



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 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It is an honour to introduce three very distinguished people seated in your gallery to watch the proceedings this evening. They're actually accompanied by others as well, but I will introduce three.

During the noon hour today, a number of members from this Legislative Assembly on both sides of the aisle had the great honour and privilege of participating in a very important ceremony to mark the Holodomor, the Ukrainian famine-genocide, and it was marked with the presenting, first, and then the passing of a flame.

Joining us today, Mr. Speaker, in your gallery is Orest Warnyca, president of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress. With him is Ed Lysyk, president of the Saskatchewan Provincial Council of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress; and joining them today, a very, very special guest from Ontario, Mr. Stefan Horlatsch who is the flame bearer that was here for the ceremony and now joined us in the gallery. Mr. Horlatsch was born in 1921 in Ukraine. During the famine-genocide, his family had their land, their livestock, and their grain forcibly seized by Soviet authorities. Eleven members of his family perished, Mr. Speaker, so his attendance today here is truly remarkable as is his passion for freedom.

Mr. Speaker, at the height of this man-made famine, this genocide, Ukrainians were dying at a rate of 25,000 per day. And we owe it to Mr. Horlatsch and those who perished and those others who have survived to make a very solemn vow today that these events will just simply never, ever happen again, and because that they are remembered in this way, that they will not be repeated.

The government was asked today, by the way, for our support for legislation to recognize Holodomor in terms of remembrance and to set aside the last Saturday in November. We'll work on the details with other provinces that have done this, with the congress as well, but I want to say that we will be moving forward with that in this Legislative Assembly at the appropriate time.

As you can see, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Horlatsch has been a great friend of freedom. I should also say this though, if you can recognize him — and maybe he'll just stand — that at 87 years old, freedom's fight has also been good for Mr. Horlatsch.

We welcome all of them here to this Assembly today. Thank you for coming.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Iwanchuk: — [The hon. member spoke for a time in Ukrainian.]

Mr. Speaker, to you and through you, I would also like to join the Premier in recognizing Stefan Horlatsch from Toronto, Ontario. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank somebody, as when I see Orest Warnyca and Ed Lysyk, president, and recognize them as well.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to thank somebody in Yorkton, Mrs. Merle Maximiuk, who last night invited me to her house so I could meet with Mr. Horlatsch, and we discussed some concerns that he had in his travels and the things that he's been doing. And I find out this morning, Mr. Speaker, that Mrs. Maximiuk is related to . . . her cousin lives across the street from my mom, and they visit for tea all the time. So they would be watching here tonight, but you know how that goes, Mr. Speaker, in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, while I was in Yorkton last night, we had a chance to visit, and I want to particularly commend Mr. Horlatsch on his commitment to this cause in bringing public attention to the famine and genocide that occurred in Ukraine in 1932 and 1933. Mr. Horlatsch also told me that he came to Canada in 1948. And, Mr. Speaker, what he told me was, he followed his girlfriend to Canada. And now there's a sound immigration policy, I think, if we were to have one.

So I would thank you very much for the meeting. And I would ask all members to join me in welcoming our special guest to the Legislative Assembly.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Schriemer: — Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker. Thank you. Through you and to you I'd like to introduce my friend and partner, Deputy Chief Gary Broste seated in the west gallery. Gary's had 32 years of policing in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, serving the citizens.

In 1983 he was awarded the medal of bravery in the Carnegie Hero award for going into the river after two drowning victims and rescuing them. He's also served on the emergency response team, and was lucky enough to be shot at while he was behind a garbage can. And I would like to welcome him through you today to his Assembly. Thank you.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you I'd like to introduce a very special guest to me. In your east gallery is my daughter Alison.

It's been quite a week. She has finished her law degree at the U of S [University of Saskatchewan], is now on her way to Toronto to do her articling with Stikeman Elliot. So it's been quite a time. She has found an interest in corporate commercial law. I'm not sure where that comes from. But, Mr. Speaker, I would ask all members to welcome her to the House and wish her to come back soon. Thank you.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Kindersley.

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and all members of the Assembly, I'd like to introduce a group of 70 grade 11 and 12 students seated in your gallery. They are the students on the Interchange on Canadian Studies. They are from Dr. Martin LeBoldus High School here in Regina. I would ask all members here this afternoon to welcome them to their legislature, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Douglas Park.

Mr. Van Mulligen: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to join with the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs to welcome this group of students from Dr. Martin LeBoldus High School in my constituency. They are accompanied by Dale Reed, the teacher responsible. And it's because of the efforts of people like Dale Reed that Dr. Martin LeBoldus High School enjoys an enviable reputation in Regina. And so again I want to join with the minister in extending a warm welcome to Mr. Reed and the students here today.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cannington.

Hon. Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce to you and through you seated in the west gallery Mr. Lance Grosco of Duck Lake. And I don't recognize the rest of the group that he's with today. But Lance is the president of the Saskatchewan Hotel and Hospitality Association. And I would ask everyone to welcome him and the group that he is with to the legislature today.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Meadow Lake.

Mr. Harrison: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would like to introduce to you and through to all members of the Assembly a gentleman who just celebrated his 35th year as a civil servant in this province working for the Ministry of the Environment, serving in all parts of our province and for about the last 25 years in the community of Meadow Lake. Also happens to be my dad, Tom Harrison, in the west gallery.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Batoche.

Mr. Kirsch: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the information of our member of Liquor and Gaming, the rest of the people in that constituency is the town council from the beautiful city of Duck Lake. Welcome and thank you for being here at your legislature. I'd ask everyone to give them a warm welcome.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Ms. Morin: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I'd like to present petitions from the good citizens of Saskatchewan who are concerned with Bills 5 and 6 proceeding without meaningful and comprehensive public consultations. 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, 2007, Bill 6, and hold broad public consultations about labour relations in the province.

These petitions are signed by the good folks from Hudson Bay, Arborfield, Carrot River, Nipawin, Love, White Fox, Lashburn, Mervin, Lloydminster, Humboldt, St. Gregor, North Battleford, Wilkie, and Scott, Mr. Speaker. I so present.

Some 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'm very pleased to rise and present a petition on behalf of health care in the Five Hills Health Region and in particular to the Moose Jaw Union Hospital. And the petition reads, Mr. Speaker:

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 present on behalf of my Moose Jaw constituents. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to stand today and present a petition concerning the Sask Party's decision to axe Station 20 West. The petition reads:

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

government to immediately restore funding to the Station 20 project.

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

Mr. Speaker, the individuals that signed this petition are from Saskatoon from both sides of the river. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Deputy Premier.

Ukrainian Holodomor Remembrance Flame

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker . . .

[The hon. member spoke for a time in Ukrainian.]

Further to the earlier introductions, I too would like to welcome our distinguished visitors today. This was a solemn day of remembrance as the Holodomor Remembrance Flame came to the steps of this Assembly during the noon hour.

The Remembrance Flame is part of an effort by the Ukraine's foreign ministry to mark the 75th anniversary of the Holodomor famine-genocide. The flame started in Australia and will travel through 33 countries before it reaches Ukraine in November of this year.

The event in Regina is titled "Keep the Flame Live" and is sponsored by the Ukrainian Canadian Congress. The event was designed to help us remember the victims of this terrible tragedy and ensure the story is communicated so that similar atrocities can be avoided in the future.

It is indeed sadly ironic that, in one of the richest agricultural areas of the world, people were forced by a foreign government into starvation and death. In some cases, grain supplies were confiscated down to the last seed. People were isolated by army units so that they could not go out searching for food in neighbouring regions, and through it all the Soviet government refused to acknowledge starvation in Ukraine and turned down assistance offered by other countries and international agencies like the Red Cross.

Parliamentarians and the public must not forget this dark chapter in human history. We are also obliged to honour and remember today the many people of Ukrainian descent in our province and in our country who lost loved ones in this horrible man-made famine.

[The hon. member spoke for a time in Ukrainian.]

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

[13:45]

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

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Mr. Speaker, at noon today there was a gathering on the steps here at the legislature. At the centre of the gathering was the Holodomor Remembrance Flame, a flame that has been travelling across the world this year in commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the famine-genocide that occurred in the Ukraine in 1932 and 1933.

Mr. Speaker, as many as 10 million people died, one-third of them children, as a result of this man-made famine under Joseph Stalin's harsh and dictatorial regime. At the height of the famine, Ukrainians were dying at a rate of 1,000 per hour, 25,000 perishing in a day. The Government of Ukraine, the United States House of Representatives, the United States Senate, the Senate of Canada, UNESCO [United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization], the United Nations, and over 40 other jurisdictions around the world have officially condemned the Holodomor or recognized it as genocide.

Mr. Speaker, the Holodomor Remembrance Flame is escorted here by Mr. Stefan Horlatsch. Mr. Horlatsch is a survivor of that not-so-long-ago atrocity and a living reminder of both the Holodomor and our ability as a people to not only survive but to transcend and maintain our humanity in the face of the most monstrous of events.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Horlatsch and the members of Regina's Ukrainian community are here today to keep the flame alive, to remember the victims of the Holodomor, and to ensure the story is passed on. I want to thank them for this important work. Through the efforts of people like them, we may reach a time when such atrocities are no longer repeated. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Thunder Creek.

Pense School Earns Earth School 2 Designation

Hon. Mr. Stewart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Debbie Quinlan has been encouraging her students at Pense elementary school to do their part to protect the environment for the past 16 years. She wanted Pense to be a green school. Last week the Pense School was recognized by the Green School program and became the 14th school in Canada to earn the Earth School 2 designation.

Debbie Quinlan who acted as the program coordinator said Pense School joined the program in 1992, 16 years ago. The students and staff completed 1,000 projects to earn an Earth School. The Green School program then decided to extend its program, and if a school completed an additional 1,000 projects, it could become an Earth School 2 which Pense did.

Mr. Speaker, staff and students have held rummage sales, written and presented plays about the environment, designed T-shirts with environmental messages, became involved in energy conservation and recycling initiatives, created a climate change video, and planted dozens of trees and flowers in the schoolyard.

Debbie Quinlan has had a 30-year career as a teacher and, incidentally, taught all of my three children during those years.

She said she hopes she has been able to foster and instill in the students a lifelong sense of civic responsibility and the need for good environmental stewardship, and I know she has. My congratulations to Debbie Quinlan and Pense School on this wonderful achievement.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Douglas Park.

Thai Food and Cultural Night

Mr. Van Mulligen: — Mr. Speaker, it was my very great pleasure yesterday to attend, along with 300 other people, the Thai Food and Cultural Night at the University of Regina.

Did I say pleasure? Mr. Speaker, the food was superb, the hospitality warm and real, and the dance and music performances were captivating and entertaining. Although not much appreciated in this Assembly, the speeches were short and to the point.

The Student Association of Thais at the University of Regina organized this fun evening. This student body is the largest and arguably the most active Thai student society in Canada. Incidentally, Mr. Speaker, these Regina students have received many visits by the Thai ambassador. Last night the deputy chief of mission represented the Royal Thai Embassy in Ottawa.

One of the goals of the student association is to promote a positive image of Thai culture and the Kingdom of Thailand. Well they certainly succeeded with their goal. People left happy and with a deep appreciation of Thai food, culture, and Thai people. Last night's theme was "Unseen Thailand," and the focus was on scenic locations in Thailand. We all left better informed and looking for the nearest travel agency.

Please join me in congratulating the Student Association of Thais at the University of Regina on their successful event, and in particular the president of the association, Punnamee Sachakamol, and vice-president, Supranee Lisawadi, on their organizational leadership. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Highlighting a Local Writer

Mr. LeClerc: — Mr. Speaker, as National Poetry Month draws to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to highlight the literary successes of one of our own provincial writers, Rita Bouvier. Ms. Bouvier's poem, "Better that Way," is the latest publishing project by Gabriel Dumont Institute in Saskatoon.

"Better that Way" is a poem written by Ms. Bouvier that has been adapted into a children's book and contains text in both English and Michif. The beautiful, colourful illustrations were done by Sherry Racette, and the Northern Michif translation was done by Margaret Hodgson.

Not only is this a wonderful opportunity to highlight a local writer, illustrator, and publisher, but also to relate the important message of Ms. Bouvier's mother, Annie, who told her that passing on our knowledge and wisdom to our children is a sacred act of love. The last lines of this poem about growing up are:

when your mother tells you
that she loves you to the moon
and back times infinity
try to out-do the immensity
of the love she describes to you;
there really is no end to it.

[The hon. member spoke for a time in Michif.]

finally, believe what you say
or don't say anything at all;
it is better that way.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Prince Albert Northcote.

True Ambassador for Prince Albert

Mr. Furber: — Well he's done it again, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Prince Albert was host to the 19th annual Saskatchewan Country Music Association Awards on April 11 and 12, and I'm pleased to report that Prince Albert's own Donny Parenteau won two of the four awards he was nominated for on Saturday and all five awards he was nominated for on Sunday.

On Saturday Donny won in two categories: all-star band fiddle and backup band. On Sunday Donny won for Song of the Year for *Father Time*, Single of the Year for *Postmarked Heaven*. He also won in the categories of Aboriginal Artist of the Year, Male Vocalist of the Year, and Fans' Choice Entertainer.

Mr. Speaker, Donny's friends and family watched with pride as he accepted his awards. Donny acknowledged his father who passed away in 1990 and, Mr. Speaker, two of his songs — *Father Time* and *Postmarked Heaven* — were dedicated to his father.

Mr. Speaker, Donny returned to Prince Albert in 2003 to embark on his solo career after spending many years in Nashville. He continues to be a true ambassador for Prince Albert and indeed for Saskatchewan. His pride in his hometown, his heritage, his family, his music, and his infectious personality are evident in everything that he does.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members join with me in acknowledging the accomplishments of Donny Parenteau and in extending him congratulations on his success at the SCMA [Saskatchewan Country Music Association] Awards. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Lloydminster.

Lloydminster Super Cities Walk

Mr. McMillan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had the great pleasure of attending Lloydminster's 10th annual Super Cities Walk for MS [multiple sclerosis] this past Saturday morning. The walk route started at Lakeland College, then around the lake at Bud Miller Park and through the city, allowing participants to do either the 1-, 5-, or 10-kilometre walks.

Johanna Green, the CEO [chief executive officer] and walk coordinator of the MS Society along with Darrel Frisken, president of the board, planned and executed a terrific day. They marshalled 80 eager and friendly volunteers in a smooth run event. They also had the help of the Lloydminster Junior A Bobcats hockey team to warm up the participants before the walk began.

The Lloydminster walk is one of the largest in Western Canada with over \$125,000 raised through the footsteps of over 400 walkers. After a week of snow and wind in Lloydminster, we awoke Saturday morning to find a beautiful day for the event. They had the trails cleared and they had put up warming tents along the way just in case. Mr. Speaker, after two and a half months here in the legislature, I was particularly appreciative that the route was so well marked. If I had missed the 1-kilometre walk turnoff and had got caught on the 10-kilometre loop, Mr. Speaker, I may not have made it back.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members join me in congratulating Johanna, Darrel, and the many other organizers and volunteers for this worthwhile walk. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Before we move to oral questions, I'd just like to remind members that we're not to use props of any kind at any time, whether members' statements or question period. If members would just keep that in mind, that would be appreciated. Thank you.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Support for Regional Colleges

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Advanced Education fancies himself, quote, "a political scientist." As a political scientist, he ought to know the importance of listening to stakeholders. The Association of Saskatchewan Regional Colleges has said that the Sask Party's budget falls far short of helping regional colleges share in the economic boom.

Mr. Speaker, both the Minister of Social Services and the Minister of Municipal Affairs have been allowed to rewrite their own budgets. When can we expect the Minister of Advanced Education to rewrite his budget to correct his failure?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Mr. Speaker, I certainly appreciate the question. What we've inherited, Mr. Speaker, is a lack of a post-secondary or advanced education system. As it was formerly organized, what we saw are two different streams. That is, under SIAST [Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology] there were regional colleges organized, and under the universities there were affiliated associate college and federated colleges.

What we've said, Mr. Speaker, is we want to come up with a post-secondary system that Saskatchewan should and have had in place for years. Other jurisdictions have had this. So what we're moving forward on, Mr. Speaker, is we're hiring a new ADM [assistant deputy minister] within this area to help make sure that we're staffed up, to make sure that we can actually move forward on a strategy, thereby we can begin to contemplate in the coming years how we're going to make sure that the resources needed actually are commensurate with the strategy that that government did not put in place and this government will be happy to put in place, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, I'll take the word of regional college Chairs over the word of that minister any day of the week.

A letter written to the minister and co-signed by every single regional college states that the regional colleges association is, quote, "... shocked at the level of funding allocated to Regional Colleges for technical and trades training." Training institutions are saying that there's not nearly enough money in this budget for new programming or training seats. In fact some may even be looking at program reductions. Mr. Speaker, all this from a government which used to call a labour shortage a crisis.

To the minister: with the government sitting on more than \$1 billion, why is he doing so little to help train the workers of tomorrow, especially the workers outside major urban centres?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Again, Mr. Speaker, I certainly appreciate the question on this. What we've seen in the budget, Mr. Speaker, is what we've done is focused on 5,500 training seats, Mr. Speaker. That does not include the \$5 million that will be going towards community-based organizations.

But I think what this really highlights, Mr. Speaker, is that there

was recently a meeting held by board Chairs, board members, and some of the CEOs of the regional colleges, Mr. Speaker. I went to that meeting, Mr. Speaker; I spoke with them; I said this is the beginning of a dialogue. During the coming months, during the summer I'm actually going to be going out to the respective institutions, better understanding their institutional needs.

And as I've said, Mr. Speaker, we're focusing on moving forward on a strategy rather than ad hoc approach that the former government had practised where the institution standards should be mutually reinforcing, Mr. Speaker. Again the legacy of the previous government is that there was no strategy in place. As we move forward with investments on training, Mr. Speaker, within the budget, we are also going to be moving forward in the coming months on the development of a strategy for advanced education in Saskatchewan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Broten: — Stall, stall, stall, Mr. Speaker. With more than \$1 billion in the bank, they should be doing more. I'll continue to quote from the letter: Quote, "... with the exception of a very few ... adult basic education seats on reserve, regional colleges received no meaningful increase in programming capacity funds."

And, Mr. Speaker, it's not only ongoing programming funds that are inadequate. It's also capital funding. Out of the so-called historic \$1 billion in infrastructure, a measly \$800,000 is being devoted to regional colleges for capital projects. Last year the NDP devoted over 2 million just for renovations to the Cumberland College in Nipawin.

To the Minister of AEEL [Advanced Education, Employment and Labour]: why does his budget so horribly ignore the infrastructure needs of regional colleges?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Before I recognize the minister, I would just like to remind members that sometimes it gets very difficult to hear either the question or the response as members engage in other dialogue. I would ask members to have respect to the person who has the floor.

I recognize the Minister Responsible for Advanced Education, Employment and Labour.

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Again, thank you, Mr. Speaker. What we're working, Mr. Speaker, what we're working on is to overcome a significant infrastructure deficit left by the opposition members. So what we've done, Mr. Speaker, in this budget — obviously a \$1 billion infrastructure initiative, Mr. Speaker — part of those funds are going towards advanced educational ...

The Speaker: — Order. I recognize the minister.

[14:00]

Hon. Mr. Norris: — As I was saying, Mr. Speaker, part of what we're doing is working to overcome this very significant infrastructure deficit left by the previous government, Mr. Speaker. What we've done, as I've said, is we, on a go-forward basis, we're hiring a new ADM where we can actually integrate the institutions into a much more comprehensive strategy.

As well, Mr. Speaker, what we're doing is we're getting out, out to the regional colleges. That work is already begun. I was recently out visiting with the president of Lakeland College, Mr. Speaker. That work is under way. What we're doing, Mr. Speaker, is ensuring that there's a strategy. With that strategy will be commensurate resources, Mr. Speaker, and the whole approach on this is to overcome the deficit left over by the previous government, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, we know that people who are trained near their home communities are far more likely to stay and work in those communities. And we know that regional colleges are a very important part of what this minister often refers to as the rich tapestry that is our post-secondary sector. Unfortunately his walk doesn't match his talk and regional colleges are feeling left out. The minister of ...

The Speaker: — Order. The member from Saskatoon Massey Place.

Mr. Broten: — The Minister of Municipal Affairs was able to rewrite his budget to make up for shortchanging municipalities. The Minister of Social Services was able to rewrite her budget when she failed to comprehend what she had actually approved. To the minister: when will he rewrite his budget, and this time will he speak up for regional colleges?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Well, Mr. Speaker, what we can do is maybe offer a tutorial on how to read budgets. Because what we see, Mr. Speaker, is a \$4 million increase, Mr. Speaker, into the regional colleges, Mr. Speaker. In addition, Mr. Speaker, in addition to this initial money, what we're doing is working to build a post-secondary strategy in this province, Mr. Speaker. Obviously that includes hiring a new ADM. Mr. Speaker, it means getting out and doing outreach and engagement to ensure we understand the local ...

The Speaker: — I recognize the minister.

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. To be clear, what we saw last year under the NDP government, a \$20 million approximate budget. What we've seen this year is

\$24 million, Mr. Speaker. So I want to be very clear on, Mr. Speaker, we've seen an increase in spending. We've seen increase in investment. What we do see, sir, is the need for a strategy that that side was sorely lacking in undertaking.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Consultation With Labour

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Mr. Speaker, first it's videos and now we're going to get tutorials. Mr. Speaker, governments don't get to pick and choose who their stakeholders are. They don't get to decide to meet with only people who like their decisions, and they don't get to choose to listen to some and not others. Governments are supposed to govern for everyone and not just the people they agree with. Unfortunately this Minister of Labour thinks the rules don't apply to him.

Yesterday he did attend a Day of Mourning ceremony. But it seems that the minister is content to do the absolute minimum. According to a newspaper report this morning, nearly 100 SEIU [Service Employees International Union] members had to protest outside of his Saskatoon office to try and get the minister's attention.

To the minister: is he so unhappy with the reception at CUPE [Canadian Union of Public Employees] a few months ago that he's decided to stop attending labour AGMs [annual general meeting] and conventions altogether?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm happy to report that I met with members of SEIU on February 14 in the afternoon, Mr. Speaker. What we were able to say, Mr. Speaker, is that we did receive, we did receive an invitation, Mr. Speaker. We sent regrets in early April saying that due to the legislative schedule, I was not able to be in Saskatchewan . . . or in Saskatoon, Mr. Speaker. I was going to be here in Regina, Mr. Speaker.

Not only did I go to the events last night, Mr. Speaker, we then had a committee meeting, Mr. Speaker, here in the legislature where some of his colleagues were present, Mr. Speaker. So, Mr. Speaker, I can only say, Mr. Speaker, I'm disappointed in the question, Mr. Speaker. On issues of consultation, Mr. Speaker, our record is very . . .

The Speaker: — Order. Order. The minister will finish his response.

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Mr. Speaker, I'm happy to report that last night, with some of the members opposite, we actually went through the Labour estimates, Mr. Speaker. And that's one of the reasons that I couldn't be in Saskatoon. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Mr. Speaker, shame on that member. Shame on that member. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, they control the scheduling. Mr. Speaker, it seems that this minister is content to be one . . .

The Speaker: — Order. I remind members that the . . . Order. I will remind members of the fact that if you want the Speaker to continually be on his feet, that will mean fewer opportunities for questions in the Assembly. I recognize the member from Saskatoon Fairview.

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Mr. Speaker, it seems that this minister is content to be one of the most invisible ministers of Labour in Saskatchewan history. And it's not, it's not just the Minister of Labour who won't meet with unions. It seems that other MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly] have been instructed to ignore their own constituents. According to the Canadian Union of Public Employees, dozens of union members have been refused meetings with their MLAs, including the member from Meadow Lake and the member from Moose Jaw North.

You know, we've heard from the Premier that the cabinet is just too busy, Mr. Speaker, to discuss something as mundane as spending over \$300,000 of taxpayers' money. And now it seems that MLA time is too valuable to spend meeting with constituents.

To the minister: are he and his colleagues so thin-skinned that they can't even meet with people who disagree with them on Bills 5 and 6?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Mr. Speaker, I certainly appreciate the question despite its incoherence. Mr. Speaker, what I can say is in committee, Mr. Speaker, we've already spent 40 hours. I don't think that's invisible, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, what I can say is during our consultations we met with 20 stakeholder groups, we met with nearly 100 people between the deputy minister and myself. We took insight from stakeholders right across the policy community. We came up with amendments to the essential service legislation, Mr. Speaker. What we can't understand, Mr. Speaker, is why there isn't a higher order of question coming from that side, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Order. I would ask the members to address their questions to the floor, and I would also suggest that it does not enhance debate when members start aiming and taking shots at each other . . . for the member to address your comments through the Chair. Thank you. I recognize the member from Saskatoon Fairview.

Mr. Iwanchuk: — That member's performance in committees speak volumes for themselves. He doesn't need any help in that.

A one-time consultation between the Minister of Labour and labour federations is no substitute for ongoing discussions between constituents, MLAs, stakeholders, and ministers, which are so vital to the way that government works.

Unfortunately it seems that more and more people are having problems being heard by this government. We saw municipal leaders having to contemplate tax increases to get a fair share of the province's wealth, and we saw over 2,500 people march through downtown Saskatoon demanding that the government reverse its terrible decision to axe Station 20. And now it seems that neither the minister nor his colleagues will even meet with their constituencies on labour legislation.

To the minister: why is he refusing to meet with people who disagree with him?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Mr. Speaker, as I said, we can go back through the consultation process. Mr. Speaker, we sent out 84 letters of invitation; we put out ads in nearly 100 newspapers, Mr. Speaker. What we did is we met with nearly 100 individuals, the deputy minister and myself, Mr. Speaker. There were views expressed from right across the policy community, Mr. Speaker: some very, very constructive; others simply curious, Mr. Speaker. What I can say is, this government remains responsive and accessible, Mr. Speaker, which stands in stark contrast to the last government.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Accountability and Transparency

Mr. Calvert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Several days ago I had an opportunity to put some questions to the Premier about his commitment in the campaign to accountability and transparency in government. I have a few more questions today about what many have described now as the unaccountability Act, Bill 31.

I've asked this question, but I'd like to ask it again so the Premier would have an opportunity to respond to it. My question, Mr. Speaker, is to the Premier. The question's simple: did the Premier actually read the Bill before it was tabled in the House? And if he did, how is it that he could read that Bill and not see it a complete betrayal of his campaign commitments to the people of Saskatchewan?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Well, Mr. Speaker, while we're on the question of vetting, I wonder if the Leader of the Opposition would care to stand in his place and confirm as to whether he approved the questions that we just heard from his Labour critic that managed, if you can imagine, Mr. Speaker, to weave in the Day of Mourning of lost workers in this province into a question on the labour legislation facing this Legislative Assembly. That is, Mr. Speaker, worthy of an apology to the Assembly, especially to the families of those who have lost their lives in the workplace. Did that Leader of the Opposition approve those questions from that member?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Order. I just want to remind ministers that the answers should at least be responsive to the questions presented. I recognize the Deputy House Leader.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, in the Premier's response, in the Premier's response, Mr. Speaker, I have an answer. He obviously did not read the Bill before it was tabled.

He has now suggested, or at least his Attorney General has suggested that, once caught, now they are going to amend the Bill. Well, Mr. Speaker, there are within the confines of this Bill at least 15 instances where they want to raise the expenditure to \$350,000, whether it's in agreements with the federal government, out-of-province purchases of property and so on — 15 instances.

I'm going to ask the Premier now: is he committing to this House that through his amendment all of those references to the raising of expenditures to \$350,000 will be gone? Or better yet, why does he just not drop this Bill?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, we seek, Mr. Speaker, the support of the members opposite who raised some good points when this Bill was introduced. We seek their support for a House amendment which will simply return the threshold back to what it was previous to the Bill being tabled. That's what we're proposing. We will then refer the question of a balance between efficiency and transparency to the Provincial Auditor.

We have learned in the wake, in the days since the Leader of the Opposition first raised some very good questions, we've learned that his characterization of what other provinces do wasn't completely accurate. Some provinces have more onerous requirements with respect to reporting — some much, much less.

We want to strike a balance between efficiency in government . . . We want to place trust in ministry officials on things like fish filters and what kind of picnic tables should be in the parks.

We want to balance that against the need for immediate reporting and transparency. We think the Provincial Auditor is the perfect officer of the province to provide some advice to the government in this regard.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, this Premier ran on a campaign for accountability and transparency. How can he suggest that by raising the expenditure limit without public scrutiny is an improvement in accountability and transparency? How could he even table such a Bill if he had read it? And interestingly . . .

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

Mr. Calvert: — And interestingly, Mr. Speaker, usually when a Bill of this nature comes to the legislature — in fact, when most Bills come to this legislature — they come with explanatory notes that will explain to the opposition, to the media, and to the public what is the goal of this piece of legislation. No explanatory notes with this Bill, Mr. Speaker, so today I ask the Premier: will he commit today to provide the explanatory notes to Bill 31 to the legislature?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Well, Mr. Speaker, in answer to . . .

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Wall: — The answer to the question is that we will provide all of the information that hon. members need in this Assembly and we will look for their support for the House amendment which will simply turn the thresholds that he's concerned about — and has some justification to be, for the reasons he pointed out — that we would introduce this House amendment to return the thresholds as they were previously, refer the matter to the Provincial Auditor.

But while he's on his feet next — and I assume he'll ask another question — on this theme of accountability and transparency, I wonder when he will direct his former ministers of the Crown from his government to abide by the laws of the province of Saskatchewan, to abide by the archive laws to turn over property that is not theirs, to provide to the archives . . .

The Speaker: — Order. Order. The Premier can wrap up his question if it's relevant to the question given.

[14:15]

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, there's an entitlement mentality over there, but they are not entitled to the originals of those letters. They have them in their possession, including the Health minister, the Justice minister. These are private correspondences between . . . [inaudible] . . . people. When will they abide by the archive law of the province of Saskatchewan?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, early on in his career as Premier, this Premier is developing this knack. When he does not want to answer a question or cannot answer or knows that he's been caught, he'll throw in a red herring. He'll throw in a diversion. Well we've just seen it again, Mr. Speaker.

My questions are very simple to the Premier. They are these today . . .

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

Mr. Calvert: — And, Mr. Speaker, when the Premier can't answer, his caucus tries to help him out.

Mr. Speaker, my questions to the Premier today are very direct and very simple. Did he read the Bill before he tabled the Bill? If he did, why would he table a Bill that clearly violates his campaign commitment to accountability?

I've asked him, will he commit today to remove every reference in this Bill, not just the one but every of 15 references to raising the limit to \$350,000? And will he provide to the public of Saskatchewan, this legislature, and the media the explanatory notes behind the Bill? Those are very simple questions. We'd appreciate a straight answer.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think in answers to questions last week the Minister of Justice committed to the fact that the previous thresholds, the House amendment that will be introduced by this side of the House, the House amendments that are coming will return the thresholds to what they were prior to the Bill being tabled in the Legislative Assembly, in other words as they exist today.

And then we will refer the matter, and it will be a public report from the auditor which we will share with the member for Riversdale. We'll refer to the auditor this question of a balance between efficiency and our desire to make sure there's transparency and prompt accounting.

But it'll be difficult to take counsel from a party opposite whose former ministers are still outside the archives law. Yesterday the Justice minister outside the House said it was his option to return these papers and that he had left them with the Ministry of Justice. I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, they have not been left with the Ministry of Justice. They have not been returned to archives and if that member has . . .

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Minister's Comments and Ministerial Documents

Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, just for the information of members and the media, 400 boxes of information, records from ministerial and Executive Council offices, were sent to the archives, Mr. Speaker — 400 boxes.

Mr. Speaker, I have another question.

The Speaker: — Order. Order. I would ask the member from Canora to come to order. I recognize the Opposition Leader.

Mr. Calvert: — Well now, Mr. Speaker, I'll be curious to see how the Premier tries to divert or deflect or red herring this question. My question again is very simple. To the Premier, on a different matter: does this Premier believe that it's acceptable for a minister of his cabinet, particularly the Minister of Justice, to find himself in scrums day after day having to correct, having to correct the information that he provided to the public the day before? I refer to the comments of the Attorney General, the Minister of Justice, in regard to the stolen police records that were in the hands of the Sask Party caucus.

Will the Premier do the right thing, will he do the right thing and ask the Conflict of Interest Commissioner of this province to do an investigation on the Attorney General and his comments to the public?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Well, Mr. Speaker, that question was asked yesterday and it was answered yesterday. What has not been answered though, however, is why the following former ministers of the NDP [New Democratic Party] government have not yet complied with the archives law. Are they rifling through these private correspondences from private citizens, prepared to use them for their own political end in question period?

How about the former minister of Municipal Relations? How about the former minister of social services, the former minister of Health, the former minister of Justice, the former minister of Labour, the former minister of Post-Secondary Education, the former minister of the Saskatchewan . . .

The Speaker: — Order. Order. Order. I find that the response is not as direct response to the question, the relevance. And question period has elapsed. Move on to ministerial statements.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — I recognize the member responsible for the Standing Committee on Human Services.

Standing Committee on Human Services

Mr. Hart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Human Services to report Bill No. 13, The Teachers' Life Insurance (Government . . .

The Speaker: — Order. If members have something they would like to discuss between themselves, please exit the Chamber. I recognize the member for Human Services.

Mr. Hart: — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Human Services to report Bill No. 13, The Teachers' Life Insurance (Government Contributory) Amendment Act, 2008 without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall this Bill be considered in Committee of the Whole? I recognize the Deputy Premier.

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — Mr. Speaker, I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this Bill and that the Bill be now read a third time.

The Speaker: — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration of Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 13, The Teachers' Life Insurance Amendment Act, 2008 and that the Bill be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The minister may proceed to move third reading.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 13 — The Teachers' Life Insurance (Government Contributory) Amendment Act, 2008

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Education that Bill No. 13, The Teachers' Life Insurance (Government Contributory) Amendment Act, 2008 be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of Human Services Committee.

Standing Committee on Human Services

Mr. Hart: — Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Human Services to report Bill No. 14, The Saskatchewan Association of School Business Officials Repeal

Act without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall this Bill be considered in Committee of the Whole? I recognize the Deputy Premier.

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this Bill and that the Bill be now read a third time.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Education has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 14, The Saskatchewan Association of School Business Officials Repeal Act and that the Bill be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 14 — The Saskatchewan Association of School Business Officials Repeal Act

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Education that Bill No. 14, The Saskatchewan Association of School Business Officials Repeal Act be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Agreed. Carried.

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

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of Human Services Committee.

Standing Committee on Human Services

Mr. Hart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Human Services to report Bill No. 26, The Midwifery Amendment Act, 2008 without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall this Bill be considered in Committee of the Whole? I recognize the Minister of Health.

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

Bill and that the Bill be now read a third time.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Health has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 26, The Midwifery Amendment Act, 2008 and that the Bill be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Agreed. I recognize the Minister of Health.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 26 — The Midwifery Amendment Act, 2008

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Health that Bill No. 26, The Midwifery Amendment Act, 2008 be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice Committee.

Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

Mr. Kirsch: — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 29, The Education Amendment Act, 2008 without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall this Bill be considered in Committee of the Whole? I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this Bill and that this Bill be now read a third time.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Education has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 29, The Education Amendment Act, 2008 and that the Bill be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

THIRD READINGS

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

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Education that Bill No. 29, The Education Amendment Act, 2008 be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Agreed. Carried.

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

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure on behalf of the government to table the answers to questions 588 to 594.

The Speaker: — Questions 588 to 594 tabled.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 37

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Tell that **Bill No. 37 — The Parks Amendment Act, 2008** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Yates: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm once again pleased to stand and continue deliberations on this piece of legislation. Mr. Speaker, this particular piece of legislation changes a number of boundaries within the provincial parks themselves and excludes parcels of land and adds parcels of land. It may on the surface look like it's simply housekeeping, but each of those changes could have significant implications to local businesses, local cottage owners, and perhaps local landowners in the area, Mr. Speaker.

Without the proper clarification on what the impacts are on these particular changes, the local impacts on the communities, on the parks themselves, and on to those landowners in the area, Mr. Speaker, it's very difficult to proceed and move this Bill to committee. We've asked the minister's office for more details. This Bill was introduced just a short period of time ago, and in a normal legislative sitting where we had several weeks left to go if not months . . . If this had been brought forward in the fall, we would have adequate time to talk to all the stakeholders in each of the various provincial parks and check with the various stakeholders individually to see whether or not those changes were in fact supported by the local communities and cottage owners and others in the parks themselves, Mr. Speaker.

Without that adequate time, we need to rely on the minister and the officials to provide us greater detail of what those changes mean to the various parks, what the local landowners may think about those particular changes, or if in fact there is simply housekeeping, Mr. Speaker. Neither the explanatory notes that have been provided or the Bill themselves can give you that level of detail.

Now we've asked the Minister Responsible for Parks for some additional details. We are still waiting for that detail to come from the minister's office. Once we get that detail and we have the opportunity to examine it and understand what the impacts are on each of these changes in those provincial parks, Mr. Speaker, we're in a better position to determine whether or not we want to move this particular piece of legislation on to committee.

Mr. Speaker, in all fairness to the minister, I asked for that information late last week. We're hoping the minister's office continues to try to get that information. I know I spoke earlier today to the minister's office, and I'm hoping that before many more days go by, Mr. Speaker, we can actually have that information provided by the minister and the department, so we can analyze what each of these changes mean and whether or not there are any concerns or things that we should be looking in more detail to, Mr. Speaker.

So, Mr. Speaker, with those few brief remarks, at this time, I'm going to take my seat and allow one of my colleagues to share some of their experiences and their feelings about this particular piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

[14:30]

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from The Battlefords.

Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I too want to say a few words today on Bill 37, The Parks Amendment Act. I appreciate the opportunity that my colleagues have provided to me to speak on Bill 37 that deals with the provincial parks.

I just want to give an example to support what my colleague in Regina Dewdney had to say about the reasons why we need some additional information. Mr. Speaker, the constituency I represent is The Battlefords. Now mind you, that's the town of Battleford and the city of North Battleford and basically

everything inside the municipal boundaries.

But a great number of citizens of The Battlefords have cottages or property or they use land within the Battlefords Provincial Park. And in fact, Mr. Speaker, a number of businesses lease land within the Battlefords Provincial Park to operate and provide business and service opportunities to residents of the area and visitors to the Battlefords Provincial Park.

Mr. Speaker, also our tribal council from The Battlefords Tribal Council representing a number of bands around The Battlefords, under lease looks after the golf course, the convention centre, the hotel, and have for a number of years been anxious to expand the land base that they currently have under lease to make the business operations of the land that they lease more appropriate for their circumstances. And, Mr. Speaker, that as a result, changes in that lease and the boundaries within that leased area, would also have a very beneficial impact on the people who utilize those services, that business interest, and utilize the services of the Battlefords Provincial Park.

So, Mr. Speaker, I asked my colleagues who are managing this Bill for the New Democratic Party, our side of the House. And, Mr. Speaker, my colleagues can't provide me with the information that I need on which to base a decision as to whether or not this Bill has beneficial or negative effects for the citizens that I represent. My colleagues indicate that they've asked for additional information to assist them in providing me with advice as to how to proceed with making a decision on supporting or not supporting this legislation.

So, Mr. Speaker, just by way of example, this legislation may have — because I don't know; I say may because I don't know for sure — may have an impact on constituents that I represent. And I would rather know before the Bill is dealt with, Mr. Speaker, so that I can consult with my constituents somewhat, than to find out after the fact, Mr. Speaker, and to say to my constituents that oh I'm sorry; I didn't know.

I think it is my responsibility, Mr. Speaker, not only to communicate the wishes of my constituents to the legislature, but also, Mr. Speaker, to be able to communicate the wishes and intentions of the legislature or the government to my constituents so that they understand the impact that these decisions have on them. They can provide feedback to me, and I can then provide that feedback to government.

So, Mr. Speaker, I'm at, somewhat, at a loss to fully recognize whether or not I personally can support or not support the legislation that's in front of us. My colleagues assure me that that information, when it's available, should make it very easy for me to make a decision in this regard. We have some very specific questions that have been asked, and I think that it's important before I'm able to make comments to the government that I have some of that information.

So, Mr. Speaker, by way of example and in support of the comments made from my colleague from Regina Dewdney, Mr. Speaker, I would at this time, to ensure that we have more information provided to us, I would adjourn debate, or I would move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 37.

The Speaker: — The member from The Battlefords has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 37. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Agreed. Carried.

Bill No. 25

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Heppner that **Bill No. 25 — The Wildlife Habitat Protection Amendment Act, 2008** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Nilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On this particular Bill, there are quite a number of changes to the land that's either included in this wildlife habitat protection plan or taken out. And, Mr. Speaker, we are pleased that the minister has been able to provide us with some maps of the land involved and that's helped substantially. But unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, the explanatory notes, which I know are available, are not there, and that often will provide the rationale for the changes that are being made. A number of those things have some questions to us.

We know that in some areas, it's quite a contentious issue; other areas, it's quite an ordinary situation. But, Mr. Speaker, we're in a situation where we don't have all the information that we require. And so I'm suggesting to my colleagues that until we get that kind of information, which we know is available, that this matter should not proceed from this stage. I know that some of my colleagues have some similar comments to make about this particular legislation, and so I will let them have their say. Thank you.

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

Mr. Yates: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased this afternoon to stand and speak on Bill No. 25, The Wildlife Habitat Protection Amendment Act, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, much like Bill 37, The Parks Act, before we can move this Bill forward, we need some additional information, Mr. Speaker. The minister has provided some maps, and there are explanatory notes that are available, but they don't give us all the information we would like to have. And that information we need, Mr. Speaker, is why are these particular changes being made? Why are the designations changing on each parcel of land? And, Mr. Speaker, without that type of information which we normally would get several months in order to examine the Bill and talk to stakeholders, in this case we have a relatively short period of time.

So we need some additional information from the ministers in order to determine whether or not there's any implications that are not obvious in these changes, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we've asked the ministers, and hopefully we'll get that information shortly. In all fairness, those questions were just

asked in the last couple of days, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to talk a little bit about why we want to protect habitat land, Mr. Speaker. Wildlife habitat protection is very important for a number of reasons. Because those lands protect species of both animals and plants, Mr. Speaker, that may be on an endangered or at-risk list, Mr. Speaker, there are certain types of habitat in Saskatchewan we need to protect in order to protect certain types of both plant species and animal species, Mr. Speaker. And keeping those particular species safe and protected within their natural environment is very, very important to continue those species' lives and keeping them part of the beautiful habitat we have in this province, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we're protecting about 400 different species here in Saskatchewan that are unique, and it's very important in order to protect those species to have land set aside for that purpose. Mr. Speaker, most of the land that we're talking about that's protected is in fact Crown land. It's land that's held by the Crown and protected as such, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, because we continue to need additional information, I would move that we adjourn debate.

The Speaker: — The member from Regina Dewdney has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 25. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Agreed. Carried.

Bill No. 24

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Norris that **Bill No. 24 — The Trade Union Amendment Act, 2008 (No. 2)** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Yates: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Once again, I'm pleased to enter into the debate on Bill No. 24.

Mr. Speaker, this is a very narrow piece of legislation. It in fact makes a single change, a relatively simple change. But, Mr. Speaker, it is a very symbolic change. What it does in fact reduces the number of Vice-Chairs in the Labour Relations Board, Mr. Speaker, and that's quite significant in its impact on the ability to have cases heard before the Labour Relations Board, on its ability to render decisions in a timely manner, Mr. Speaker.

We've heard repeatedly from the members opposite that they want to have a more efficient and more timely response to the needs of both business and labour in the community as they bring forward concerns to the Labour Relations Board, Mr. Speaker.

Well we have a number of questions about how they plan to do that while reducing the size of the board itself, the number of people who can actually hear cases before the board, Mr.

Speaker? And how do they expect to get out responses in a more timely manner, Mr. Speaker?

It defies logic in many ways that you can reduce it by a person, from three to two and actually have the ability to speed up cases before the board, because cases take periods of time to be heard, Mr. Speaker. And then even the very best and most diligent workers take a great deal of time, Mr. Speaker, to consider a case and to write in fact their response to that case, which in many times has a great number of conflicting legal issues to be considered within them, Mr. Speaker, which need to be very clearly and very concisely put forward in response to the parties that may have spent considerable time making a case before the Labour Relations Board, Mr. Speaker. So, Mr. Speaker, the change itself may seem relatively simple, Mr. Speaker, but the implications of that change can be far-reaching, Mr. Speaker, and have significant impact on portions of our community in this province, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, it also warrants some consideration why, when we have an amendment to The Trade Union Act before us that deals with some of these issues, why this particular piece wasn't put forward, and this change wasn't put forward in the first piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker, and why we need to have another piece of legislation put forward for such a small amendment, Mr. Speaker.

So as we seek answers for those questions and consult with others, Mr. Speaker, and go deal with stakeholders in the community about this particular piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker, we are going to need additional time. We're going to need to talk to people in the community.

And as I have several other of my colleagues who'd like to speak at this time, Mr. Speaker, I am going to take my seat and give the opportunity for one of my colleagues to enter into the debate.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Coronation Park, I believe. Yes.

Mr. Trew: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. This is an interesting Bill. It does really a very simple thing. It reduces the number of Vice-Chairs on the Labour Relations Board under The Trade Union Act from two to one notwithstanding, Mr. Speaker, that the language of this second amendment to The Trade Union Act is very, very specific. The amendment says, "... **amended by adding** 'not more than' **before** 'two vice-chairpersons'."

And so it's not more than two Vice-Chairs.

Mr. Speaker, we have a Minister of Advanced Education and Employment that clearly takes his responsibilities in other areas much more seriously than he takes his responsibilities to working women, men, and young people or working women, men, and people of all ages in the province of Saskatchewan. By his actions and by his speeches, this is no friend of labour, Mr. Speaker. This is no friend of labour.

This Bill is being presented ostensibly, we're told, because it

will somehow improve the efficiency of the Labour Relations Board, making decisions more timely. Well, Mr. Speaker, it smells to me like — dictatorship is too strong a word — but it smells to me like what is happening, what is being proposed is the withdrawal of the ability for working people and for employers to plead their case before the board, to have their day, so to speak, before the Labour Relations Board — which is a quasi-judicial board — before that board will make its decision.

[14:45]

If you go from three — you know, a Chair, two Vice-Chairs — to two, it doesn't provide for more time to listen to concerns. It clearly provides much less time, much less time. And so my argument here is, or our argument here, Mr. Speaker, is that the province of Saskatchewan, people — be they employers or be they working people — are not well served by these amendments to Bill 24.

It's not conducive to thoughtful, written decisions because when you previously had three people, Chair and two Vice-Chairs — one appointed after consultation with business; one appointed clearly after consultation with labour, the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour, probably the CLC [Canadian Labour Congress], and others — you go from three to two.

Clearly under the existing trade union Act, hearings can be conducted . . . the Chair has the ability to appoint a Vice-Chair to conduct a hearing alone, under certain rules here. No objection to that.

But what we're saying is that this Bill takes it from three people who can conduct certain business alone — hear information and make decisions, make rulings — reduce it from three to two people, and somehow we're told that that's going to speed things up or provide greater efficiency. And, Mr. Speaker, it is absolutely counterintuitive. Nobody will ever draw a line saying two people doing a job independently can be any more efficient than three people doing the job independently, recognizing that there are many hearings going on simultaneously.

There's not just one piece of business before the Labour Relations Board on any given day. There are many, and it's a juggling act for board members to try and provide rulings in a timely . . . not just provide rulings, Mr. Speaker. Of course to hear complaints, to hear and adjudicate in a judicious way, in a timely fashion, we need three members.

And clearly I haven't even spoken yet to the issue of employers having their representative, being consulted, and being their representative as the Vice-Chair, and working people to be consulted through their organization, the SFL [Saskatchewan Federation of Labour], and have their advocate or their representative on the board.

Without that balance, Mr. Speaker, you really have grave concerns. You have huge doubt with one group or the other, one group or the other because you cannot name some one person that's going to represent both groups. And each of those parties feel like that person is their person they can take their concerns to or they can have working on their side.

Mr. Speaker, I haven't even gotten into the election promises around The Trade Union Act. But I want to point out that before and during the recent general election, there was not one peep about, not one murmur about us needing to change the makeup of the board for The Trade Union Act. There was just not one peep of it from the then opposition, the now government. Clearly had that been any discussion of that in the run-up to the election, had there been any promise written, any . . . if that was part of the now government's platform, there would be all kinds of credence to the argument that, well hey, the people spoke on November 7 and they won. We lost. That would have all kinds of water if it were only the case — if only that had been the case.

And so I'm wondering what happened in the interim — these short months — what happened that caused a crisis that would cause this Bill now to be coming before us, this Bill which is the second trade union Act Bill before this Assembly.

And it's not like we have a huge number of Bills — what? — 30, 40 Bills. It's sort of half a typical number of Bills. We've already passed quite a number of Bills, Mr. Speaker, as you're well aware. So it's not that somehow or other the opposition is able to hold everything up. That's not what it's about, but what it is about is the opposition having its say. The minority will have its say, and the majority will have its way. That's the way of democracy. But this Bill is so fundamentally unexplained, so fundamentally wrong, that we clearly need to do some more consulting around this Bill No. 24, the Act to amend The Trade Union Act.

Mr. Speaker, there is some more consulting that I wish to do before I speak again. Therefore I adjourn the . . . Do I adjourn the debate? . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Yes, I want to speak again; I want to be clear on that. So I move to adjourn the debate.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Regina Coronation Park has moved adjournment of debate. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Hon. Mr. Gantefoer: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. In order to allow the valuable work of the committees to function, I move that this House do now adjourn.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

[The Assembly adjourned at 14:51.]

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Wall	1123
Iwanchuk	1123
Schriemer	1123
Forbes	1123
Boyd	1124
Van Mulligen	1124
D'Autremont	1124
Harrison	1124
Kirsch	1124

PRESENTING PETITIONS

Morin	1124
Higgins	1124
Brotten	1124

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

Ukrainian Holodomor Remembrance Flame	
Krawetz	1125
Iwanchuk	1125
Pense School Earns Earth School 2 Designation	
Stewart	1125
Thai Food and Cultural Night	
Van Mulligen	1126
Highlighting a Local Writer	
LeClerc	1126
True Ambassador for Prince Albert	
Furber	1126
Lloydminster Super Cities Walk	
McMillan	1127

QUESTION PERIOD

Support for Regional Colleges	
Brotten	1127
Norris	1127
Consultation With Labour	
Iwanchuk	1129
Norris	1129
Accountability and Transparency	
Calvert	1130
Wall	1130
Minister's Comments and Ministerial Documents	
Calvert	1132
Wall	1132

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Standing Committee on Human Services	
Hart	1132
Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice	
Kirsch	1133

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 13 — The Teachers' Life Insurance (Government Contributory) Amendment Act, 2008	
Krawetz	1132
Bill No. 14 — The Saskatchewan Association of School Business Officials Repeal Act	
Krawetz	1133
Bill No. 26 — The Midwifery Amendment Act, 2008	
McMorris	1133
Bill No. 29 — The Education Amendment Act, 2008/Loi de 2008 modifiant la Loi de 1995 sur l'éducation	
Krawetz	1134

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Weekes	1134
--------------	------

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 37 — The Parks Amendment Act, 2008

Yates.....1134

Taylor.....1134

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

Nilson1135

Yates.....1135

Bill No. 24 — The Trade Union Amendment Act, 2008 (No. 2)

Yates.....1136

Trew1136

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