'éducation

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to move second reading of Bill No. 29, The Education Amendment Act, 2008. As part of our government's goal to improve quality of life and provide an added measure of security for Saskatchewan people, we are expanding the consultation and assessment process before significant changes are made to school facilities. We feel it is important to make sure the process boards of education follow to close rural schools is consistent across the province and that affected communities are fully engaged.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the following amendments to the school closure and grade reduction process apply to schools within school districts. The way The Education Act, 1995 was written was that only in those instances where a school was in a school district was a specific legislated process required. Because of this, decisions regarding urban schools are not included in the new process as they are located outside of school districts.

The amendments proposed to the school closure and grade reduction process are lengthen the legislative consultation and review process, more fully engage the community in the review process, and provide for formalized public communication as the school review progresses.

The amendments also recognize the significant contributions made by our strong, locally controlled education system. With these amendments, decisions on education delivery and school facilities remains with locally elected boards of education. The amended consultation and review process will now start at the beginning of October — about four and one-half months sooner than under the current process.

This amended process adds an important dimension to the review process — the school review committee. The composition of this committee respects the important role of the new school community councils. The committees will include the appointment of some school community council members as well as local government and community representatives and First Nations representatives. This committee serves as an important link between the school division and the broader community throughout the review process. It provides a real opportunity for the community to share information with the school division, to receive information from the school division, and to support the community in its understanding of process as the school review progresses.

These amendments balance the need to expand consultation, communication, and assessment with the need to ensure the continued strength of the education system through autonomous locally elected boards of education.

Mr. Speaker, we know how important schools are to rural communities when there are opportunities for economic growth on the horizon. Before significant improvements are made to school facilities, it is essential to make sure that the potential for future economic growth is considered before changes are made to a school. That is why these amendments also provide for this

consideration through provision for the designation of a school of opportunity.

Communities will have the chance to work with their local governments to put forward a proposal to have a school which is under review for closure designated as a school of opportunity. A school of opportunity can remain open for up to two years, giving the community time to encourage and support the activities necessary to increase the population of preschool and school-aged children. We are continuing to dialogue with our stakeholders as these criteria are developed, and we expect to have changes drafted by early summer.

Mr. Speaker, additional amendments to the Act include an update to the provisions on the identification of students with special needs. The amendments are intended to update language by referring to educational assistants rather than teacher aides and by referring to pupils with intensive needs rather than pupils with disabilities. The amendments are also intended to move away from a medical model by identifying various categories of needs and the criteria for such categories in guidelines rather than legislation, regulations, or policy.

[12:00]

This will provide greater flexibility for those who are involved with identifying pupils with intensive needs. The proposed amendments will also better reflect recent court and human rights decisions related to the efforts of school divisions to reasonably accommodate pupils in the regular classroom setting. School boards retain the ability to fulfill their responsibilities for providing educational services to those identified as having intensive needs. This includes allowing school boards to enter into agreements with other school boards, persons, or agencies.

Mr. Speaker, our final amendment includes a new requirement for the Educational Relations Board to provide copies of its decisions and an annual report to the Ministry of Education. Our government has laid out an exciting agenda for our province, and the education sector system plays a significant role in our commonsense plan for Saskatchewan. Education continues to be a priority for our government. As members know, this year we dedicated a total of \$1.185 billion which includes teachers' pensions and benefits, and this money will be used to support pre-K to 12 education, the Provincial Library, and early learning and child care in the province.

Mr. Speaker, this is a \$241.8 million or 25.6 per cent increase over last year's Education budget. Saskatchewan's economy and our population are growing and bring with this growth an optimism for the future. Mr. Speaker, the changes we are making with this Act are part of meeting the commitment our government made to the people of Saskatchewan.

I am pleased to move therefore that Bill No. 29, The Education Amendment Act, 2008 be now read a second time.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Education that Bill No. 29, The Education Amendment Act, 2008 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the

question? I recognize the member from Regina Dewdney.

Mr. Yates: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased this afternoon to get up and talk about The Education Amendment Act, 2008. Mr. Speaker, there are few things that are as important to the residents of Saskatchewan and in particular students and parents than the education of their children.

Mr. Speaker, over the last number of months, we've had significant discussion about the education of our children, particularly in rural communities, but then more recently in some of our urban communities as well and the impacts of changes as we move forward in the education sector.

Mr. Speaker, there were very, very high expectations of people for massive improvements in the education system with the change in government, Mr. Speaker. There were people out there that believed that all rural schools would remain open and there would be significant changes, Mr. Speaker, that would enable them to continue operating schools that previously — under the previous government and under the regulations and Act that were in place — would have not have likely stayed open.

Mr. Speaker, those particular individuals voted wanting to keep those schools open, Mr. Speaker. They believed they would stay open with the change in government. They believed there would be significant new money to keep schools open in rural communities.

Mr. Speaker, there are a significant number of stakeholders who have indicated a desire to talk to us about these particular changes in this legislation. It is a Bill that will require some fairly large consultations with individuals and organizations in the province of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. For those reasons, Mr. Speaker, at this time I'd like to adjourn debate.

The Speaker: — The member from Regina Dewdney has moved to adjourn debate. Is the Assembly prepared to and agreed with the motion to adjourn?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Adjourned.

Bill No. 30 — The Statutes and Regulations Revision Act

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, it's my privilege to once again rise in the House today to move second reading of The Statutes and Regulations Revision Act. Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this Bill is to authorise the revision of the statutes and regulations of Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan's last official revision and consolidation of statutes was completed in 1978, which coincidentally was the year I graduated from law school. So this particular consolidation has spanned my entire legal career.

It was undertaken before the development of electronic versions of legislation and before the adoption of contemporary drafting standards. Since 1978 there have been numerous amending Acts

and many new Acts that have been added to the statute volumes. A revision of the statutes is necessary to ensure that all references have been properly updated and that unnecessary provisions are removed.

As well, Mr. Speaker, because the current statutes have been drafted over several decades by different drafters, a revision would assist in bringing consistency and wording among statutes. Common provisions and statutes such as auditing or tabling provisions have slight variations in wording that can create significant obstacles for anyone who wishes to search statutes electronically.

Mr. Speaker, the Bill before us today provides for the establishment of a revision committee to prepare revisions of any or all Acts or regulations of Saskatchewan. It provides the committee with revision powers that are aimed at updating Saskatchewan legislation, for example consolidating amendments, changing numbering, adding or changing headings, and adopting gender neutral language.

Mr. Speaker, undertaking a revision at this time will provide an opportunity for Saskatchewan to correct and modernize its statute and regulations database to provide ongoing official consolidations in an electronic format, to adopt drafting standards for legislation that will be followed in the future, and to enhance the overall image of our province.

Mr. Speaker, it's my privilege today to move second reading of An Act respecting Revisions of Statutes and Regulations.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Justice has moved second reading of Bill No. 30, The Statutes and Regulations Revision Act. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Regina Lakeview.

Mr. Nilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This particular Bill does facilitate work that does need to be done in the province. There are some questions that we have as it relates to the actual wording of the Bill, but those issues can be dealt with within the committee. So I move that we send this to the committee.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the minister that Bill No. 30, The Statutes and Regulations Revisions Act be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Agreed.

Clerk Assistant: — Second reading of this Bill.

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

Hon. Mr. Gantefer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that the Bill be sent to the Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

The Speaker: — This Bill stands referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 8

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Heppner that **Bill No. 8 — The Natural Resources Amendment Act, 2008** be now read a second time.]

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Lakeview.

Mr. Nilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I previously spoke about this Bill, I raised a number of the questions around the policies as it relates to the whole issue of revolving funds. There are now some specific questions that we would have in committee, and I move that we send this to the committee.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion by the minister that Bill No. 8, The Natural Resources Amendment Act be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Agreed. Carried.

Clerk Assistant: — Second reading of this Bill.

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

Hon. Mr. Gantfoer: — Thank you. I would urge that this Bill be moved to the Standing Committee on the Economy.

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

Bill No. 10

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Gantfoer that **Bill No. 10 — The Miscellaneous Pensions Statutes (Commencement of Pension) Amendment Act, 2008** be now read a second time.]

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Dewdney.

Mr. Yates: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I previously had the opportunity to speak to this Bill at some length, Mr. Speaker. This is a piece of legislation that brings in line our pension provisions in the province of Saskatchewan with federal income tax provisions, Mr. Speaker. It's a Bill that is very important that we proceed with. So, Mr. Speaker, at this time I would move that this Bill be referred to committee.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion by the minister that Bill No. 10, The Miscellaneous Pensions Statutes (Commencement of Pension) Amendment Act, 2008 be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Agreed. Carried.

Clerk Assistant: — Second reading of this Bill.

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

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Crown and Central Agencies Committee.

The Speaker: — This Bill stands referred to the Crown and Central Agencies Committee. I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Gantfoer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In order to facilitate the good work of the standing policy committees, I move that this House do now adjourn.

The Speaker: — The Government House Leader has moved that in order to facilitate the work of committees, this House do now adjourn. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion? Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Agreed. Carried. This Assembly stands adjourned until tomorrow morning at 10 a.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 12:11.]

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS	
INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS	
Wall	981
Calvert	981
Brotten	981
Ross	981
Higgins	982
Ottenbreit	982
Duncan	982
Junor	994
PRESENTING PETITIONS	
Higgins	982
Forbes	982
Morin	983
STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS	
Cancer Awareness Month	
Junor	983
Prayer Breakfast	
LeClerc	983
St. John Ambulance 125th Anniversary	
Higgins	983
Humboldt Broncos Win League Championship	
Harpauer	984
Parkridge Centre Fundraiser	
Iwanchuk	984
Curling Champions	
Draude	984
Thank You, Sister Maria	
Belanger	985
QUESTION PERIOD	
Revenue Sharing With Municipalities	
Higgins	985
Wall	985
Hutchinson	986
Saskatchewan Government Insurance	
Harper	987
Cheveldayoff	987
Dental Sealant Program	
McMorris	988
Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement	
Calvert	988
Wall	988
INTRODUCTION OF BILLS	
Bill No. 34 — The Graduate Retention Program Act	
Norris	991
Bill No. 35 — The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2008	
Gantfoer	991
Bill No. 38 — The Corporate Capital Tax Act	
Gantfoer	991
TABLING OF REPORTS	
The Speaker	991
ORDERS OF THE DAY	
WRITTEN QUESTIONS	
Weekes	991
GOVERNMENT ORDERS	
SECOND READINGS	
Bill No. 33 — The Active Families Benefit Act	
Tell	991
Yates	992
Gantfoer (referral to committee)	992
Bill No. 17 — The Highways and Transportation Amendment Act, 2008	
Elhard	992
Harper	993

Gantefoer (referral to committee)	993
Bill No. 26 — The Midwifery Amendment Act, 2008	
McMorris	993
Junor	994
Gantefoer (referral to committee)	995
Bill No. 19 — The Social Workers Amendment Act, 2008	
Harpauer	995
Forbes	996
Gantefoer (referral to committee)	996
Bill No. 28 — The Vital Statistics Administration Transfer Act	
Cheveldayoff	996
Quennell	997
Harpauer (referral to committee)	997
Bill No. 27 — The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Amendment Act, 2008	
Loi de 2008 modifiant la Loi de 1997 sur la réglementation des boissons alcoolisées et des jeux de hasard	
D’Autremont	997
Yates	998
Bill No. 20 — The Administration of Estates Amendment Act, 2008	
Loi de 2008 modifiant la Loi sur l’administration des successions	
Morgan	999
Nilson	999
Morgan (referral to committee)	999
Bill No. 21 — The Teachers Superannuation and Disability Benefits Amendment Act, 2008	
Krawetz	999
Wotherspoon	1000
Harpauer (referral to committee)	1000
Bill No. 22 — The Irrigation Amendment Act, 2008	
Bjornerud	1000
Yates	1001
Harpauer (referral to committee)	1001
Bill No. 25 — The Wildlife Habitat Protection Amendment Act, 2008	
Heppner	1001
Yates	1001
Bill No. 29 — The Education Amendment Act, 2008/Loi de 2008 modifiant la Loi de 1995 sur l’éducation	
Krawetz	1002
Yates	1003
Bill No. 30 — The Statutes and Regulations Revision Act	
Morgan	1003
Nilson	1003
Gantefoer (referral to committee)	1003
ADJOURNED DEBATES	
SECOND READINGS	
Bill No. 8 — The Natural Resources Amendment Act, 2008	
Nilson	1004
Gantefoer (referral to committee)	1004
Bill No. 10 — The Miscellaneous Pensions Statutes (Commencement of Pension) Amendment Act, 2008	
Yates	1004
Harpauer (referral to committee)	1004

GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN CABINET MINISTERS

Hon. Brad Wall
Premier

Hon. Bob BJORNERUD
Minister of Agriculture
Minister Responsible for the Saskatchewan Crop
Insurance Corporation

Hon. Bill Boyd
Minister of Energy and Resources
Minister Responsible for Intergovernmental Affairs

Hon. Ken CHEVELDAYOFF
Minister of Crown Corporations

Hon. Dan D'Autremont
Minister of Government Services
Minister Responsible for the Saskatchewan Liquor and
Gaming Authority
Minister Responsible for the Information
Technology Office

Hon. June Draude
Minister of First Nations and Métis Relations
Minister Responsible for Northern Affairs

Hon. Wayne Elhard
Minister of Highways and Infrastructure
Minister Responsible for the Public Service Commission
Provincial Secretary

Hon. Rod Gantfoer
Minister of Finance

Hon. Donna Harpauer
Minister of Social Services

Hon. Nancy Heppner
Minister of Environment

Hon. Darryl Hickie
Minister of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing

Hon. Bill Hutchinson
Minister of Municipal Affairs
Minister Responsible for the Saskatchewan
Gaming Corporation

Hon. Ken Krawetz
Deputy Premier
Minister of Education

Hon. Don McMorris
Minister of Health

Hon. Don Morgan
Minister of Justice
Attorney General

Hon. Rob Norris
Minister of Advanced Education, Employment and Labour
Minister Responsible for Immigration
Minister Responsible for the Workers'
Compensation Board

Hon. Lyle Stewart
Minister of Enterprise and Innovation

Hon. Christine Tell
Minister of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport
Minister Responsible for the Capital City Commission