



SECOND SESSION - TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

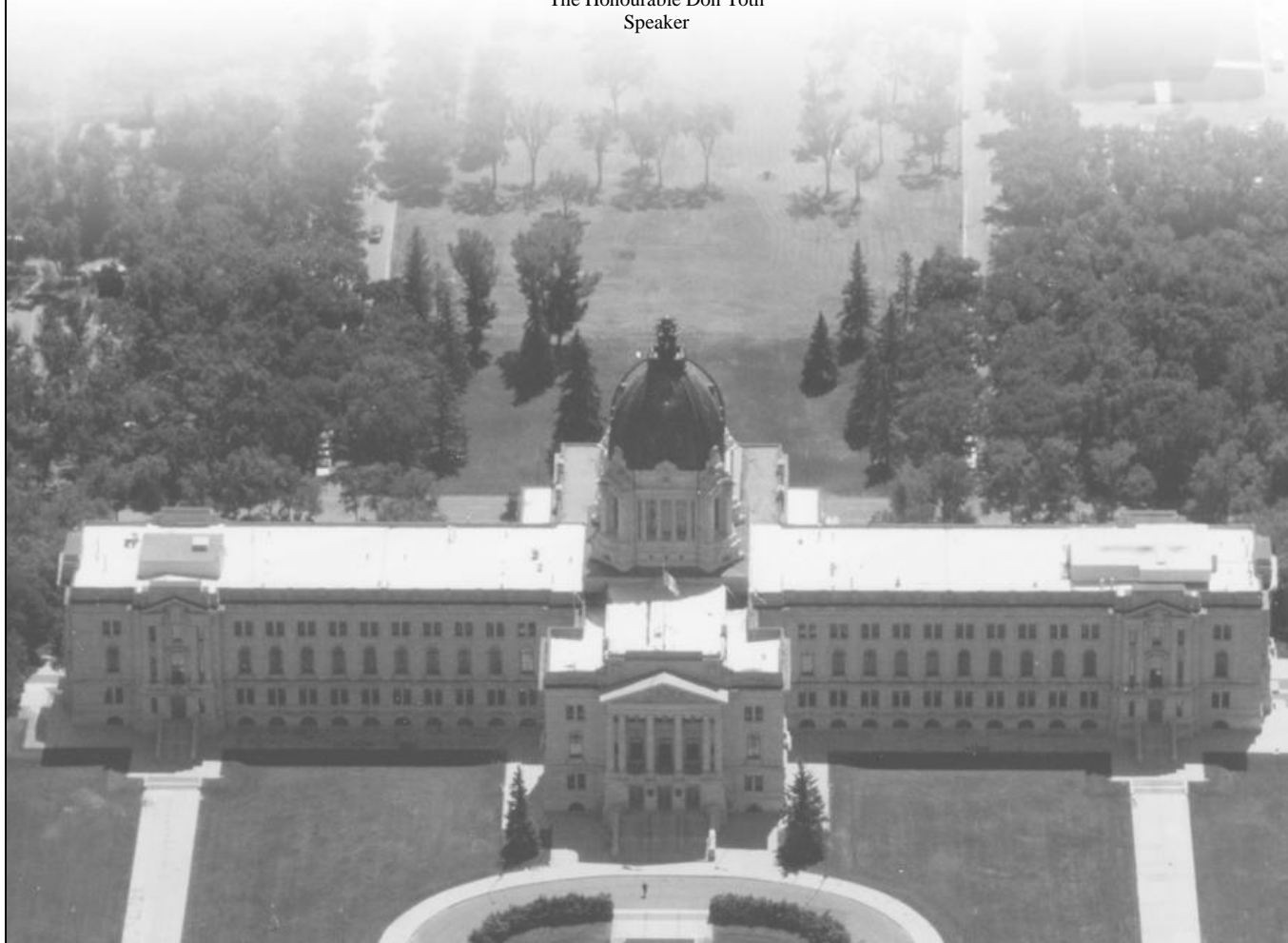
of the

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
Ottobreit, 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
Vermette, Doyle	NDP	Cumberland
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

[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you very, very much, Mr. Speaker. It is a great honour for me to introduce to you and through you to all members of this Assembly some very special guests that have joined us in your gallery, including His Excellency, the US [United States] ambassador to Canada, David Wilkins. And the ambassador is joined by Tom Huffaker from the consulate office in Calgary, as well as Kim Klassen, just a few moments ago. Also joining us today from the protocol office is Gwen Jacobson as well, Mr. Speaker.

Earlier this afternoon, I guess first thing this afternoon, we were able to host a luncheon in honour of His Excellency. And the turnout obviously was solid, Mr. Speaker, because people wanted to be there to be able to say thank you to him. His tour as the ambassador from the United States to our country is coming to an end. It ends up in seven weeks, I think. And we wanted to take the chance here in Saskatchewan — and we're appreciative of the fact that the opposition leader was there as well — to simply say to the ambassador, thank you.

He has been a clarion voice of wise counsel for, we think frankly, for Canadians as he has travelled this country extensively, but he has also taken our message to the United States. He has made sure the importance of our energy relationship is known to our friends in the United States, and the importance of NAFTA [North American Free Trade Agreement] is also known to our friends in the United States. He has been a voice for progress and trade and commerce between two great friends, Canada and the United States.

And we're with bittersweet emotions today, I think, Mr. Speaker, because we're grateful that he's here in the province, we welcome him heartily, but we are sad because he will be leaving. And I just want to say on behalf on the provincial government certainly, and hopefully on behalf of members of this House, thank you to the ambassador for all of his work. We hope he takes perhaps the time to rest for a while before he starts some new adventure, and maybe even some time to improve on his judgment with respect to NFL [National Football League] teams to cheer for, Mr. Speaker.

Would all members of the House join me in welcoming His Excellency and our guest from the consulate today.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Calvert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to join with the Premier in both welcoming and thanking His Excellency, David Wilkins, for his service, not only to his own nation and

president but to, I would argue, the people of Canada and in particular the people of Saskatchewan.

I was very fortunate, Mr. Speaker, to serve as premier when Ambassador Wilkins was appointed and had an opportunity to welcome, I think, on his first visit to Saskatchewan and subsequent visits. And I very much appreciated both his willingness to experience and learn of our great province and to represent our interests in his councils, both in Ottawa and in the United States of America.

I believe my last meeting of any duration with the ambassador occurred in Deadwood, South Dakota when the ambassador was kind enough to buy me breakfast. And so not only thanks for all of your service, but thanks for the bacon and eggs.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, it's also an honour and a pleasure for me to introduce to you and through you to members of this House, seated in your gallery are a number of constituency assistants for government members.

Mr. Speaker, all members of this House will know the important role that constituency assistants play as we seek to serve the people of the province, as we seek to serve our constituents and help them with concerns they may have with government, to answer their questions dutifully and as quickly as possible. And in many ways, the faces of the MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] office, of course, is represented by those shining faces in the gallery today of our constituency assistants.

We want to say thank you to them for their work for the MLAs and most significantly for the province of Saskatchewan. And we also wish to welcome them to their Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to all members of the Assembly, I would like to introduce to you a colleague, an MLA colleague from the neighbouring province, the great province of Manitoba, Heather Stefanson. Heather, if you wouldn't mind standing.

Heather was first elected in a by-election in 2000 in the high-profile constituency of Tuxedo. The Stefanson name is well known in Manitoba politics for many years. Heather held numerous critic portfolios — Advanced Education, Education, Health, and is currently the environment critic.

She received her undergrad degree in political science at the University of Western Ontario. And prior to her election, Heather spent some time working at the Prime Minister's office. I'm sure one of her eyes is on what's happening there

today.

But above all else Heather spends time with her two children, Victoria, seven, and Tommy, four. And to those of you that know Heather well, you know that her real handful is her husband, Jason who is with her in the gallery as well. Jason is an investment banker with CIBC World Markets and he did some great work for our province on the Saskferco deal.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask all members to join me in welcoming the Stefansons to the Saskatchewan legislature.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Van Mulligen: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to introduce to you and through you to the members of the Assembly a group visiting us today, a group of grade 5 and 6 students from the Regina Christian School located in my constituency. They're accompanied by their teacher, Tim Irvine, and chaperones, Doug Nielsen, Nina Brailean, and Lynette Chalifoux.

I look forward to meeting with this group for my own question period with this group after our question period. And at this point I would ask all members to join with me in extending them a very warm welcome and a Merry Christmas. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — And members, if you'll allow me a moment as well. We're pleased to have representatives from the Saskatchewan House of Prayer as well as representatives who have joined us from the Regina Evangelical Ministerial Association. A number of members had the pleasure of enjoying their hospitality at lunch today. Welcome to your Assembly. Thank you.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Ms. Higgins: — Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present a petition in support of maintaining quality health care services within our province, and that includes recruitment, retention, adequate staffing, adequate funding, and bargaining in good faith. And, Mr. Speaker, the prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to commit to maintaining quality health care services and job security for all health care providers.

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

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by residents from Kindersley, Eston, Saskatoon, Maple Creek, Piapot, Leader,

Swift Current, and Regina.

I so present.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Iwanchuk: — I rise to present petitions on the minimum wage, the indexing of minimum wage. We all understand often the minimum wage increases are sporadic and do not always reflect the cost of living faced by minimum wage earners. Mr. Speaker, the petition reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to commit to indexing Saskatchewan minimum wage to ensure that the standard of living of minimum wage earners is maintained in the face of cost of living increases.

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

Petitions are signed from people of Saskatoon, Shields, and Marcelin. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to rise and present a petition in support of affordable housing for Saskatchewan seniors, an issue that many are thinking about as we approach the winter months. I'd like to read the prayer:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to act as quickly as possible to expand affordable housing options for Saskatchewan senior citizens.

I do so present. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand to present a petition concerning the high cost of post-secondary education. The prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to increase funding for post-secondary students and help to alleviate the large financial burden placed on students for pursuing a post-secondary education at a Saskatchewan institution.

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

Mr. Speaker, this petition was circulated through the co-operation of the Canadian Federation of Students, University of Regina Students' Union, the University of Saskatchewan Students' Union, and the First Nations University of Canada Students' Association. I so present.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present petitions on behalf of concerned citizens with regard to the high property taxes that they're paying. They're requesting a reduction in the education portion of property tax, and this is important to Saskatchewan families and to business. And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to stop withholding and to provide significant, sustainable, long-term property tax relief to property owners by 2009 through significantly increasing the provincial portion of education funding.

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

And these are signed by concerned citizens of Regina, Oxbow, Redvers, Arcola, and Carievale. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, I rise to present a petition on behalf of the residents of Cumberland constituency. The petition addresses the issues in La Ronge where SaskEnergy is refusing to allow customers to connect to natural gas lines, indicates that SaskEnergy is returning deposit cheques to its customers, and calls on the government to work with SaskEnergy to assist these customers to connect to natural gas lines.

Mr. Speaker, this is the first of several petitions that I will present on this important subject. It is signed by residents of La Ronge and the Cumberland constituency. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Yates: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today with a petition on behalf of Saskatchewan residents. The petition is in support of the government's policy on green vehicles, Mr. Speaker, and the prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government ministers named in this petition to follow their own platform and government policies and trade in their Jeep Libertys for vehicles that are on SGI's 2008 list

of recommended fuel-efficient vehicles.

This petition is signed by members of Regina, Indian Head, Yorkton, and Rouleau, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Batoche.

Karate Gold Medal Winner from St. Louis

Mr. Kirsch: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a constituent who has accomplished two gold medals at the International Shotokan Karate Federation world championships held in Toronto last month. Marcel Lussier of St. Louis, a community south of Prince Albert, won gold medals in kata, which are the forms, and kumite, which is sparring, in the 45- to 50-year-old seniors' category.

There were some 405 competitors from 31 countries in Marcel's group. He competed against contenders from Italy, Barbados, Trinidad, Tobago, and the United States and Canada.

In 1990 he began training and teaching karate in St. Louis, and he's been active on the provincial and national karate circuit for the past 27 years. He became chief instructor in Saskatchewan in 1999. He soon will travel the world as guest instructor.

Recognition also goes out to the students from the St. Louis Karate Club who competed in the world tournament: Rebecca Mitchell, Laurene Mitchell, Nicole Boutin, Michelle Smytaniuk, Bradley Boutin, Erik Nevland, and Randy Smytaniuk.

I would ask, Mr. Speaker, that all members join me in recognizing the hard work and perseverance and accomplishments of Marcel Lussier and the St. Louis Karate Club.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Reaching the Unreachable

Ms. Junor: — Mr. Speaker, I'd like to tell you about a remarkable and innovative project that teachers and grade 9 students at Walter Murray Collegiate in the constituency of Saskatoon Eastview are sharing with the grade 9's of a sister school in Nepal.

Bruce Bradshaw, the principal of Walter Murray Collegiate, is the coordinator of the Canadian side of the project and is assisted by two teachers and two grade 9 students who act as student coordinators.

The project is called Reaching the Unreachable, and they are doing this electronically by establishing a computer learning and knowledge network for students in rural Nepal. The project connects the grassroots of two very different cultures in an

educational setting.

Nepal has many acute needs such as food, clean water, basic health services, and education. Less than 30 per cent of children reach grade 6. Forty-two per cent of all males and 65 per cent of all females remain illiterate.

[13:45]

The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development has concluded, and I quote:

Education is the largest single contributor to break poverty, income gap, gender . . . and ethnic inequality and also to improve nutrition, health and longevity of people.

Reaching the Unreachable is designed to mitigate those needs through education. Walter Murray is taking English literacy, mathematics, and technical skills all the way to Nepal. They are working to assist the school in developing a small computer lab, five low-end Pentium computers, and an electronic collection of freely available educational materials. They have begun public fundraising efforts to see that this is accomplished.

This small group of Saskatoon people aims to provide benefits that will affect approximately 2,500 children and adults each year through these programs, and the use of computers in the community after school time.

It's important to recognize that this project works both ways. While it builds bodies of knowledge resources in Nepal, it also provides the opportunity for our young people to gain an intimate knowledge and understanding of a people and a culture a world away. Thus it brings about transformations at community level for both partners and teaches differences while sharing knowledge.

Congratulations to Walter Murray, its students and teachers.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Victoria Hospital Foundation Festival of Trees

Hon. Mr. Hickie: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Victoria Hospital Foundation of Prince Albert is a registered charity charged with the task of enhancing and enriching the quality of health care at Victoria Hospital. Their aim is to meet one of the hospital's major needs every year through fundraising.

The Snowflake Gala is an initiative through the Festival of Trees fundraiser. Organizing the festival is a daunting task. It takes 13 committees and 250 volunteers planning for almost a year. The goal this year was to raise enough money to buy nine cardiac crash carts at a cost of \$15,000 each.

The Snowflake Gala was held on November 21 and was a sold-out event with approximately 200 people attending. Three cardiac crash carts were purchased by very generous supporters, Malcolm and Melba Jenkins, Roger and Diane Mann, and an anonymous donor. Eighteen thousand dollars was raised

through a gift package auction. The citizens of Prince Albert have shown once again their overwhelming generosity. The gala alone raised enough funds to purchase five additional crash carts.

The Festival of Trees ran from Friday, November 21 through to Monday, November 24. It is estimated that between 3 and 4,000 people attended, with the final fundraising amount to be announced shortly.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members join me in first, congratulating the Victoria Hospital Foundation on these successful fundraisers and secondly, in thanking them for all their hard work throughout the year to raise funds to support the programs and services of the Victoria Hospital in Prince Albert. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Unions of Regina Christmas Dinner

Ms. Morin: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the working people of Regina are once again joining together in support for the less fortunate by hosting the eighth annual Unions of Regina Christmas Dinner on Monday, December 22.

Since 2000 a warm dinner has been served annually to approximately 1,000 people in the Regina community who are given tickets through various human service agencies. Following the meal, the children in attendance are treated to a visit with Santa, a holiday gift, and the opportunity to participate in fun activities.

This event is made possible through the financial donations made by Regina's unions and the volunteer efforts of approximately 150 union and family members. Additionally, the Delta Hotel provides their banquet hall rent-free for the event, and Delta management and the hotel's unionized staff take time to help coordinate the volunteers.

Funds collected over and above those needed for the dinner are contributed to the Janice Bernier Endowment for Food Security fund, established in 2005 by the United Way. The endowment fund supports agencies and programs that offer those in need with the ability to regularly purchase affordable good food with dignity.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask all members to join with me in recognizing the significant contributions made by working people, their families, and their unions in conjunction with the Delta Hotel this holiday season. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Regina Rotary Carol Festival

Ms. Ross: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last night I had the

privilege and honour of attending the 68th Rotary Carol Festival at Regina Metropolitan United Church. It was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the start of Advent by listening to the many talented voices.

This Carol Festival began November 30 and continues until December 4, with 15 choirs performing each evening. It was truly a joy to observe the large number of youth involved in this event, especially from Regina Qu'Appelle Valley. Their diverse music selections and quality of singing definitely captured the holiday spirit. Congratulations to both Winston Knoll and Riffel High School choirs.

It's important to note, Mr. Speaker, that this festival is sponsored by the Rotary Club of Regina, which is the oldest service club in the city. The holiday spirit is captured by the Rotarians who direct festival proceeds to various local charities — the Leader-Post Christmas Cheer Fund, Access Communications Children's Fund, News 98 Santas Anonymous, and Rotary homeless initiative. This festival has a long tradition in our city, and I encourage everyone to either attend the remaining concerts or watch the broadcasts on cable TV.

The enthusiasm of the choir is infectious. Their singing will ensure an uplifting, positive start to the holiday season. Thank you very much.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

MyFiH Awards

Mr. Broten: — On Friday, November 28, I had the pleasure of attending the MyFiH Awards Luncheon in Saskatoon. Mr. Speaker, MyFiH is the easy-to-remember abbreviation for My Future is Here — an initiative of Saskatchewan Rotary Youth Foundation.

The MyFiH network, in addition to developing connections among talented young Saskatchewan residents, provides scholarships to assist post-secondary students with their studies as well as funding for young entrepreneurs to help transform their ideas into reality.

Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to announce this year's recipients to this Assembly: the Saskatchewan Rotary Youth Foundation's Business Capital Award to Curtis Sarafincian, The Red Shoe Tailor; the Rotary Clubs of Regina Eastview and Regina South Scholarship, Alyssa Smith; the Rotary Clubs of Saskatoon North and Riverside Scholarship, Scott Kimpton; the Rotary Club of Saskatoon Nutana Scholarship, Seema Grover; the Vaughn Wyant Automotive Group Scholarship, Alex Tilbert; the Saskatchewan Credit Union Scholarship, Erin Buck; the SGI [Saskatchewan Government Insurance] Scholarship, Iyonia Rabayaa; the Rotary Club of Saskatoon Scholarship, Daniel Savage; the Rotaract of Saskatoon Scholarship, Chelsey Shewchuk; Airline Hotels and Resorts Scholarship, Kristine Kostyniuk; the Saskatchewan Research Council's Scholarships, Elise Normand and Rylan Grant.

And, Mr. Speaker, the Business Capital winners are: the Scotiabank Awards go to Cassie Rosteski of Cassie Danielle Clothing; Bevin Bradley of Stall Gallery; Holly Dunlop of Eastwood Family Dental; Randi-Lee Loshack of Fitmom; and Ryan Bradshaw of Corby Cards. The Affinity Credit Union Award to Bruce McCannel of Nutrition Now; and Saskatchewan Credit Unions Award to Rylan Grant.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in congratulating this year's recipients and thank the many sponsors that make MyFiH such a success. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Moose Jaw Poet Honoured at Saskatchewan Book Awards

Mr. Michelson: — Mr. Speaker, at the 16th annual Saskatchewan Book Awards held last Saturday, there were record numbers of entries with 113 titles and 50 authors and publishers competing.

Of special note was Gary Hyland, a well-known Moose Jaw author who was awarded two of the 14 book awards. Gary Hyland won Book of the Year for his book entitled *Love of Mirrors: Poems New and Selected*. Mr. Hyland also won Poetry Award with this selection.

Gary Hyland is an inspiration and has made many outstanding contributions to the city of Moose Jaw, to our province, and to Canada, with his dedication to writing and other fine arts. Gary's been a leader in our community with his involvement in a number of volunteer positions. Along with numerous awards and accolades, Gary Hyland has been named Moose Jaw's Citizen of the Year twice, received an honorary doctorate in literature from the University of Regina, and was named to the Order of Canada.

In Moose Jaw, Gary is perhaps best known as being instrumental in starting Festival of the Word over a decade ago. Since being diagnosed with ALS [amyotrophic lateral sclerosis] or Lou Gehrig's Disease, as it is more commonly known, he continues writing and being involved in his community.

Congratulations to Gary Hyland on being awarded Book of the Year and the Poetry Awards at the Saskatchewan Book Awards. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

QUESTION PERIOD

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Support for Northern Youth

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I want to preface my question to the Minister of Justice by saying that the vast majority of northern youth are bright, energetic, and hopeful people. However, like other regions of Saskatchewan and Canada, there are some along the fringes of our community

that lose hope. Some of those that lose hope turn to suicide, and some of the surviving young voices talk about the lack of services, the lack of help, family breakdown, and an increased prevalence of illicit drug use.

These Saskatchewan families and these Saskatchewan young people need several support systems. One of the biggest requests from the northern leadership is that this government establish a northern-specific drug enforcement unit.

Mr. Speaker, all politics aside, will the minister today commit to put in place a northern-specific drug enforcement unit to help fight for these young people?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the opportunity to answer the question.

It's always a tragedy when a young person of either sex, whether they live in the North or they live in the South part of our province, becomes involved with drugs. We have a number of programs that are in place already, and we certainly want to make sure that the programs that we have fulfill their mandate and are able to provide the best possible supports to our youth throughout the province.

In the North we have a number of programs available through Justice, through community justice programs dealing with youth that have already come into contact with the law.

We're also looking at other programs that will provide supports for families and for young people before they've come into contact with the law. I think prevention is a far better course of action than waiting until after they've come in contact with the law.

I appreciate the question, and we're going through the budget process, and it's certainly something we'll consider.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Mr. Speaker, it is very important to note that many police officers feel overwhelmed when trying to enforce the law of our land. We never try and diminish the importance of law throughout all parts of Saskatchewan.

In northern Saskatchewan many times the police officers feel that they're overwhelmed with crisis management and don't have the time to work with young people in the schools, in different programs and recreation programs, and also promoting proactive, healthy programs.

Mr. Speaker, many communities, families, youth, and children feel isolated, and many times they feel abandoned when it comes to police staffing and police protective services in our community. We know the prevalence of police officers — good, proactive police officers — are so very important towards finding solutions to helping our young people.

Will the Minister of Justice at least ensure that every detachment is fully manned and to also look at increasing staffing to help communities protect our young families and help deal with our young people's problems?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Corrections, Public Safety and Policing.

Hon. Mr. Hickie: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member opposite for his question. And I too feel that there are needs to the North that have been left unaddressed for many years.

I will tell the members today that the Saskatchewan Association of Chiefs of Police are compiling a list of where they want to have resources deployed. This government is going to put 120 new police officers in our communities throughout Saskatchewan over the next four years, total — 30 this year, 90 more to come. We also have a commitment of \$11.7 million from the federal government that will allow for additional boots on the street.

To the member from Athabasca: I've had inquiries made by members up there who wish to have more resources, and I will do what I can to make sure we have additional resources. The drug task forces that we have in this province know that there's an issue up north, Mr. Speaker. They too want to go after those individuals up north — the suppliers — not the people who use the drugs who are victimized, but the suppliers. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Mr. Speaker, no community is immune to youth suicide, and many northern Saskatchewan communities struggle with this issue. Recently a number of young people chose to end their lives in some of these northern communities. And too often, Mr. Speaker, these young people find themselves caught in a world that leaves them feeling helpless and in despair.

My question is to the Minister of First Nations and Métis Relations and the minister responsible for Northern Saskatchewan. Why are we missing the opportunity to help these young people stay alive? And more importantly, Mr. Speaker, what specific plans does she have to provide these young people with a sense of hope?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for First Nations and Métis Relations.

Hon. Ms. Draude: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member opposite for bringing up an issue that's of importance to everyone in this province, whether we're in northern Saskatchewan or in this part of the province.

As you can tell by my colleagues' answers, this is an issue that's going across ministry, across our government. We all

understand that Justice is involved, that the police workers are involved, but also is social workers and mental health workers. And right across our government we've been talking to teachers and the mayors in the North to make sure that it's not just government that's talking about it. We'll get the input from the northerners as well.

And that's one of the jobs that we have been doing as government. We feel it's very important. And it's something that's not on the back burner. It's not something we've forgotten about. It's something that we will be working on as a united government as we go forward.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

[14:00]

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The addictions, the lack of enforcement, the lack of services, will not stop attacking our families and our northern youth. And therefore the youth suicide problem will not stop itself. I urge the Minister of First Nations and Métis Relations to sit down with her colleagues in Health and Justice and Education, along with the northern community leaders, to come up with some immediate solutions.

They have to discuss additional funding, reopening addiction facilities, proper staffing at these facilities, mental health units, and wellness and recreation centres. Mr. Speaker, the northern communities feel isolated and abandoned at times. We need to send a proper message.

In light of this crisis, will the Minister of First Nations and Métis Relations gather immediately with her colleagues from Health, Education, and Justice and agree to engage northern community leaders on a quarterly basis to discuss the expansion and improvements of these services to fight for these young people, Mr. Speaker?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the minister responsible for Indian and Métis relations.

Hon. Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, I agree with the member opposite. This is not a political issue. This is an issue that is dealing with all of our children. The members opposite had the opportunity for 16 years to deal with this issue. We as a government right now are trying also to deal with the issue.

We're talking to the teachers. We had an opportunity to speak to the Métis leaders. We've been speaking to the First Nations leaders. We've been speaking to the mayors. We've had the opportunity, when the northern mayors got together, they addressed this very issue.

And then we have got all of my colleagues, not just in cabinet but all our caucus members, understand the importance of this issue, and we're looking for solutions. We don't want to just reinvent the wheel. We don't want to just look at the issues and the problems that the previous government faced. Let's say, how can we look outside the box and make a difference.

We are really intent on doing this. This is a promise that we have made to the First Nations and Métis people and northerners, and it's something that we intend to keep.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Sexually Exploited Youth

Mr. Forbes: — Mr. Speaker, yesterday a report entitled *Under the Radar: The Sexual Exploitation of Young Men*, was released here in Regina. The report found that 83 per cent of young males in the sex trade entered the trade before they turned 18; 75 per cent have been sexually abused prior to being on the street; 85 per cent of the young male sex-trade workers are Aboriginal, but their clients are usually middle-income to upper-income white men.

The report makes 14 recommendations in a number of areas. It also underlines the fact that sexually exploited young men fly under the radar and their needs are very different from those of sexually exploited young women. To the Minister of Social Services: how does she plan to respond to the recommendations in this report?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the member opposite mentioned, this report has just been released. We'll be looking at the recommendations, and as I've said before, we'll be looking at the recommendations of a previous report that was done under the previous government that had to do with exploitation of children. And we'll be looking at all of the recommendations that were never acted on by the previous government when that report was released. So we'll be giving all of it consideration.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Forbes: — Well, Mr. Speaker, I find it deeply regrettable. This is an opportunity for the minister to show some real leadership, but she instead decides to play the blame game.

We know the sex trade is dangerous for both women and men, but the fear of gay bashing is a unique threat faced by young men in the trade despite the fact that many of them identify as heterosexual or bisexual.

Kim Sutherland of Street Culture Kidz has worked with young people at risk for more than a decade, and in today's *Leader-Post* he talks about the need for long-term housing options and solutions for the most vulnerable people in our society, including young men in the sex trade.

Unfortunately the Sask Party so far has missed the opportunity

to deal with the crisis in housing. Hopefully this report will provide a new focus to the need to address this issue. To the minister: will she announce new funding for safe and affordable housing options, particularly for young people at risk?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier, this report just came out yesterday. We'll be looking at it. It involves more than just this ministry. There will be inter-ministerial discussions on the report. It's unfortunate that the member opposite throws leadership, or lack of leadership, out there when it was his government that put out a report, as I said before, that they for the most part ignored after the report was done.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Forbes: — Let's talk a little bit about that report, Mr. Speaker. In the last election the Sask Party promised to reconvene the Special Committee to Prevent the Abuse and Exploitation of Children through the Sex Trade. The Premier also instructed this Minister of Social Services to do so in her mandate letter. So far the minister has missed the opportunity to keep the Sask Party promise. But this new report certainly identifies further actions that can be taken. It covers new ground that was not addressed by the last committee.

To the minister: does she plan to keep the Sask Party's promise to reconvene the committee?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Of course I do. Mr. Speaker, in answer to his question, of course we'll be keeping that promise. It's only one year since the election. We have kept a number of promises — 80 promises, I am being told.

Within my own ministry, we have kept promises within the ministry. We've also gone beyond those promises. We had the housing task force; we did the CBO [community-based organization] summit; we have made a number of significant announcements and enhancements to programs. He has to remember the mandate letter is to cover the first term in office, which is four years.

I said that we'll be reviewing the recommendations that haven't even been looked at by the previous government. The report came out in 2001. They had how many years before the election to take a look at it and to do something about it, and yet he's demanding that I reconvene the committee and just get on it within 12 months.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Forbes: — Mr. Speaker, I'm just saying, demanding that she's keeping her promise. That's what we're looking for.

Mr. Speaker, these are vulnerable children who are being sexually exploited. And the report makes it clear that sexually exploited young men have unique needs that are not being adequately addressed — including homophobia and the fear of gay bashing — and notes that males typically enter the trade younger and stay longer than young women.

To the minister: how long will it take for this government to act on these very important issues raised by this report?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, I think I've answered the question a number of times, but I'll answer it yet again: that we will be reviewing it. It involves more than one ministry, and I think it's important that we work collaboratively together, such as the minister before me said, that it's important for the issues raised before, on suicide, that the ministries work collaboratively together.

I think it's important before we reconvene the committee that now we also bring that issue of young boys being involved in the sex trade into what they're going to review. So it's actually a good thing that I didn't react quickly and ignore that issue. This will be all-encompassing looking when we reconvene this committee and go forward on what can be done.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Nuclear Power in Saskatchewan

Mr. Calvert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Following up on some of the discussion that happened yesterday in this House and in scums of the press, I have some other questions for the Premier regarding the prospect of a nuclear reactor in our province.

Mr. Speaker, I am told that the Darlington Nuclear Generating Station in Ontario was estimated at the beginning to cost somewhere between 4 and \$5 billion, but that the actual cost of the Darlington reactor ended up being \$14.3 billion — three times or more the original estimate.

Now yesterday the Minister of Enterprise and Innovation, the Minister of CIC [Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan], and the Premier himself indicated that they would be willing to see taxpayer money be invested in a private sector nuclear reactor.

So my question today to the Premier is the following: will he guarantee today the taxpayers of Saskatchewan that they will

not be left on the hook for any cost overruns in the construction of a private sector nuclear reactor?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Well, Mr. Speaker, on this particular issue it seems that the opposition and the government agree. Yesterday in the scrums outside of this Chamber, the Leader of the Opposition was point-blank asked by the media, do you support, as an option, public ownership of major generation facilities? And his answer of course was, yes. He said, my own bias is that large-scale projects are better in public hands. That way we can manage the costs for the consumers of the province. That way we have the security of supply. These too are the priorities of the government.

Mr. Speaker, obviously this government's not going to move forward with any generation plan that doesn't meet the test of environmental sustainability, that doesn't meet the test of affordability for Saskatchewan people and for our economy.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we do know that there will be upward pressures on all energy generation in our country and across North America as a result of environmental initiatives.

Mr. Speaker, I would say the greatest threat to energy costs in the province today is the coalition agreement announced yesterday, and their cap and trade with 1990 levels imposed on the province of Saskatchewan. If he's worried about the cost of power, he ought to pick up the phone to his federal counterparts and say, do not do a deal with the separatists of this country.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Calvert: — It would appear, Mr. Speaker, the Premier wants to talk about anything but cost overruns that might face the taxpayers of Saskatchewan in his proposal to build a nuclear reactor.

Now this is a very interesting circumstance. Yes, we take the position that the major sources of generating capacity in this province ought to be publicly held. It is his government that has said future generation capacity in this province will not be publicly held, but we'll buy it from the private sector. These therefore are very important questions that the people of Saskatchewan ought to have full knowledge of before we launch onto this nuclear reactor plan.

Mr. Speaker, I read in the Bruce feasibility, quote, feasibility study that Bruce estimates that the cost of these reactors will be between 8 and \$10 billion. Will the Premier today assure us that within that cost is the cost of decommissioning, the cost of waste disposal? Or as is the case in Ontario, will these be costs faced by the taxpayer of the province?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, this government seeks for this province affordable, safe, environmentally responsible sources of energy. That's what we're looking for, Mr. Speaker. We've inherited this situation where the government has . . . the previous government had no plans for our province to attain that kind of generation capacity.

Witness, Mr. Speaker, witness the example of their own clean coal project which ballooned in expenses. There were cost overruns forecast for that clean coal project up and around \$4 billion. What was the decision that they made? The decision that they made was to back away from that clean coal project; arguably, in and of itself, not a bad decision. But there was no plan B.

Mr. Speaker, we need a plan B in this province. We need to look at clean coal and solar and wind. We need to be open to nuclear power. We're not going to do anything to counter the interests of our economy or consumers in the province of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, it is time that the Premier became very clear about the position he takes and the position of his government. Yesterday, it was abundantly clear to most of us that his government is now willing to put taxpayer dollars into a private sector nuclear reactor. But interestingly, the minister said quote, when the public learns of the risks, he said quote “. . . the support won't be there for doing [it] with taxpayers' money.”

I ask the Premier, Mr. Speaker, is the option of taxpayer money still on the table when the minister says, when the public learn of this, the support simply won't be there for it?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, there is no more process more onerous or rigorous in our country, as the Minister of the Environment pointed out yesterday, than the environmental due diligence on a project like a nuclear reactor for the province. And obviously, the important element here . . . Well, if the member from Nutana could just wait a few seconds.

The other issue, of course, is economics and the cost of this either for our economy or for our consumers. Our government's not going to move forward with a plan that's not comparatively affordable with other sources of energy.

Mr. Speaker, we've got a three-year window for due diligence, then another three-year window. We're talking, Mr. Speaker, well over five years of that kind of due diligence; the chance for input from the people of Saskatchewan. I think we ought to be open to the discussion. I do believe that Saskatchewan with 26 per cent of the uranium production better be open to the opportunity and options of nuclear power, and we are. And we'll have this discussion.

And in the bargain, Mr. Speaker, over the three years, the people of the province are going to be tasked with the very difficult challenge of trying to figure out what the position of that divided opposition is on nuclear power, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

[14:15]

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

Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, the Premier speaks of a period of due diligence. Well we would support that. But how is it that the due diligence that he speaks of begins with an invitation to Bruce Power to come to Saskatchewan to do a feasibility study that's produced in a matter of weeks, Mr. Speaker — a matter of weeks — that then concludes that such a reactor is feasible?

Let me ask the Premier this question: in his knowledge of the Bruce Power study — and I presume he knows a whole lot more detail than what was presented to the public — in his knowledge of the Bruce Power feasibility study which concludes, not surprisingly, that there is feasibility for a reactor in this province, does the Premier today agree with Bruce Power that a nuclear reactor in Saskatchewan is feasible?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, here's the Leader of the Opposition and his gymnastics demonstration in these questions. Earlier on his question is what kind of due diligence are you going to do to make sure that this is affordable, or is there that due diligence there. And our answer, of course, is there's a very public process laid out over three years which will determine these questions, which will answer these questions.

But we need to go through that process. The public needs to be involved in that feasibility process. And when that process is completed, then we'll be able to answer that member's question about the feasibility of the project. We're going to go forward with these projects for new energy sources if they meet our environmental standards, if they meet our standards with respect to cost, and if they are safe sources of energy for the province of Saskatchewan.

And again, Mr. Speaker, I would say to that member while he's on his feet, to stand up and explain to the people of the province how his support for the coalition government's cap and trade plan coming in six months, reducing emissions to 1990 levels, how that will impact the consumers of energy in this province, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Calvert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Oh, Mr. Speaker, how the Premier today takes such great umbrage when not many, many years ago — in fact one could count it in months

— the Prime Minister of Canada today signed a coalition deal with the separatists. And what umbrage he takes about it today. Not a peep then, Mr. Speaker. Not a peep then.

Lookit, Mr. Speaker, the question I'm asking on behalf of taxpayers of Saskatchewan is very simple. Has this Premier now concluded that a reactor is feasible, based on Bruce Power?

Will he today guarantee the taxpayers of Saskatchewan that they will not be on the hook for any cost overruns as a result of this private sector reactor he's putting into the grid? Will the taxpayers of Saskatchewan be on the hook for waste disposal throughout the process of this reactor? Will the taxpayers of Saskatchewan be on the hook for decommissioning, or will his private sector . . .

The Speaker: — Order. Order. Order. I ask the member to place his question so we all can hear the question.

Mr. Calvert: — Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll ask the question again.

Will the Premier today guarantee the taxpayers of Saskatchewan that they will not be on the hook for his proposal for a private sector reactor in Saskatchewan — on the hook for cost overrun, on the hook for waste disposal, or on the hook ultimately for decommissioning? Will the Premier offer that simple guarantee as a principle, as a principle before he moves further in the diligence process?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, we're going to move forward with the feasibility study and certainly engage both the public and other stakeholders in the process of determining whether or not nuclear power makes sense for the province. We hope the opposition takes part in that process. We're not going to prejudge it.

Mr. Speaker, I can tell you this. He wants some assurances. I can give him these assurances. We're not going to be, we're not going to be going forward with a project that does not provide affordable energy for the people of the province that is not environmentally sustainable and that is not safe. We're not going to go forward with any project that doesn't meet those basic criteria.

We will, Mr. Speaker, demonstrate considerably better leadership and decision making than that member did in approving SaskPower's out-of-country deals in South America, or the SPUDCO [Saskatchewan Potato Utility Development Company] deals, or dot-coms in Nashville, Tennessee, Mr. Speaker. We will put Saskatchewan first. We will put affordable energy first.

And that hon. member still has answers to give to the people of Saskatchewan as to why he would support this coalition deal with separatists which will threaten energy costs because of that cap and trade proposal coming maybe in six months, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

The Speaker: — Order. Members will come to order. I recognize the Minister Responsible for Government Services.

New Wine Franchises to Open

Hon. Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, Mr. Speaker, today is an exciting day for wine lovers in Saskatchewan. Earlier today our government announced the introduction of two independent specialty wine franchises for the province, one here in Saskatoon and one in Regina.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. D'Autremont: — These independently owned franchises will cater to customers who are looking for specialty wines not listed at SLGA [Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority] liquor stores. This will greatly improve customer service to this niche market, both to the walk-up customers as well as to restaurants and bar owners who purchase specialty wines to serve in their businesses.

With the current system, individuals and businesses who want wines not listed by SLGA have to place orders through SLGA's special order desk. They have to order . . .

The Speaker: — Members will come to order. I recognize the Minister of Government Services.

Hon. Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, these customers have to order a minimum of one case of product and could wait one to three months to receive the shipment, depending on the country of origin. So, Mr. Speaker, there's quite a bit of advance planning necessary. Currently most restaurants are forced to store considerable inventories to ensure they have adequate stocks until the next special order arrives.

Once these two specialty stores open, individual consumers as well as bars and restaurant owners will have more flexibility. Wine aficionados will be able to try new wines without buying an entire case. Restaurants will be able to adapt their menus more easily when they know they can switch wine selections fairly quickly. They won't have to warehouse cases and cases of products between shipments.

The onus will be on the owners of the wine stores to provide an appropriate level of product knowledge, do the ordering, and stock the stores to meet the demand of these customers. It's a small change, Mr. Speaker, but we think it's one that will be welcomed by the people of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, the concept of liquor franchises is not a new one in Saskatchewan. We have approximately 185 small private businesses already licensed to sell alcohol on behalf of SLGA. These two wine stores will join the existing franchise system, receiving the same commission currently paid to rural franchises.

These independently owned and operated wine stores will be

awarded through an open RFP [request for proposal] process. And we expect to wrap up the process by early spring with the two franchises opening after that. An independent third party will be employed to select the winning proposals and to guarantee that the process is open and fair.

Overall we are committed to Saskatchewan's blended model of liquor retailing, with 79 publicly owned stores, 185 private franchises, and more than 450 private operators with off-sale outlets throughout the province.

But as this announcement shows, Mr. Speaker, we will act to ensure that this system is responsive to the demands of the people of Saskatchewan. This is an initiative that increases consumer choice, helps restaurant owners grow their business, and creates a unique retail attraction for both Regina and Saskatoon.

So, Mr. Speaker, although wine lovers will have to wait for a few more months before these wine stores are up and running, we think they'll be very happy in the end. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Higgins: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to rise to make a few comments on the statement made by the minister. And first and foremost, I'd like to thank the minister for sending the statement across before the House opened today so I could have a chance to have a look at it.

And I agree with the minister on some areas of the statement that was released today, that wine lovers across the province — well in Regina and Saskatoon anyway, Mr. Speaker — will be quite happy with the announcement today.

I know that there are Saskatchewan government liquor stores in the province that do carry expanded selections of wine to try and meet the needs of the clientele that they have. So that's always been a flexibility within SLGA that's been there.

So while the expanded selection I guess will be welcome, the statement does raise a number of questions about why would you go to the extra expense of creating an extra location for restaurant owners who I believe in the press release said that they will still purchase the majority of their order from the SLGA stores, but then go to another store where they will have to pick up their selection of wines.

And also why they feel it necessary not to just expand the service within the stores that are currently there. One-stop shopping is a priority for many people and the convenience in today's busy world is a convenience that's offered in that customers in today's lifestyle demand.

So, Mr. Speaker, this is something that we will keep an eye on. While it does have some good news attached to it, it also could be the first step on a very slippery slope. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

**PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING
AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

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

**Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs
and Justice**

Mr. Kirsch: — Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report that it has considered certain estimates and to present its fifth report. I move:

That the fifth report of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice now be concurred in.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Chair of Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice:

That the fifth report of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice be now concurred in.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Mr. Kirsch: — Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 42, *The Securities Amendment Act, 2008* without amendment.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister responsible for Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice that Bill No. 42, *The Securities Amendment Act, 2008* be moved without amendment. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

[14:30]

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, the Bill is completed and it can now be read a third time . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Okay. Would request leave to waive consideration, Mr. Speaker.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Agreed. The minister may proceed to third reading. I recognize the Minister of Justice.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 42 — *The Securities Amendment Act, 2008*

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 42, *The Securities Amendment Act, 2008*, without amendment, 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 committees.

**Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs
and Justice**

Mr. Kirsch: — Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 62, *The Residential Tenancies Amendment Act, 2008* with amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall this Bill be considered in Committee of the Whole?

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I move, with leave, that the Bill now be read a third time.

The Speaker: — The minister has asked for leave. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

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

The Speaker: — When shall the amendments be read the first time?

FIRST AND SECOND READINGS OF AMENDMENTS

**Bill No. 62 — *The Residential Tenancies
Amendment Act, 2008***

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — With leave, Mr. Speaker, immediately.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Agreed. Carried.

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

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

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 62 — *The Residential Tenancies Amendment Act, 2008*

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I move that this Bill be now read and passed under its title with amendments.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 62, *The Residential Tenancies Amendment Act, 2008*, with amendment, 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 committees.

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. 64, *The Northern Municipalities Amendment Act, 2008* (No. 2) with amendments.

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

Hon. Mr. Hutchinson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With leave, immediately.

The Speaker: — The minister has asked for leave. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — When shall the amendments be read a first time? I recognize the Minister of Municipal Affairs.

FIRST AND SECOND READINGS OF AMENDMENTS

Bill No. 64 — *The Northern Municipalities Amendment Act, 2008* (No. 2)

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

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

The Speaker: — The minister may now move to third reading of the Bill. I recognize the Minister Responsible for Municipal Affairs.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 64 — *The Northern Municipalities Amendment Act, 2008* (No. 2)

Hon. Mr. Hutchinson: — Mr. Speaker, with leave I move that the Bill be read a third time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Municipal Affairs that Bill No. 64, *The Northern Municipalities Amendment Act, 2008* (No. 2) with amendment be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Human Services to report that it has considered certain estimates and to present its

fourth report. I move:

That the fourth report of the Standing Committee on Human Services be now concurred in.

The Speaker: — The Chair of the Committee on Human Services has moved:

That the fourth report of the Standing Committee on Human Services be now concurred in.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Mr. Hart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Human Services to report Bill No. 53, *The Medical Profession Amendment Act, 2008* without amendment.

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

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, with leave that this Bill pass Committee of the Whole.

The Speaker: — The minister has asked for leave. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — When shall the amendments be read a first time?

An Hon. Member: — There are no amendments.

The Speaker: — Oh, this is the one. The minister may proceed to third reading.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 53 — *The Medical Profession Amendment Act, 2008*

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Health that Bill No. 53, *The Medical Profession 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.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the answers to question no. 136 through 158.

The Speaker: — Questions 136 to 158 tabled.

TABLING OF REPORTS

The Speaker: — Before orders of the day I lay on the Table the annual report of Saskatchewan Legislative Library.

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 71 — *The Innovation Saskatchewan Act*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Enterprise and Innovation.

Hon. Mr. Stewart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to present to the House for second reading Bill 71, *The Innovation Saskatchewan Act*.

The innovation agenda is a priority of the Government of Saskatchewan. Our government's October Speech from the Throne committed Saskatchewan to stimulate the development of an innovation economy. The way to do this is to create an ecosystem of innovation.

This ecosystem is based on foresight, flexibility, creativity, and the freedom to act on these qualities. Innovation Saskatchewan will be a new, special operating agency. Similar to Enterprise Saskatchewan, it will focus on building an innovation agenda for the province to enhance our sustained growth and international competitiveness. Our growth and competitiveness is already considerable, but it must be encouraged and sustained.

Innovation Saskatchewan will be an arms-length agency — still acting as an agent of the Crown, but governed by a seven-person board. The board will consist of leaders in the Saskatchewan innovation and advanced technology community.

Saskatchewan already has an export-driven economy, and we must expand it beyond primary resources. Our province has proven itself as a global competitor and a national economic leader, even in the face of ongoing financial turmoil in the world.

The timing of the establishment of Innovation Saskatchewan is very appropriate and, I would say, urgent. As well as working to enhance our productivity and competitiveness, Innovation Saskatchewan represents our chance to partner and build on the excellent work in research and development happening at our academic facilities. We will support commercialization that enables us to compete in national and international markets.

This province has a vast reservoir of innovation and creativity to draw upon. This new agency is the means of not simply tapping deeper into that reservoir, but responsibly managing it, enhancing it, and applying it for maximum economic benefit. This is an excellent opportunity to move Saskatchewan into a future where the work of our innovation and knowledge infrastructure can extend to further economic benefits for our province.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to move second reading of *The Innovation Saskatchewan Act*.

The Speaker: — The Minister Responsible for Enterprise and Innovation has moved that Bill No. 71, *The Innovation Saskatchewan Act* be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion? I recognize the member from The Battlefords.

Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased today to rise and speak at second reading on Bill No. 71, *An Act respecting Innovation Saskatchewan*.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the explanation that was provided by the minister opposite just moments ago. But, Mr. Speaker, I couldn't help thinking as the minister was drawing to a close in his remarks, I couldn't help thinking of the remarks that we hear so often in this Chamber, Mr. Speaker, from the member from Moose Jaw: what's he talking about, Mr. Speaker?

I listened closely, Mr. Speaker, for an explanation about why the agency is necessary, Mr. Speaker, about what the vision of this government is in creating the new agency, Mr. Speaker. The minister went so far as to say, this is a new special operating agency, Mr. Speaker.

For those of us who read legislation on occasion, Mr. Speaker, and for those of us who try to interpret the language of legislation, Mr. Speaker, it's very clear that this legislation, Bill 71, *An Act respecting Innovation Saskatchewan* is actually written, Mr. Speaker, in the standard form for the establishment of a new Crown corporation. Mr. Speaker, I know that we would never hear that from the members opposite, Mr. Speaker, but I'm sure that the minister has had some advice from the member who sits directly behind him, Mr. Speaker, in why it's necessary to create a new Crown corporation or an agency performing the functions of the Crown, Mr. Speaker, with a board of directors, Mr. Speaker, reporting to the minister and actually with funding, and, Mr. Speaker, with a mandate as to what to do. Mr. Speaker, it is most interesting to see this process being followed.

Mr. Speaker, I have a number of things to say about the legislation, say about the relationship between this agency and the other agency, Mr. Speaker, the Enterprise Saskatchewan — the two agencies that used to be the Department of Industry, Mr. Speaker. And let's just think about that, Mr. Speaker, for one second before we take a look at the Act itself and the creation of the new agency, Mr. Speaker.

In the past all the activities of government funded towards industry, Mr. Speaker, have been funded through the Department of Industry, previously called Industry and Resources, previously called Energy and Resources, previously

called a number of different things, Mr. Speaker. But those who have sat on Treasury Board, those who like to review budgets, Mr. Speaker, know that all the provisions of government that went through the Department of Industry in the past, Mr. Speaker, were contained in budget documents. And those budget documents had a considerable number of lines attached to them, Mr. Speaker — so much funding for this, so much funding for that. Mr. Speaker, if we had a budget, it would take me about five minutes to run through all of the line items in the Department of Industry, Mr. Speaker.

We no longer have a Department of Industry, Mr. Speaker. We have a Minister Responsible for Enterprise and Innovation. Mr. Speaker, the minister has presided over the creation of the agency known as Enterprise Saskatchewan, and now the agency known as Innovation. I suspect next year's budget will see an allocation of funds — one line Enterprise Saskatchewan, one other line that's going to say Innovation Saskatchewan agencies, Mr. Speaker, and that's it.

Mr. Speaker, the scrutiny that members of this legislature would provide for these types of activities of government, Mr. Speaker, disappears in our budget scrutiny, Mr. Speaker, with the creation of the agencies.

[14:45]

At the same time, Mr. Speaker, we now have a Minister Responsible for Enterprise and Innovation who no longer has a ministry. Mr. Speaker, with the creation of Innovation Saskatchewan, we have a minister with no department, a minister with no ministry, a minister who's looking after two agencies — both of which have boards of directors, have funding, and have the ability to follow their mandate, report to the minister. The only job the minister has now, Mr. Speaker, is to preside over the boards and to report back to cabinet the recommendations of the agency board of directors, Mr. Speaker.

This is starting to look like a pretty cozy job for the minister opposite, Mr. Speaker. A pretty cozy job. When he goes to estimates he's going to have to defend two lines in the budget, Mr. Speaker. Enterprise and Innovation — a new, special operating agency, Mr. Speaker.

So when I listen to the member's speech you can understand, Mr. Speaker, why I say, what's he talking about? Because, Mr. Speaker, the explanation that the member opposite gave is not really clear about the vision of the Saskatchewan Party, the promises that were made nor, Mr. Speaker, how the end product actually fits into this vision that the members opposite may in fact have for the delivery of what's called Enterprise and Innovation.

Now, Mr. Speaker, to a few of the more specific parts of the legislation, Mr. Speaker, because I think this is important. Mr. Speaker, I follow the media well, as members opposite who have listened to some of my comments in the past know, Mr. Speaker. I read the media who sometimes, Mr. Speaker — and more often than not — do some review of the legislation, ask some questions independent of the legislature about these Bills as they're introduced.

And, Mr. Speaker, it's very clear in reading some of the reports of the media that in fact this Bill creates an agency that will take taxpayers' money and invest it in research and development projects. Taxpayers' money going into research and development projects. Mr. Speaker, no objection from this side of the House at all about utilizing the resources of the province to support research and development. Heaven knows, Mr. Speaker, we've been doing it in this province for years — years, Mr. Speaker.

And some of the work that's been done, for example at the Saskatchewan Research Council, Mr. Speaker, where we have been supporting research and development for years, some incredible success stories there, Mr. Speaker. In fact, I've had a tour of the Saskatchewan Research Council. I've sat in on the annual general meetings of SRC [Saskatchewan Research Council], Mr. Speaker. I've had the benefit of being able to talk to some of the principals at Saskatchewan Research Council. And, Mr. Speaker, thanks to support from the previous New Democrat government, Mr. Speaker, thanks to support that they received from other governments, federal government included, Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan Research Council has done some incredible work.

So I can't argue with the ability of taxpayers' resources or the provincial resources. Because let's face it, Mr. Speaker: although taxpayers ultimately benefit from all the financial resources of the province, not all the financial resources of the province are from the taxpayers, Mr. Speaker, because there are many line items in budget that are brought into the revenue side of government. And it's from the revenue side, Mr. Speaker, that funding finds its way into the expenditure side — or, what would happen in this case, funding for Innovation Saskatchewan — and that money then turned around and invested in research and development projects.

Mr. Speaker, from that perspective, we could also argue that this plan has some semblance of the old SOCO [Saskatchewan Opportunities Corporation], Mr. Speaker, S-O-C-O program in which the province helped to develop some industrial parks around the province and provided funding for the development of what would consider to be innovation projects, Mr. Speaker, in the '70s and '80s, Mr. Speaker. And so governments do have a history of doing this sort of thing.

But, Mr. Speaker, it's very interesting to hear members of the government opposite who have said in the forestry sector, no money, Mr. Speaker, who have said in so many other areas, Mr. Speaker, there's no funding for developing the provincial economy. And in fact even here, Mr. Speaker . . . I'll get to a quote in a minute talking about support for mature industries, Mr. Speaker. But innovation and development, Mr. Speaker, is the front end of development in total, Mr. Speaker, to a commercial product, to the marketing of a product and ultimately to the benefit of the consumer of that product, Mr. Speaker. And for an economy like Saskatchewan's to continue to grow, having provincial government support for those types of research and development initiatives, the little more risky venture upfront, Mr. Speaker, there is always an appetite for provincial funding of those types of projects. But, Mr. Speaker, they don't always work out.

Members opposite have been very critical, Mr. Speaker, of

previous government's adventures in the field of supporting research and development. Why, Mr. Speaker? Because research and development is an area whereby you will ultimately see risk, having a downside as well as an up-side.

The minister opposite, Mr. Speaker, obviously wants the public to believe that Innovation Saskatchewan would have nothing but winners, Mr. Speaker. Every investment made in what is considered in research and development terms, Mr. Speaker, of greater risk than a development project or whatever, Mr. Speaker, there are some successes and there are some failures, Mr. Speaker.

I know that the members opposite will have a few words to say as I go into the next part of my speech, Mr. Speaker. And I just want to indicate that they have to listen carefully through the whole development of my argument before chirping in too much, Mr. Speaker. But I want to raise the subject of SPUDCO, Mr. Speaker, in relation to this type of development and thinking.

Mr. Speaker, members opposite have been quite critical of a government's intention to work with the province to develop a immature industry in this province, Mr. Speaker. We're talking about development in rural Saskatchewan, about an agriculture industry, an agriculture industry, Mr. Speaker, that is diversified, and we're talking about potatoes, Mr. Speaker. So a number of things have happened over the years and the members opposite remind us of this on a regular occasion, Mr. Speaker.

But when we're talking about innovation, the Government of Saskatchewan at the time made a decision that the diversification of agriculture into the field of potatoes, Mr. Speaker, field of potatoes — I understand there could be a pun there — but, Mr. Speaker, moving into the field of potatoes, there needed to be some investment. And, Mr. Speaker, there were some mistakes made along the way, as members point out to us on a regular basis.

But, Mr. Speaker, the circumstances are that because the province was willing to provide investment into rural Saskatchewan into the potato industry, today, Mr. Speaker, the potato industry is better positioned than it's ever been in the history of our province, and there is an infrastructure in place, Mr. Speaker, that is fully utilized, Mr. Speaker. That infrastructure, if it had been considered investment in rural Saskatchewan as opposed to a partnership with the private sector in actively engaging in investment in rural Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, the results of the evaluation would be much different.

So, Mr. Speaker, when we talk about research and development and investing in immature industries, Mr. Speaker, this government is saying that they are now willing to go where they have been so critical of other governments going in the past, Mr. Speaker. There is a chance of failure, and any time we take steps in these directions we have to acknowledge the possibility of loss, Mr. Speaker.

But the fact is this government has recognized that there is also a need for that type of thinking, that type of thinking that leads to . . .

The Speaker: — Order. I call members to order. I know that members have things to discuss with other members, but it would be greatly appreciated if we could calm ourselves a little bit, be a little quieter so we can hear the member respond that's been recognized. I recognize the member from The Battlefords.

Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate that intervention and, Mr. Speaker, I carry on with my comments.

The other thing is, Mr. Speaker, is that sometimes when we are reviewing innovation and recognizing the fact that of course there can be some difficulties, we need to take a look at where there has been significant failure, Mr. Speaker, of the approach to research and development in innovation.

Mr. Speaker, the Premier told reporters Innovation Saskatchewan will have an investment component to it. So, Mr. Speaker, when we think about investments in immature industries, Mr. Speaker, and the comments of the Premier in this regard, we have to go back. We have to go back a ways, Mr. Speaker, to 1988-1989, Mr. Speaker, when the Premier was learning investment strategies at the foot of the chair of the then premier, Grant Devine, Mr. Speaker. We have an adventure into innovation financing that I think a lot of the members opposite have either forgotten about or have tried to ignore, and that's the story of GigaText, Mr. Speaker. We have a government who felt that using technology within government in fact, Mr. Speaker, they could benefit not only the province of Saskatchewan but others.

So, Mr. Speaker, what was GigaText? Well, Mr. Speaker, in 1988 dollars we're talking about a five and a quarter million dollar investment in a company called GigaText Translation systems inc. And at that time, Mr. Speaker, they were pumping \$50,000 a month into this company that had made a pitch, a sales pitch to them, Mr. Speaker, a sales pitch that said, I'm going to build a machine, a computer — but it's really a machine in 1988 — that will take every law in the province of Saskatchewan and translate it into French.

Well this government, Mr. Speaker, decided that makes a lot of sense. We need, we need to rush into this, Mr. Speaker, and therefore they signed a deal, they signed a deal with a fellow by the name of Mr. Montpetit — M-o-n-t-p-e-t-i-t — out of Montreal, Mr. Montpetit, Mr. Speaker. And what happened?

Saskatchewan Economic Development Corporation was brought in and, Mr. Speaker, they began to write the cheques. Well, Mr. Speaker, since that time, Mr. Montpetit has been described in many different ways, but first of all he was described as a fellow who brought in schemes and pipe dreams to the government of the day. The minister at the time was a fellow by the name Eric Berntson, who bought into this strategy.

Well, Mr. Speaker, it wasn't long before Mr. Montpetit was sued by a Japanese investor who had also put some money into this project, Mr. Speaker, and all of a sudden the media and the government started to get some idea that this scheme, Mr. Speaker, was going to fall apart.

One of the individuals who was working, Mr. Speaker, on this

project was a fellow within the translation service of the province of Saskatchewan and he called Mr. Montpetit a snake oil salesman, as reported in *The Edmonton Journal*. So, Mr. Speaker, this is — referred to *The Edmonton Journal* — this little exercise in innovation that was taken on by the government of Grant Devine, Mr. Speaker, certainly was an embarrassment to the people of this province all over Western Canada as it was reported in the media from other provinces, Mr. Speaker.

Now when I read Innovation Saskatchewan, the mandate that's included in the legislation and the way in which the board will work to interpret the mandate, Mr. Speaker, I see a future that could include more GigaTexts, more opportunity, Mr. Speaker, for government to distance itself from these decisions, but actually have to take responsibility at the end of the day for decisions that are made that are not subject to the review and transparency and accountability provisions of this Chamber.

[15:00]

So, Mr. Speaker, carrying on, carrying on with what's in this Bill, Mr. Speaker. One of the things that the Premier said in response to the creation of Innovation Saskatchewan, and I quote him here, he says:

We think there is a role for government on the research and development side, on the innovation side, especially as it relates to sustainable energy.

Mr. Speaker, this is the Premier speaking. And then he cites agriculture-based ethanol and clean coal as areas of interest, Mr. Speaker.

Just earlier the Minister of Enterprise and Innovation talks about funding not being available for mature industries like forestry, but rather he talks about the immature developing industries. Mr. Speaker, the Premier says coal — development of coal-based industry — is something that Innovation Saskatchewan could get involved in.

Well, Mr. Speaker, we are talking about a very mature industry in this country, Mr. Speaker — the coal-based industry. And although they are on the leading edge of some significant technology, we are talking about, Mr. Speaker, through Enterprise and Innovation Saskatchewan, a small amount of money compared to that which is going to be required to put the technology of clean coal into place, Mr. Speaker. Certainly not a reason — the Premier's comments in this regard — not a reason, Mr. Speaker, to have confidence in the direction that the government is taking us.

Now, Mr. Speaker, also the minister in talking to the media — and I was listening for his explanation of this in his speech a few moments ago, Mr. Speaker, but I did not hear it — but to the media as early as Thursday of last week, Mr. Speaker, November 27, the Minister of Enterprise and Innovation said that there could be a component of political involvement in Innovation Saskatchewan's decision-making. That's what he said. The minister told the media there may be a component of political involvement in Innovation Saskatchewan's decision-making.

Mr. Speaker, what does that make you think? Oh great, oh great. Political involvement, says the minister. Now I've sat in this Chamber just for five years — four of them on government side, one in the opposition. But I've heard the members opposite say a gazillion times if I've heard them say it once, picking winners and losers, picking winners and losers, the Saskatchewan Party would never pick winners and losers, Mr. Speaker. And yet the minister says there may be a component of political involvement in our decision making.

What does that mean, Mr. Speaker? The minister did not indicate anything in his comments today to this House, to those of us who are responsible for accountability and transparency and all these things, Mr. Speaker. Again I just say, oh great. Good for them, Mr. Speaker.

So now then the minister goes on and talks about whose interests are going to be represented inside Innovation Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. And we're seeing him say that Innovation Saskatchewan would oversee and coordinate the province's interest in Saskatchewan Research Council, the Canadian Light Source synchrotron, the Petroleum Technology Research Centre, and the prairie agricultural machine institute — Mr. Speaker, four organizations active in this province that are world-class. Four organizations, Mr. Speaker, that are renowned for the innovative actions that they have taken in the past, Mr. Speaker.

And where does this paragraph appear, Mr. Speaker, this paragraph in this news report about Innovation Saskatchewan overseeing and coordinating the province's interest in these four world-renowned organizations, Mr. Speaker? In the paragraph that follows the minister's comments about there may be a component of political involvement in our decision making. Mr. Speaker, political involvement in Saskatchewan Research Council, the Canadian Light Source synchrotron, the Petroleum Technology Research Centre, the prairie agricultural machine institute? My goodness, Mr. Speaker, how — how — can we tolerate that sort of thing, Mr. Speaker? World-class, arm's-length research and development organizations, Mr. Speaker. Unbelievable, Mr. Speaker, unbelievable.

And the public, Mr. Speaker, has to understand, one, the contradictions that the members opposite have brought forward with this, the lack of accountability and transparency that exists within this Act. And more importantly, more importantly, Mr. Speaker, the direction and the almost certainty of failure, Mr. Speaker, of public funds in research and development that this government is heading on, Mr. Speaker — unbelievable.

And then, Mr. Speaker, also the article indicates that, "The Premier also announced . . . that the creation of the new entity would coincide with the winding down of Investment Saskatchewan . . ." Mr. Speaker, and that this involves the "Victoria Park Capital . . . [that was] contracted to run the government investments until 2011."

And, Mr. Speaker, we see on the notice paper today that tomorrow there's an Act relating to Victoria Park Capital being brought forward. I'm not aware of what's in that Act, Mr. Speaker. But given that *The Innovation Saskatchewan Act* is here and that the Investment Saskatchewan is now going to be wound down, I have some expectations, Mr. Speaker, about

what might be in the Victoria Park Capital Bill being brought in tomorrow.

What the government is saying in this . . . And this goes back to some of the things that we've talked about from this side of the House in the past, Mr. Speaker. This goes back to this branding idea that nothing that's been done before is any good, and that only things brought forward by the Saskatchewan Party are of any substance or significance, Mr. Speaker. So here we have this government about to tear apart quite a number of things that are of value in this province.

Mr. Speaker, the bottom line is, what they're saying is, let's redo everything regardless of its cost. Regardless of its cost, Mr. Speaker. Wind down Investment Saskatchewan, do away with Victoria Park Capital, and, Mr. Speaker, let's just start all over again and see what happens.

Mr. Speaker, unfortunately this is the type of thinking — 1980s thinking, Mr. Speaker — that leads to decisions like the one I described with Giga Text and so many other things. Even, Mr. Speaker, some of us remember the company known as Joytec, another great investment opportunity that this government decided to take taxpayers for a ride on.

Mr. Speaker, so here we have an Act creating Innovation Saskatchewan, a new agency of government. Mr. Speaker, it follows, it follows the creation of Enterprise Saskatchewan. And only this week, Mr. Speaker, only this week we found out what Enterprise Saskatchewan really is all about. Enterprise Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, was to be brought forward within the first month of the new government. And here we are a year and a month later, Mr. Speaker, and what are we doing? We're building this incredible team, Mr. Speaker, what some people call this incredible bureaucracy of Enterprise Saskatchewan.

Membership in Enterprise Saskatchewan has now grown to 18 different sector teams. Well remember, Mr. Speaker, when Enterprise Saskatchewan was first being considered by this government? It was going to be a board, a board of private sector interests that would advise the Saskatchewan Party government as to what to do with the provincial economy. They were looking for advice, Mr. Speaker, on what to do with the provincial economy.

When Enterprise Saskatchewan was first discussed by members opposite, Mr. Speaker, in opposition, it looked like, Mr. Speaker, the Premier now today, then Leader of the Opposition, was sensing that the people that were surrounding him — and he would have to appoint to cabinet — could not advise him on what to do with our economy. That he had no confidence in the elected; he had to seek advice from the unelected, Mr. Speaker. An unofficial senate, if you will.

So Enterprise Saskatchewan was going to be a board of private sector people appointed by the Premier, by the government — sounds an awful lot like a senate to me, Mr. Speaker — and that the government would then seek the advice as to what to do with our economy. Well a year and a month later, Mr. Speaker, this board has now grown to 18 sector teams. Eighteen teams over and above the board itself, Mr. Speaker. And this group of advisors has now gone to 160 individuals, Mr. Speaker, and it may even be more.

What we're seeing, Mr. Speaker, is also the fact that these 160 people and the decision-making process that they're engaged in is going to cost this province . . . I don't see my notes here, Mr. Speaker, but we'll say half a million dollars a year, maybe \$1 million a year, Mr. Speaker, for the advice to government.

And again, Mr. Speaker, one wonders what the cabinet is supposed to be doing over there, Mr. Speaker. Well I guess we know, if you go back to the beginning of my remarks, we've now got a Minister of Enterprise and Innovation without a department or a ministry, Mr. Speaker. He has no responsibility over there, so he has only the ability of communicating advice from the boards to the Premier. Mr. Speaker, obviously, obviously there isn't much faith by the Premier in his colleagues serving in cabinet around him. But we're looking at, yes probably — I think I've just seen the number here — close to \$1 million over a four-year period for these people to meet and discuss important issues and advise the government.

The first issue of course, Mr. Speaker, on which the group met, discussed, and provided some advice has been completely ignored by the members opposite. I wonder how the board members at Enterprise Saskatchewan feel today that after their first meeting, their first review, and their first bit of advice to government on maintaining a moratorium on schools in this province, Mr. Speaker, to have that advice immediately rejected by the government.

Mr. Speaker, if I was sitting on a board, if I was asked to do work for a board and in fact my advice was subsequently rejected out of hand, I'd have second thoughts about serving on that board, Mr. Speaker. But we'll wait and see how the individual members of Enterprise Saskatchewan feel about that.

And now they're also seeing the creation of the secondary set of board members, Mr. Speaker — those who will oversee the spending plans of Innovation Saskatchewan.

Now, Mr. Speaker, one of the things that the minister opposite, the Minister of Enterprise and Innovation had to say when he was asked earlier this week from the New Democratic Party member from Prince Albert, when he was asked about these 18 sector teams and these 160 people, the minister answered with the following questions. He says, and he asks a question back to the New Democrats here. This is the minister speaking:

I'd ask . . . [them] to try and understand . . . [our] new way of thinking where we actually engage the public in decisions that affect them.

Mr. Speaker. Interesting comments from a minister who sits at a cabinet table where decisions have been made affecting the termination of the funding for Station 20, the creation of legislation that would impose an elected senate on the people of Saskatchewan despite its cost, a cabinet that has decided to pursue nuclear power generation, Mr. Speaker, without consultation with the public.

Mr. Speaker, the minister was criticizing New Democrats about our questions relating to this growing bureaucracy about Enterprise Saskatchewan. He was criticizing New Democrats by saying that we did not believe in consultation. And yet he sits at a cabinet table where there has been no consultation on

the majority of issues, Mr. Speaker, that have affected people of Saskatchewan directly and dramatically.

Well again, Mr. Speaker, thank goodness that somebody is raising questions in this Chamber and in Saskatchewan about these issues, Mr. Speaker. We are seeing members opposite attending a news conference concerning Bruce Power's decision that nuclear power is feasible in this province. Members opposite, including the minister himself, attending these news conferences in which they speak in glowing terms about the future of nuclear-generated power in this province. And yet, Mr. Speaker, not one of them when asked questions over two days could answer any questions about, what's it going to cost? Who's going to pay the bill? What impact is it going to have on the watersheds in the province?

[15:15]

Mr. Speaker, if there was ever a time when consultation was critical, Mr. Speaker, it's today. And the members opposite are having to create agencies of government taking away from transparency and accountability of government, taking away all of that which is very important to the people of Saskatchewan in the interests, quotation marks, Mr. Speaker, of consultation.

Well, Mr. Speaker, a year and a half after Enterprise Saskatchewan was created, we haven't seen much benefit of consultation. And, Mr. Speaker, now we know there is some consultation that will be taking place in innovation and the development, Mr. Speaker, but we know that this will be consultation that is politically driven — the minister's words himself, Mr. Speaker.

So, Mr. Speaker, I want to indicate to the House that even though the Bill has only just been provided to us over the last few days to review, Mr. Speaker, there are a tremendous amount of issues that need to be addressed by this legislation. I think the public needs to be engaged in consultation, communication, understanding, Mr. Speaker, of what the government is intending to do with this legislation. And really how it is different from the simple statement that there is a role for public expenditure in research and development in this province. There is a role for public expenditure on research and development in this province.

Mr. Speaker, we understand the end product. Mr. Speaker, there are lots of things about this piece of legislation that are not easy to understand at all. So that having been said then, Mr. Speaker, I would take this opportunity to move that debate on Bill No. 71, *An Act respecting Innovation Saskatchewan* be now adjourned.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McMillan): — It has been moved by the member for The Battlefords that debate on this Bill now be adjourned. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McMillan): — Carried.

Bill No. 74 — *The Miscellaneous Statutes (English) Amendment and Repeal Act, 2008*

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McMillan): — I recognize the Minister of Justice and the Attorney General.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to move second reading of *The Miscellaneous Statutes (English) Amendment and Repeal Act, 2008*. The purpose of this Act is to repeal obsolete statutes and provisions of statutes and to make minor amendments to other Acts. I will briefly describe the statutes being repealed and the amendments being made.

Mr. Speaker, *The Agri-Food Innovation Act* is being repealed. This Act allowed the provincial government to enter into a particular agreement with the federal government. This agreement has now expired and all of its projects have been completed; therefore this Act is no longer required.

The Community Cablecasters Act was passed in 1977, but never proclaimed. This Act is not needed and is now being repealed. *The Forest Resources Management Amendment Act, 2003* was passed as part of an unsuccessful effort to negotiate a solution to a trade dispute. It no longer has any application and is also being repealed.

The Trust and Loan Corporations Amendment Act, 1996 was never proclaimed since its provisions were incorporated in *The Trust and Loan Corporations Act, 1997*. This Act is no longer required and is being repealed.

Section 12.1 of *The Agricultural Safety Net Act* was never proclaimed. There is no need to proclaim it as the program to which it relates has been discontinued. It also is therefore being repealed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, certain provisions of *The Crown Minerals Amendment Act, 1992* will also be repealed with passage of this Bill. These provisions were passed as a response to a compensation issue that later had a negotiated solution. Therefore we do not need this legislation.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, subsection 4(5) of *The Public Disclosure Act* was never proclaimed. It would have vested the public disclosure committee with the powers of commissioners under *The Public Inquiries Act*. It has been determined that this provision is not needed and is therefore being repealed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the next one is clause 95(b) of *The Regional Health Services Act*, which purports to make consequential amendment to *The Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation Act*, which itself has been repealed; therefore this provision in question is ineffectual and is also being repealed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, clauses 8(1)(a) and 8(2)(a) of *The Tobacco Control Amendment Act, 2004* are also being repealed. The provision they would amend has since been the subject of consequential amendments, so these clauses are no longer effective.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, certain provisions in *The Trust and Loan Corporations Act, 1997* are being repealed. These provisions,

which deal with market conduct, were never proclaimed and are now out of date. They could not proceed without significant consultation and change.

Mr. Speaker, a number of amendments correct errors in reference to section numbers or Acts. One such amendment corrects a spelling error. All of these amendments will help to clean up our statutes and make them more accurate and more user-friendly. Mr. Speaker, it's my privilege to move second reading of *The Miscellaneous Statutes (English) Amendment and Repeal Act*. Thank you.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McMillan): — The Minister of Justice has moved second reading of Bill No. 74, the miscellaneous statutes amendment and repeal Act, 2008. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McMillan): — Carried. I recognize the member for The Battlefords.

Mr. Taylor: — I was rising to my feet. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. There's sometimes an interest on the other side to move through things as quickly as possible, Mr. Speaker, but despite the fact, despite the fact that the minister felt that these Acts being repealed are no longer necessary, Mr. Speaker, I think there is a need to provide some reference to them.

So, Mr. Speaker, I'm rising today at second reading on Bill No. 74, miscellaneous statutes Act. Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Justice indicated in his speech a number of Acts or sections of Acts, Mr. Speaker, that are being repealed in this piece of legislation. And, Mr. Speaker, while I realize that as Minister of Justice it is his responsibility to bring forward an Act like this, the legislation itself, Mr. Speaker, actually addresses Acts that would have previously been the responsibility of the Minister of Agriculture, the Minister of Energy and Resources, the minister of forestry, the Minister of Health, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance.

So there's a number of things to be discussed in this legislation, Mr. Speaker, that perhaps are best addressed by representatives of the various departments. Because, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Justice says this was deemed not to be required any more or, Mr. Speaker, this was simply not required any longer. Well, Mr. Speaker, how are we to know that without an opportunity to review the legislation itself?

For example, Mr. Speaker, just right off the top, the Minister of Justice talks about *The Agri-Food Innovation Act*. It was an Act that came into effect on March 31, 1995, and it established the Agri-Food Innovation Fund as a Treasury Board Crown corporation. Well, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Justice does indicate that the fund is no longer required because the specific program that it was meant to fund, that it was meant to administer, no longer exists.

But, Mr. Speaker, the Act itself was designed in part to work as a financial partnership with federal initiatives. So, Mr. Speaker, are we led to believe that despite the fact that that particular program no longer exists, that in fact there is no financial partnership on federal initiatives any longer in agriculture?

Mr. Speaker, there are ongoing relationships with Ottawa, and there's no indication whatsoever that we would not need legislation like this to allow us to continue to enter partnerships. But, Mr. Speaker, when simply presented as the program no longer exists so the legislation is no longer necessary, Mr. Speaker, we need to review this legislation to ensure that if there are federal-provincial initiatives in agriculture that indeed we can administer them from other means other than the legislation itself.

I'm very interested, Mr. Speaker, in *The Community Cablecasters Act*. An Act that came into effect February 26, 1979 and, Mr. Speaker, although there was no section of the Act that actually stated its objections or purposes, the Act contained provisions stating who was eligible to become a community cablecaster and stating that it would be illegal for persons other than community cablecasters, as defined under the Act, to provide programming. It allowed the subscribers of community cablecasters to establish program advisory councils.

Mr. Speaker, *The Community Cablecasters Act* essentially allowed for community-based consultation in the development of community programming within our communities, Mr. Speaker, something that we in Saskatchewan have actually seen developed in a number of our communities where there were community-based, co-operative cable systems. Now many of those community cable systems, Mr. Speaker, have been taken over by private sector operators. And perhaps the repeal of this legislation is meant to provide some benefit to the private sector cable operators who no longer see it necessary to have a program advisory council at the local level, or perhaps, Mr. Speaker, there are other reasons behind this. But it's necessary, Mr. Speaker, to have a look at the legislation that's being repealed.

Are there current needs that could be dealt with by amending these Acts rather than repealing them? Mr. Speaker, the one that caught my eye particularly was *The Forest Resources Management Amendment Act of 2003*:

The purpose of this Act is to promote the sustainable use of forest land for the benefit of current and future generations by balancing the need for economic, social and cultural opportunities with the need to maintain and enhance the health of forest land.

Mr. Speaker, in today's economic climate and the circumstances affecting the northern communities of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, this Act sounds like it might be the ideal legislation to help guide this government to address forestry issues.

Mr. Speaker, they were elected on a platform of a forestry plan, Mr. Speaker. A year and a month later, there's still no plan for forestry. There's still no development of forestry. There's still no understanding of the role that forestry must play in this province. We've seen government members talk about the development, Mr. Speaker, of sort of a biofuels industry in the North utilizing trees, Mr. Speaker, to create energy by burning them, Mr. Speaker. Well that isn't a forestry plan, Mr. Speaker.

The Forest Resources Management Amendment Act is deemed to be unnecessary, but the Act states, section 3:

The purpose of this Act is to promote the sustainable use of forest land for the benefit of current and future generations by balancing the need for economic, social and cultural opportunities with the need to maintain and enhance the health of forest land.

I like it, Mr. Speaker. I like that description. And I think members opposite should be reading that Act before they impose repeal upon us.

Anyway, Mr. Speaker, I know that time is moving along very rapidly here, Mr. Speaker, and there are a number of other pieces in this particular legislation that I would like to address. And I know that the next pieces of legislation are important to have on the order paper, Mr. Speaker, as we reach the end of this session.

[15:30]

So without addressing *The Tobacco Control Amendment Act* which I think we need to review because, Mr. Speaker, I think that the changes appear to be an effort to implement the recent announced intention to ban smoking in the workplaces through provisions other than *The Tobacco Control Amendment Act*, and I'm not certain how that process is going to unfold. I wish the minister had explained that in a little greater detail.

But, Mr. Speaker, perhaps I will address that and other matters on another day, Mr. Speaker. Therefore, at this time I would move that debate on Bill No. 74 be now adjourned.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McMillan): — The member for The Battlefords has moved we adjourn debate on Bill No. 74. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McMillan): — Carried.

Bill No. 75 - *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Bilingual) Amendment and Repeal Act, 2008/Loi corrective (lois bilingues) de 2008*

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McMillan): — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my privilege to rise today to move second reading of *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Bilingual) Amendment and Repeal Act, 2008*. The purpose of this Act is to repeal obsolete provisions of bilingual statutes and to make minor amendments to others. I will briefly describe the obsolete provisions and minor amendments.

First, Mr. Speaker, provisions in *The Powers of Attorney Act, 2002* that were never proclaimed are being repealed. During consultations on the regulations for this Act, it became apparent that the effect of proclaiming these provisions would be that some attorneys would be able to designate beneficiaries of the grantor's property and in effect make testamentary dispositions. This would be an inadvertent change to the common law rule that attorneys' authority does not extend to estate planning. This was never intended, so that provision is being repealed. The

other changes being made to the bilingual statutes are to correct reference, spelling, and grammatical errors.

Mr. Speaker, it's my privilege to move second reading of *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Bilingual) Amendment and Repeal Act, 2008*.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McMillan): — The Minister of Justice has moved second reading of Bill No. 75, *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Bilingual) Amendment and Repeal Act, 2008*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly? I recognize the member for The Battlefords.

Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise at second reading on Bill No. 75, the miscellaneous statutes (bilingual) Bill. I listened carefully of course to the Minister of Justice explain the Bill. I thought he might use some bilingual language to explain the legislation, but he did a reasonable job, Mr. Speaker, in English.

I don't have a lot to say about this piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker, because I think that Bill No. 74 is the Bill that we have to spend our time on. And the response that we have on Bill No. 74 will determine what we have to do with Bill No. 75. So at this point, Mr. Speaker, I would move that debate on Bill No. 75, *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Bilingual) Amendment and Repeal Act* be now adjourned.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McMillan): — The member for The Battlefords has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 75. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McMillan): — Carried.

Bill No. 76 — *The Wildlife Habitat Protection Amendment Act, 2008 (No. 2)*

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McMillan): — I recognize the Minister of the Environment.

Hon. Ms. Heppner: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. After my brief remarks, I will be moving second reading of the wildlife habitat protection amendment.

This government recognizes the ongoing need to conserve and protect areas that are significant for wildlife habitat. Today, this Act protects approximately 1.4 million hectares or three and a half million acres of Crown land and wetlands all over Saskatchewan while enabling compatible agricultural and other uses.

Occasionally it is necessary to withdraw designated lands from the Act in order to accommodate other valid uses. In these cases, the government strives to continue to protect important conservation values. The amendments proposed today are true to this principle. They are relatively small in scale but significant for the parties who are involved.

Two of the amendments are administrative in nature. They involve privately held land that was not specifically excluded when an adjacent parcel of Crown land was designated under

the Act years ago. One of these is 53 acres in size; the other is a 5-acre parcel. Both errors were discovered by government staff in the course of their work and were brought forward for correction. Given the millions of acres covered by the Act, it's not surprising, although unfortunate, that such errors can go unnoticed for some time. The Ministry of Environment is committed to correcting them as soon as possible when they come to light, and the first two amendments will do just that.

The third amendment involves the deregulation of 20 acres to allow its sale for the expansion of a farmyard site. Once removed from the Act, the land will be sold to the current lessee by the Ministry of Agriculture. Nearly twice this area — 37 acres — of similar habitat located nearby will be designated under the Act to compensate for this withdrawal.

The fourth amendment removes 160 acres from the register to allow the land sale to an agricultural producer for grazing. The land is subject to a conservation easement that is registered on the title, thus ensuring that important conservation values will be maintained into the future.

The proposed amendments are consistent with the fundamental principle of continued habitat conservation. The amendments will also help us to ensure that records on the status of Crown lands are as accurate and up to date as possible.

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

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McMillan): — The Minister of the Environment has moved second reading of Bill No. 76, the wildlife habitat protection Act, 2008. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion? I recognize the member for The Battlefords.

Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to enter second reading debate of Bill No. 76, *An Act to amend The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act and to amend The Wildlife Habitat Land Designation Regulations*.

Mr. Speaker, I think we all know the value of wildlife lands in our province. Mr. Speaker, we have organizations representing committed conservationists, hunters, farmers — committed individuals, Mr. Speaker, who are devoting hundreds of hours and thousands of dollars voluntarily, Mr. Speaker, to the preservation of wetlands and other matters relating to conservation, Mr. Speaker. So wildlife habitat protection is something that this province has taken seriously virtually since the establishment, creation, and development of this province.

So, Mr. Speaker, it is very important to a large number of people in this province to understand what it is that the province is doing when it withdraws land from the designated areas. And, Mr. Speaker, there's an equal interest to ensure that when land is withdrawn, there is other land added to the designated areas, Mr. Speaker.

We certainly recognize that mistakes may have been made in designations in the past. Certain corrections have been made at other times in the past, Mr. Speaker. Sometimes these corrections aren't known as being necessary until such time as land is sold. Sometimes land is being prepared for sale and it is

discovered on survey, Mr. Speaker, that some of these lands have been designated and the owner was not aware of such, Mr. Speaker. Errors are corrected as they are brought to the attention of the government, Mr. Speaker, and that is something that we have supported in the past and would continue to support.

But, Mr. Speaker, it is important for members of the public to fully understand what it is that the government is intending to do in a broad-based way and also in a very specific way. And this Bill does deal with some very specific pieces of land, Mr. Speaker. And I thank the minister responsible for her remarks in which she outlines clearly that the lands in question are being withdrawn for what she calls valid uses. And those valid uses include privately held lands that may have been incorrectly designated, the expansion of a yard site, and for grazing purposes, Mr. Speaker. And some local, some local individuals may in fact take some issue with a number of these.

But, Mr. Speaker, what the minister did not do was outline very clearly what particular lands we're talking about. The Bill, Mr. Speaker, clearly outlines, the Bill clearly outlines, Mr. Speaker, land designations. Not everyone in the province is familiar with land designations, although I would believe the majority of people are. But just for the interests of those who are paying attention to this debate, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to add some comments about where this land is to the comments that were made by the minister a few minutes ago.

For example, she talked about one situation where land was privately held, that the land grant, Mr. Speaker, has existed since 1915, and that these lands were designated as protected lands, Mr. Speaker. And this legislation will withdraw that. I don't know the circumstances, but given the date, Mr. Speaker, this is likely a case where the land has remained inside one family, Mr. Speaker, for that period of time and there's never been any need for continued surveys or land titles review, Mr. Speaker. But possibly this land is land that is now being put up for sale or has just transferred and the designation is required to be removed. Mr. Speaker, this land is in the area near the community of Kyle in the southwest part of the province, Mr. Speaker. In fact the designated piece of land is situated just east of the community of Kyle.

Mr. Speaker, the other piece of privately held land that is referred to in this legislation is land where the land grant was made in 1959 and that individual piece of land is being withdrawn, Mr. Speaker. This is land that is northeast of the city of North Battleford, just west of the town of Mayfair. Mr. Speaker, all of those who are in that part of the province would know the area of the province that I'm referring to.

Mr. Speaker, another piece referred to in this legislation, the minister referred to this as the need to withdraw this piece of land from protected status is because the owner wants to expand the yard site on that particular quarter, Mr. Speaker. This is not a full quarter of land. It's a partial quarter of land, Mr. Speaker. This exists along the North Saskatchewan River, basically north of Lashburn and south of Paradise Hill, Mr. Speaker. Some individuals may know what we're referring to. It's directly west of the town of Turtleford, Mr. Speaker. And so this is important land in the province. That whole Paradise Hill, Frenchman Butte territory — this is just south of that, Mr. Speaker.

There is a piece of land that's to be sold for grazing, Mr. Speaker. This is subject to a conservation easement. Mr. Speaker, I think it is important when we get to committee that we review this process of getting to a conservation easement. But this particular piece of land again is east of North Battleford. In fact it is directly north of the town of Hafford and east of the town of Mayfair, Mr. Speaker, and it is an entire quarter of land that's to be sold for grazing purposes.

And finally, Mr. Speaker, there is a piece of land that will be added, Mr. Speaker, in compensation for other land that has been withdrawn, Mr. Speaker. This particular piece of land is directly . . . Just a minute here. It's on the North Saskatchewan River, directly west of the city of North Battleford.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think it was important to identify for the public what lands we are talking about, invite the public's comments as this legislation withdraws these pieces of land from protection.

Mr. Speaker, I know that other members, including those who live in the areas being referred to in this legislation, may wish to speak. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, at this time I would move that debate on Bill No. 76, *An Act to amend The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act* be now adjourned.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McMillan): — The member for The Battlefords has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 76. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McMillan): — Carried. I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Gantefoer: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. In order to permit the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies to do their work, I move this House do now adjourn.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McMillan): — The Government House Leader has moved this House do now adjourn. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McMillan): — Carried. This House stands adjourned until 1:30 tomorrow afternoon.

[The Assembly adjourned at 15:45.]

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Wall	1935
Calvert	1935
Cheveldayoff	1935
Van Mulligen	1936
The Speaker	1936

PRESENTING PETITIONS

Higgins	1936
Iwanchuk	1936
Forbes	1936
Brotten	1936
Wotherspoon	1937
Vermette	1937
Yates	1937

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

Karate Gold Medal Winner from St. Louis	
Kirsch	1937
Reaching the Unreachable	
Junor	1937
Victoria Hospital Foundation Festival of Trees	
Hickie	1938
Unions of Regina Christmas Dinner	
Morin	1938
Regina Rotary Carol Festival	
Ross	1938
MyFiH Awards	
Brotten	1939
Moose Jaw Poet Honoured at Saskatchewan Book Awards	
Michelson	1939

QUESTION PERIOD

Support for Northern Youth	
Belanger	1939
Morgan	1940
Hickie	1940
Draude	1940
Sexually Exploited Youth	
Forbes	1941
Harpauer	1941
Nuclear Power in Saskatchewan	
Calvert	1942
Wall	1942

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

New Wine Franchises to Open	
D'Autremont	1945
Higgins	1945

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice	
Kirsch	1946
Standing Committee on Human Services	
Hart	1947

FIRST AND SECOND READINGS OF AMENDMENTS

Bill No. 62 — <i>The Residential Tenancies Amendment Act, 2008</i>	
Morgan	1946
Bill No. 64 — <i>The Northern Municipalities Amendment Act, 2008 (No. 2)</i>	
Hutchinson	1947

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 42 — <i>The Securities Amendment Act, 2008</i>	
Morgan	1946
Bill No. 62 — <i>The Residential Tenancies Amendment Act, 2008</i>	
Morgan	1947
Bill No. 64 — <i>The Northern Municipalities Amendment Act, 2008 (No. 2)</i>	
Hutchinson	1947

Bill No. 53 — <i>The Medical Profession Amendment Act, 2008</i>	
McMorris.....	1948
ORDERS OF THE DAY	
WRITTEN QUESTIONS	
Weekes	1948
TABLING OF REPORTS	
The Speaker.....	1948
SECOND READINGS	
Bill No. 71 — <i>The Innovation Saskatchewan Act</i>	
Stewart.....	1948
Taylor.....	1949
Bill No. 74 — <i>The Miscellaneous Statutes (English) Amendment and Repeal Act, 2008</i>	
Morgan	1954
Taylor.....	1954
Bill No. 75 - <i>The Miscellaneous Statutes (Bilingual) Amendment and Repeal Act, 2008</i>	
<i>Loi corrective (lois bilingues) de 2008</i>	
Morgan	1955
Taylor.....	1956
Bill No. 76 — <i>The Wildlife Habitat Protection Amendment Act, 2008 (No. 2)</i>	
Heppner	1956
Taylor.....	1956

GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN CABINET MINISTERS

Hon. Brad Wall
Premier

Hon. Bob Bjornerud
Minister of Agriculture
Minister Responsible for 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 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 Capital City Commission