



SECOND SESSION - TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

of the

**Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

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**DEBATES  
and  
PROCEEDINGS**

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(HANSARD)

Published under the  
authority of  
The Honourable Don Toth  
Speaker



**MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN**

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

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

**Mr. Harper:** — Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure to introduce to you and through you to all the members of the House a group of 26 grade 7 students that are seated in your east gallery. And they're from the Henry Braun School in my constituency, and they are accompanied here today by their teacher, Caitlyn Vancise.

And they have a pretty hectic schedule. They're going to take in part of the proceedings of the House here. Then they're going to tour the legislature. Then we'll meet later for a photo and some refreshments, and I think some, probably some very tough questions. So I ask all members to offer a very warm welcome to our future leaders of this province.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatchewan Rivers.

**Ms. Wilson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you I'd like to introduce my son, Markus Zacharius Wilson. And he's in pre-dentistry at the University of Saskatchewan. So I'd like you to give a warm welcome, please.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

**Hon. Mr. Bjornerud:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce to you and to all members in the House today Terry Baker who's in your west gallery.

Terry became a Sask Wheat Pool delegate in '98 and became chairman of the board in 2004. Terry stepped down as Chair in April 2008 but has stayed on as a board of directors. Terry operates a mixed farm at Denzil and serves as Chair of the Canadian Centre for Health and Safety in Agriculture, Vice-Chair for the Crop Nutrients Council, and sits on the Agrivita and the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation boards.

He's in the west gallery, sitting with his son, Cam. And I invite all members to welcome him to his legislature today.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

**Mr. Belanger:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure to welcome a very special guest in your gallery. It's none other than the world famous Gary Tinker, the

namesake of the Gary Tinker Federation, and it gives me great pleasure to introduce him to the Assembly. I'll ask all members to welcome a very special guest in Gary Tinker of Pinehouse Lake, Saskatchewan. Thank you.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Southeast, Minister of Justice.

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — In the west gallery, I would like to introduce to you and through you to all members, Al Thomarat, who is Chair of the SIAST [Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology] board, active in the new Home Builders' Association, well known in Saskatoon, and been a friend of the province for a long time. I would ask that all members join in welcoming Al Thomarat to the legislature.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

### PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition calling for wage equity for CBO [community-based organization] workers. We know these folks do important work in our communities right throughout the province. I would like to read their prayer.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the development and implementation of a multi-year funding plan to ensure that CBO workers achieve wage equity with employees who perform work of equal value in government departments.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

And these souls come from the following communities: Weyburn, Estevan, Vonda, Saskatoon, and Regina. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Ms. Morin:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to present a petition on behalf of the residents of Duck Lake who are looking for an assistance from the government and would seek that the rural areas are looked after as well, as not just concentrating on the urban areas. So the prayer reads as such:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to financially assist the town of Duck Lake residents for the good of their health and safety, due to the exorbitant water rates being forced on them by a government agency, and that this government fulfills its commitment to rural Saskatchewan.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

And again as I said, Mr. Speaker, these are signed by the good residents of Duck Lake.

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

**Mr. Taylor:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present a petition today in support of a new Saskatchewan Hospital. Mr. Speaker, the petitioners recognize that in 2006 the Government of Saskatchewan committed funds and resources to the development and construction of a new Saskatchewan Hospital at North Battleford. Mr. Speaker, the petitioners ask:

... that the Legislative Assembly call upon the Government of Saskatchewan to immediately recommit funds and resources for the continued development and construction of a new Saskatchewan Hospital at North Battleford and provide the Prairie North Regional Health Authority with the authority necessary to complete this essential and much-needed project.

Mr. Speaker, the petitioners come from the constituency of The Battlefords. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand today to present a petition in support of expansion of the graduate retention program. The prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to immediately expand the graduate retention program to include master's and Ph.D. graduates.

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

Mr. Speaker, the individuals who signed this petition are from the University of Regina, the University of Saskatchewan, as well as a number of health care professionals working in the province who hold graduate degrees. 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 in support of needed expansion of child care here in Saskatchewan, and specifically Estevan. The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to immediately add at least 2,000 new child care spaces in Saskatchewan.

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

These petitions are signed by good folks and concerned citizens down in Estevan, Mr. Speaker. I so present.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

## STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

### Community Effort on Behalf of Landis School

**Mr. Weekes:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm very pleased to say that due to a number of positive economic developments in and around the community of Landis, in addition to the hard work of the Landis school review committee, the Sun West School Division has decided to keep Landis School open for at least the next two years. This two-year grace period allows the community to work towards increasing the student enrolment in the school which is expected to benefit from new opportunities within the community.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, Landis is located within the constituency of Biggar and has recently seen some promising developments that would indicate the community has the potential for growth in the very near future. With the Palo mine set to reopen and the newly formed Landis and District Chamber of Commerce, the community is expected to see a number of additional employment, business, and manufacturing prospects in the coming days and months.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those individuals and groups that have, through their dedication and hard work, given the community of Landis the chance to keep their school. The citizens of Landis, the Landis school review committee, and the Sun West School Division deserve our gratitude for putting in so much time and effort to maintain this vital centre of learning located within the community. The people of the community and all those involved have demonstrated how committed they are to keeping Landis a viable and vibrant prairie town for many years to come. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

### Couple Honoured at Prince Albert Winter Festival

**Mr. Furber:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this year was the 45th year of the Prince Albert Winter Festival. The festival ran from February 11 to 22. It's one of the longest running festivals in Western Canada.

As is customary, the first day of the festival was devoted to announcing this year's Mr. and Mrs. Winter Festival. Each year a deserving couple is chosen to honour their years of service to Prince Albert and area. They are present at almost all of the activities and visit clubs, nursing homes, and child care centres.

This year's Mr. and Mrs. Winter Festival were Arnold and Merle Chester. The Chesters have been involved with the winter festival since it started 45 years ago. Arnold was the winter festival director for many years, and each year both

Arnold and Merle have volunteered many hours to the festival. Their dedication and contribution have helped ensure the success of the winter festival each year.

Arnold and Merle were very surprised and honoured to have been chosen. They were a most deserving, if not humble, couple. On Sunday, February 15, a tea was held in their honour at the Heritage Centre. Many people attended to congratulate the Chesters. There was old-time fiddling, bagpipes, and plenty of good cheer and laughter.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members join with me in congratulating this year's Prince Albert Mr. and Mrs. Winter Festival, Arnold and Merle Chester. Thank you.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

### Cumberland Regional College Scholarships

**Mr. Bradshaw:** — Mr. Speaker, it was my pleasure to attend a Cumberland Regional College scholarship ceremony in Nipawin last weekend, last Friday.

Mr. Speaker, the regional college system we have in Saskatchewan is a fantastic tool for improving the education of our citizens. Allowing this to happen in their own backyard not only saves the students money, but also gets rid of the hesitancy of moving to a strange and unfamiliar place.

Mr. Speaker, of course none of this could happen if it wasn't for the support of the Cumberland College staff, the community, and the government. One of the ways to help these students is through scholarships. There was a total of \$46,700 in scholarships handed out at this ceremony: 34,300 from businesses and individuals, and 12,400 from our own Ministry of Advanced Education, Employment and Labour. I was pleased to hand out a total of 13 scholarships from this ministry.

Mr. Speaker, there was a bit of humour there. Each of the students I presented a scholarship to invariably thanked me by name, rather than the minister — so much for the member from Saskatoon Greystone.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of Cumberland Regional College and its scholarship recipients. I ask all members to join me in showing our appreciation for a job well done.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

### SaskTel Classic Challenge Cup Race

**Ms. Morin:** — Mr. Speaker, on February 28 I had the great pleasure to be asked to participate as team coach for the Mission Ridge Winter Park third annual SaskTel Classic Challenge Cup race. This ski and snowboard race is a fundraiser to benefit the Regina Ski Club alpine adaptive ski program. Various businesses and organizations from Regina and

surrounding area entered teams into the race which consisted of five racers, one of which must be an adaptive skier, and a ski instructor acting as a coach.

The registration for the race included a ski lesson, as not all entrants are experienced skiers. The team that I was assigned to was the MEDiChair team which consisted of Venessa Farago, Aaron Olson, Rollie Stolz, Jenny Billett, and Marie Wright. Marie was our adaptive skier and truly inspired our team to not only race well, but she was also determined to win the award for the best team spirit.

Our team fared very well, Mr. Speaker, and qualified as one of the top four teams which took us to the championship race. There were 13 teams that entered the race, and first place went to the team from KPMG, second place to Redhead Equipment, and third place to URO Medical Supplies.

Mr. Speaker, the Regina Ski Club alpine adaptive ski program functions entirely with the help of dedicated volunteers under the direction of two extraordinary volunteers by the names of Mark Catterall and Gord Poulten. I would like to ask all my colleagues to join me in recognizing the amazing efforts of both the organizers and participants for providing us with such a fun day of sport and camaraderie, and supporting a program that assists people with all types of disabilities to enjoy the possibility of learning to ski. Thank you.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

### Women in Policing

**Ms. Schriemer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This past Sunday was the International Women's Day. Therefore I'd like to share with this House a story of two very, very special women.

Mr. Speaker, Inspector Shelley Ballard of the Saskatoon Police Service is the first commissioned officer to be promoted in that police service, and Sergeant Joanne Balint is a pioneer who helped pave the way for women in policing.

In 1973 Saskatchewan police service hired the province's first female officer, Joanne Balint. Joanne graduated from police college less than 40 years ago, and upon graduation she was given a black skirt, a pale blue polyester blouse, a badge — which the shirt wouldn't hold — and a .38 revolver, a pair of handcuffs, a purse to put them in, and a really cute pillbox cap. Sergeant Balint retired in 2003 after 30 years of service, and she truly paved the way.

Inspector Shelley Ballard was hired in 1987. She presently has 22 years of service, and has served in patrol, bikes, headquarters division, and prior to her promotion she was a watch commander. Shelley is truly a leader, and she is very fit and knowledgeable. I congratulate her on her promotion, as well as Sergeant Balint for leading the way. Thank you.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

[13:45]

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Meewasin.

### Proposed Child Care Facility in Saskatoon

**Mr. Quennell:** — The Greater Saskatoon Catholic School Board is working with community partners located near the St. Michael Community School on 33rd Street in Saskatoon to establish a 50-seat child care facility at the school. Partners include the SIAST campus across the street, the nearby Tim Hortons, and the Airliner Hotel. Parents served by the school, parents who are studying at SIAST, and parents employed at local businesses are all in need of quality and accessible child care.

And educators in Saskatoon are not the only people aware of the value of early learning opportunities that can be made available at school-based child care. Long-term studies of the first early education programs such as Head Start show beneficial effects well into adulthood for those fortunate enough to have participated. These include a higher participation rate in the workforce, higher incomes, and markedly lower chance of being involved in criminal activity and substance abuse.

The child care spaces at St. Michael are needed for the present and for the future. However, the school-based child care will not be possible without renovations and expansions to St. Michael Community School. We all need to understand that infrastructure is not all about highways and bridges; it's also about schools and child care.

The plans to build a modern child care facility and make St. Michael's School safer for all its students are prepared. All that is needed is for the Government of Saskatchewan to join the partnership.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Rosetown-Elrose.

### Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities Annual Convention

**Mr. Reiter:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, delegates from municipalities across Saskatchewan have gathered in Saskatoon for the next three days. Approximately 2,000 people from across the province are attending the annual convention of the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities. SARM is the voice of rural Saskatchewan.

One of the unique aspects about SARM, Mr. Speaker, is that membership is voluntary. And all RMs [rural municipality] belong. Those municipalities don't have to belong to SARM, Mr. Speaker; they want to. I was at the convention this morning and the Minister of Crown Corporations gave a great presentation that was very well received. Later today the ministers of Agriculture and Municipal Affairs will also address the delegates. Tomorrow morning the Premier will do the same. I had numerous people tell me, Mr. Speaker, how much they are looking forward to hearing from our Premier.

Our government has a lot in common with SARM. On their

association's web page, you will find their vision. It reads, "By being the rural voice, SARM will effectively lead autonomous municipalities in creating a vibrant, diverse economy resulting in a strong, sustainable Saskatchewan."

A strong and sustainable Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. Our government is also committed to building a strong Saskatchewan and looks forward to working with the member municipalities of SARM. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

### QUESTION PERIOD

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Meewasin.

### The Traffic Safety Amendment Act

**Mr. Quennell:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Bill 72, the highway traffic Act, was scheduled to be in front of a House committee this afternoon. We have a lot of questions about this Bill. This Bill was to create an enhanced identity document for all Saskatchewan travellers to carry. This issue has raised significant concerns from the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Saskatchewan.

According to the Privacy Commissioner's report that was tabled in this House yesterday, this Bill raises "significant privacy issues" and it is a "particularly troubling" piece of legislation.

To the Minister of Highways: why was the government so willing to put the privacy of the people of Saskatchewan at risk?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Bill 72 is indeed an important piece of legislation that'll be coming before this House. It deals with enhanced drivers' licences and enhanced identification cards. It's something that SGI [Saskatchewan Government Insurance] and the Government of Saskatchewan, as all jurisdictions in Canada, are working with the Government of Canada and Homeland Security to ensure that there can be safe and easy passage across boundaries on the ground, going forward.

Mr. Speaker, we continue to work with the Privacy Commissioner. He has said that he has additional concerns. We will be addressing those concerns and bringing that legislation back before the House once those concerns are satisfied.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Meewasin.

**Mr. Quennell:** — Mr. Speaker, to quote again from the Privacy Commissioner: "This [Act] leaves the personal information of Saskatchewan residents that may be collected, used or disclosed . . . at an unacceptable level of risk." This is not the NDP [New

Democratic Party] saying an unacceptable level of risk, Mr. Speaker. This is an independent officer of the legislature. He claims that “. . . Bill 72 appears to be silent on the privacy invasive technology that is part of the . . . specifications.”

Mr. Speaker, when somebody asked the minister . . . The question the Privacy Commissioner is asking: why was he putting the privacy of the people of Saskatchewan at an unacceptable level of risk?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Mr. Speaker, once again for the member opposite, SGI continues to work, as all provinces are, with the Government of Canada to satisfy the Department of Homeland Security's qualifications for road passage into the United States of America. In order to do that, Homeland Security has determined that there has to be a radio-emitting diode in the card itself that will enable that passage to work in a smooth and efficient manner.

Every province in Canada right now is looking at how they can comply with that. As recently as last week, I chatted with the minister responsible from the province of Manitoba and the minister responsible from the province of Alberta. We're looking at best practices and how to do that.

We continue to confer with the Privacy Commissioner. We'll continue to do that. He has raised some new concerns and they need to be addressed. It will be done in an efficient manner, and it will be done so in a fashion where Saskatchewan people can be assured that their government and SGI is at the forefront.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Meewasin.

**Mr. Quennell:** — Of course the Manitoba legislation, Mr. Speaker, has safeguards the Privacy Commissioner commends, which this legislation does not. This is typical, what we've come to expect from this government — secrecy and non-disclosure.

The Privacy Commissioner requested and says that he was assured by the Sask Party government that there would be a comprehensive privacy impact assessment, but as of March 5 of this year, the privacy impact assessment has not been done.

To the minister: why did the Saskatchewan Party government tell the Privacy Commissioner there would be a review when clearly the government had no intention of completing such a review? What is the government trying to hide?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Mr. Speaker, SGI, from day one,

has made a commitment to work with the Privacy Commissioner. That commitment was made then. The commitment stands today. Legislation has been put forward. Legislation will be amended, if necessary, to ensure that those concerns . . .

It's an ongoing process, Mr. Speaker. It's something that all jurisdictions in Canada are facing right now and are taking different approaches. We're looking at best practices. We certainly want any input that is possible from the Privacy Commissioner.

I also want to tell the House, Mr. Speaker, that the enhanced driver's licence and the enhanced identification card will be voluntary. It will be up to individuals. We encourage them, we encourage people in Saskatchewan to get a passport because a passport would be something that would cover land travel, air travel, and travel to other jurisdictions. Thank you.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Meewasin.

**Mr. Quennell:** — Mr. Speaker, the minister is correct. The government did make a commitment to have the privacy review. They just did not live up to the commitment. Mr. Speaker, secrecy, non-disclosure, refusing to have a privacy review which the minister says the government committed to do, these are not the actions of an open and transparent government.

Mr. Speaker, the Privacy Commissioner makes one final plea to this government. He calls for public comment and public consultation on this Bill. This Bill needs public input. Will the minister commit today to allow public hearings on this Bill, or will he try to ram this legislation down the throats of the people of Saskatchewan?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Mr. Speaker, we're open to public consultation. Public consultation is not a problem. I remind the member opposite that this is going on in every jurisdiction. Privacy commissioners are working with governments, trying to ensure that they meet the deadlines that are imposed by the Department of Homeland Security. The deadline, for the members opposite, is June 1, and we want to ensure that if at all possible that Saskatchewan residents are able to have a card that will enable them to do that. It's looking less and less likely because of the extreme time frame that things are being under right now.

But I can assure you that this government and SGI will continue to work with the Privacy Commissioner. I am told that he has brought forward some legitimate concerns. Each one will be analyzed and addressed, and before the legislation is put forward we will ensure that they are taken into consideration. It's the responsible thing to do and that's what will be done.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — Before we move to the next questioner, I have been hearing a fair bit of kibitzing back and forth, and more so from the opposition when the minister is trying to respond to the question. I would ask for a little more respect from members. I recognize the member from Regina Walsh Acres.

### Drinking Water for Duck Lake

**Ms. Morin:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yesterday in this legislature we had some very serious questions about providing safe, clean, and affordable water to the people of Duck Lake. While 11 people were getting their water cut off, the members opposite laughed amongst themselves, passed the buck between the Minister for SaskWater and the Minister for Environment, and then tried to blame it all on the town. Later they trotted out the Minister of Municipal Affairs to do a song and dance number about infrastructure programs for which the town doesn't qualify.

To the Minister of Municipal Affairs: when will the Sask Party stop passing the buck and take action to provide seniors and families in Duck Lake with safe, clean, and affordable drinking water?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Hon. Mr. Hutchinson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, from my very first day as Minister for Municipal Affairs, my goal has been to work with our municipalities in a true, strong, and respectful government-to-government relationship, something which has never existed in the past.

This recognizes that municipalities have the right, as well as the responsibility, to make choices about how they will manage their own affairs. I am well aware that many of Saskatchewan's municipalities, including Duck Lake, have serious infrastructure needs. There were, in fact, 244 applications for the very first intake of the Building Canada program.

We provide municipalities with information to help them make appropriate decisions. I know that the Saskatchewan Municipal Board has helped Duck Lake analyze borrowing options. And within the scope of our Municipal Affairs programs, we assist them with funding.

Duck Lake received the maximum grant under the old MRIF [Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund] program of \$500,000, along with unconditional infrastructure funding, and we will continue to work with the town in applying for the Building Canada fund's second intake, which we expect to begin very shortly.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Ms. Morin:** — Well I'm relieved to see the minister knows

about the situation now, given that he denied that knew about the situation yesterday, when in fact the Minister for CIC [Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan] in fact told the reporters that he did.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister for Municipal Affairs talks about this government's infrastructure programs, but they don't begin to cover the needs of Duck Lake, a town of over just 600 people trying to pay for a \$2.3 million water system upgrade.

The minister talked about the Building Canada fund, but Duck Lake isn't eligible. He talked about the municipal economic enhancement program, which might be worth \$66,000 on a \$2.3 million budget. He talked about MRIF, but Duck Lake's share of that money has long since been spent. Water bills in Duck Lake are still more than \$160 a month. And 11 people, some of them families with young children, had their water cut off yesterday, Mr. Speaker.

So to the minister: what concrete assistance is the Sask Party prepared to offer the families of Duck Lake?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — Before I recognize the minister, the request I made earlier applies to the government benches as well. I recognize the Minister of Municipal Affairs.

**Hon. Mr. Hutchinson:** — Mr. Speaker, it's too bad that the Municipal Affairs critic herself isn't in the House today to answer her own questions.

**The Speaker:** — Order. Order. Order. Members are aware that they're not to refer to the presence or absence of members in the Chamber. I recognize the Minister of Municipal Affairs.

**Hon. Mr. Hutchinson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member opposite is absolutely incorrect, by the way. The town of Duck . . .

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

**Hon. Mr. Hutchinson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to correct the member opposite, who has mistakenly said that the town of Duck Lake will not be eligible to apply for the Building Canada fund. We are working with them towards making sure that that in fact does take place. There's a second intake of the fund coming up in just a few weeks.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

[14:00]

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

**Ms. Morin:** — Mr. Speaker, the number of people the Sask Party has left behind keeps growing. A senior has her natural gas disconnected until volunteers step up to pay her bill. An unemployed trucker is forced to burn firewood to keep warm after his power is cut off.

Now 11 people, among them families with young children, have



lost their water service and 20 more are at risk. And the Sask Party tries to spin it all by talking about their so-called Sask-first policy or infrastructure programs that do nothing to provide Duck Lake families with safe, clean, and affordable water.

To the minister: when will the Sask Party get serious about providing meaningful solutions for the families and communities like Duck Lake that are being left behind by this government?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Hon. Mr. Hutchinson:** — Mr. Speaker, there are meaningful solutions available to the town of Duck Lake, and we're discussing that with them as we speak. The fact that the member opposite doesn't know about them simply indicates she hasn't done her homework, which is not new at all.

The real question, Mr. Speaker, is follows: why didn't the NDP do something about this when they knew about Duck Lake's problem since 2003? Here are irrefutable facts. November 14, 2003, emergency boil-water order. They did nothing about it. November 25, 2005, precautionary drinking water advisory placed. They did nothing about it. June 30, 2006, another emergency boil-water order. They did nothing about it. And finally on August 14, waterworks protection order, they did nothing about it then either, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

### SaskWater Services

**Mr. Trew:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The people of Duck Lake probably would like some water to wash down the cake that will come with any announcements the government might make.

Mr. Speaker, SaskWater has a proud history of helping Saskatchewan communities supply their residents with safe, clean, affordable water, and it can be a real challenge. There's over 50 emergency boil-water orders and 140 precautionary drinking water advisories as of last Friday. Mr. Speaker, yesterday we heard what happens when communities find SaskWater simply too expensive.

To the Minister of SaskWater: what is being done to keep SaskWater's services affordable for Saskatchewan communities?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Mr. Speaker, SaskWater's job is to provide safe and reliable water services to communities in the

province at a break-even basis, and that's been done. And that's the policy that was put forward by members opposite when they were in government. That's the policy that was put forward in September 2006 when this agreement was entered into by members opposite with the town of Duck Lake, and it continues to be the process that is followed today.

Services are increasingly costly. It's something that every town and every community in the province is looking at. It's something that I had a chance to talk to a few members about at SARM this morning and it continues to be something that we will look at as a government.

SaskWater will continue to provide this service to people. It's one of many services that the private sector can provide as well. It's up to the community on how they want to proceed. Duck Lake decided to start with SaskWater and decided to proceed engaging the private sector on a go-forward basis.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Trew:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Many communities that need to upgrade their waterworks simply don't have the property tax base to pay for that infrastructure. And SaskWater has to operate on a break-even basis; it can't afford to subsidize communities.

A study conducted for SaskWater by Meyers Norris Penny recommended that it pursue new industrial customers to diversify its revenue streams. But we're told this potential revenue stream is drying up because the Sask Party won't allow SaskWater to go after new industrial customers. Mr. Speaker, can the minister explain why the Sask Party is ignoring those recommendations of Meyers Norris Penny and depriving SaskWater of the opportunity it needs to raise revenue to make those services to communities affordable?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Mr. Speaker, the firm of Meyers Norris Penny was engaged to do a review of SaskWater when we became government. We received that review just a little while ago. And it's under consideration, and it will be done so to provide service.

The whole reason of having the review is to address the very fact of what the hon. member mentioned earlier, the hon. minister: that nothing was done in 2003; nothing was done in 2004; nothing was done in 2005. In 2006, agreements were entered into like they were with the town of Duck Lake.

Mr. Speaker, yes, we have an infrastructure deficit, whether it's highways, whether it's hospitals, whether it's SaskPower or whether it's SaskWater. That's what we were left with by the members opposite. That's what we will continue to address. We will engage companies like Meyers Norris Penny to assist us in doing so.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Trew:** — Mr. Speaker, there are real consequences for communities that are desperately in need of safe, clean, affordable drinking water. And we are concerned that there are many other communities that will find themselves just like Duck Lake — simply not able to afford SaskWater services. And yet the government persists in ignoring the Meyers Norris Penny recommendation — in fact directing SaskWater not to go after it, not to develop other industrial customers to make the water more affordable for the communities that need SaskWater services.

To the minister: will he reverse this short-sighted decision? Will he give SaskWater the authority it needs to seek out new clients and to find revenue streams so it can provide safe, affordable, clean water for the Saskatchewan communities?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can assure the member opposite that the Meyers Norris Penny analysis will be given full consideration and we'll be looking forward on how we can provide water in a safe and reliable fashion. It's the focus of SaskWater. It's what SaskWater should be doing. And that's what they will be doing under this government. Not like members opposite, what SaskWater was doing — \$35 million loss under SPUDCO [Saskatchewan Potato Utility Development Company].

Mr. Speaker, it's a serious matter. Mr. Speaker, it's something that SaskWater ... The problems, the problems that the member opposite talks about today did not start today. They started many years ago and they haven't been addressed. Mr. Speaker, that's what needs to be done. We will clean up the mess. We will make sure that people get the services they need.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

### SaskTel Operations

**Mr. Calvert:** — Mr. Speaker, my question is also to the Minister Responsible for the Crown Investments Corporation. Mr. Speaker, this government has been asked at least three times since January to provide Saskatchewan people with the name of the company that the Sask Party has chosen to outsource SaskTel teleconferencing services to. On every occasion the question has not been answered. I ask it again.

To the Minister of CIC: which company has received the contract for the outsourcing of SaskTel conference calling? What is it that he is trying to hide here?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Mr. Speaker, there are 17 companies that were in contact with SaskTel — 12 were outside of Saskatchewan, five were inside Saskatchewan. SaskTel is in the process of contacting all companies to see which ones will allow their names to be released. I'm told in Saskatchewan three have said that they will agree to it and two have said that they will not. Thanks.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Calvert:** — Just to be clear, the question is the outsourcing of SaskTel teleconferencing, not the email services. We have been told that the teleconferencing has already been outsourced. The question is, to whom?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have that information at the present time. I will undertake to get that information. I don't have it at this time.

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

**Mr. Calvert:** — Mr. Speaker, this question was put to the president of SaskTel back in January. It's been asked now three or four or five times now in the House. How can the minister stand in his place and say he does not have the answer? What is he trying to hide, Mr. Speaker?

My further question has to do with issues being raised yesterday about the phone book. Mr. Speaker, when transactions are done, according to the Premier, they are following the procedures and processes established by the former government. Part of that process, Mr. Speaker, was to demand independent, third party analysis of every significant transaction. My question to the Minister of CIC: was independent, third party analysis completed on the transaction involving EZ pages?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Mr. Speaker, the investment that SaskTel entered into under the NDP government lost money from day one. It was a \$13.4 million investment. It has cumulative losses, aggregated losses of some \$3.3 million. It was losing money in the amount of 50 to \$60,000 a week. The decision was made to divest of that deteriorating asset. It was done. All prospective purchasers were canvassed. One came forward with a purchase plan. That plan was accepted.

Yes, thank goodness for the people of Saskatchewan that that loss will not be \$13.4 million as it would have been under an NDP government. We ensured that we got as many taxpayers'

dollars as we could.

Mr. Speaker, yes, it was not a good investment to enter into. It was one that members opposite chose to enter into and is one that this government will not be entering into going forward.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Calvert:** — Mr. Speaker, yesterday in this House, the Premier of Saskatchewan said to this legislature:

There's a public policy process in place we've inherited from the previous administration on significant transactions. We follow that same process today.

I'll give the minister another opportunity to answer the question. Was an independent, third party analysis completed on the transaction?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Crown Corporations.

**Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Mr. Speaker, to be clear, \$13.4 million was entered into by members opposite; \$13.4 million would have been lost if this sale was not made. Mr. Speaker, any dollar that was made on this transaction was better than having a situation where it . . .

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — Members may not agree with the answer, but I think the minister has the right to at least respond to the question without significant interference. The minister may finish his answer.

**Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. SaskTel did gain \$950,000 from this sale. There was preferred stock options as well, taking the number up to \$4.683 million, Mr. Speaker. It's not the full amount that was invested by members opposite, but it has lessened the loss in this company.

And, Mr. Speaker, that's why we have said that we have a Saskatchewan-first policy, where we will use those retained earnings to invest in Saskatchewan. That's why we're putting up 50 new cell towers in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. That's why . . .

**The Speaker:** — The minister's time has elapsed.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — Leader of the Opposition.

**Mr. Calvert:** — Mr. Speaker, it is clear from the minister's response that a third party, independent analysis was not completed on this transaction.

So then my question is to the Premier: why is it that yesterday he assured this legislature and he assured the people of

Saskatchewan that such analysis had been done, that this process had been followed, when today it's clear from the minister's response that no such analysis has been completed or is available to the people of Saskatchewan?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Mr. Speaker, the analysis was very clear. The value of this company would have been zero if it was shut down because it did not make money from day one. It did not make money at any time through its history, Mr. Speaker, and it continued to bleed red ink.

Mr. Speaker, in no way does that help the commitment to the Crown corporation that we are committed to — the central Crown — to provide service here in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. Yes, from time to time we'll have to deal with these money-losing outfits that the members opposite entered into. But more and more you will see a focus from this government on providing core services to Saskatchewan people. The services that people want, that's the services that they will receive from this government, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

[14:15]

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of the Environment.

### Toilet Replacement Rebate Program

**Hon. Ms. Heppner:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a pleasure to rise today to inform the House about a new program that our government has initiated to help Saskatchewan residents go green. I recently announced the toilet replacement rebate program as part of our government's go green plans. This program will help to ensure the sustainability of our precious water resources. Under this program, the Government of Saskatchewan, through the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority, will provide a \$50 rebate to Saskatchewan residents who install low-flush toilets as replacements for older, less-efficient models.

This program has definitely captured the interest of the public. In the six weeks since the program was originally launched, more than 740 applications have been received and, Mr. Speaker, 36 municipalities have partnered with us to either top up the program, offer a month's free water bills, or distribute information to their own residents. The latest is the city of Humboldt which is providing an additional \$25 for residents who participate in our program.

Municipalities understand the benefits of replacing inefficient toilets. First, there is the potential for enormous water savings. This will ensure the long-term sustainability of our province's water supply. As our province continues to grow, water supplies are becoming more and more important. Secondly, reducing water usage at the municipal level by replacing old toilets will

reduce capacity needs at municipal water treatment plants. Municipalities in some cases may have the opportunity to eliminate or delay expanding capacity and subsequent capital costs.

Over the next four years, we anticipate that 200,000 toilets will be replaced. Since toilet usage accounts for 30 per cent of the water used in homes, making this move to more efficient models will see families enjoy reduced water bills, a rebate, and the satisfaction of knowing that they're helping our environment by reducing water consumption.

This program is really about investing in our water and a greener environment. By the end of the program, residents will have reduced water consumption by 15 million litres per day — that's per day, Mr. Speaker — and we will have reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 20,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per year.

And I know, Mr. Speaker, that the NDP will say that they introduced a similar program. While the NDP did provide limited funding through a one-time \$200,000 grant to the EnerGuide program, the uptake under the NDP's program was dismal. Only a mere \$50,000 was actually expended.

My government is committed to the program that we have announced. We have committed \$11 million over four years. We have mounted an aggressive ad campaign and have brochures and information at municipal offices, as well as distributed at retail outlets throughout the province. I am proud that my government is able to assist residents to go green, and I am excited by the response that we have received so far.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Ms. Morin:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a good program as the minister already alluded to. This is something that we initiated and felt very strongly about as well. But as one can see . . . and as one can see from the uptake of 740 applications being received in the six weeks since the program launch, it is successful. I'm also very encouraged by the innovative programs that many municipalities have introduced in addition.

The uptake of the toilet replacement rebate program along with the additional municipal programs identifies the deep commitment that Saskatchewan residents have to ensuring that our consumption exhibits long-term sustainability and thereby requiring less future financial burden for municipalities and taxpayers by needing to expand capacity.

Also experts are predicting drought conditions for Saskatchewan which makes water conservation much more relevant. In the ministerial statement, the minister said, "This program is really about investing in our water and a greener environment" and a prediction that "By the end of the program . . . we will have reduced greenhouse gas emissions . . ." Well, Mr. Speaker, I question the sincerity of the Sask Party government on this issue.

The NDP investment in our water and a greener environment

was \$340 million. Under the Sask Party government, that was cut down to a \$40 million fund. We initiated a climate change secretariat. The Sask Party government eliminated it. We had an independent office of energy conservation; again under the Sask Party it has also disappeared. We made a commitment to stabilize greenhouse gas emissions by 2010 with reductions in the future which the Sask Party adopted and even put in their campaign platform. But the Sask Party government has absolutely no plan to achieve those targets — none whatsoever. And they have been in government now for over a year and a half.

Saskatchewan residents would very much appreciate the Minister of Environment and the Sask Party government make serious its commitments to reducing future greenhouse gas emissions and other projects that need to be addressed in the province, not the least of which is conservation on all aspects. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### Saskatchewan Rate Review Panel

**Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to inform the House of an important and positive development by one of our Crown utilities. Today SaskEnergy, at the request of the Saskatchewan rate review panel, provided a market update to its April 1, 2009 commodity rate application. This revised rate of \$5.96 a gigajoule represents an overall 21 per cent decrease for the average residential customer.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — That means if approved, Mr. Speaker, homeowners would see savings of \$23 a month or \$276 annually. Mr. Speaker, this is the lowest applied rate for natural gas. Mr. Speaker, I want to make sure all members hear this. This will be the lowest applied for natural gas commodity rate by SaskEnergy since May 2003 — something I know all members of the House will appreciate.

I think it is important, Mr. Speaker, to recognize that this is part of the independent review process. The members of the Saskatchewan rate review panel do outstanding work with their examinations of applications from all of our Crown utilities. The request by the rate review panel made to SaskEnergy shows how panel members understand the volatility of today's commodity markets.

As Minister of Crown Corporations, I am encouraged to see the process work as it is designed to do. In this way, we know as government that the recommendation brought forward by the panel later this month will contain the most up-to-date information possible. Others also recognize the important work that this independent panel does, Mr. Speaker. A March 5 editorial in the Saskatoon *StarPhoenix* stated that SaskEnergy's delivery and commodity rate applications in 2008 were vetted and approved by the independent rate review panel.

I would also like to make a very important point, Mr. Speaker. Over the past decade, eliminating any government rebate program from the calculation, Saskatchewan natural gas

consumers have paid \$90 million less than those in Alberta and \$120 million less than those in Manitoba, Mr. Speaker. The panel continues to work with our Crowns to make the rate review process better.

Mr. Speaker, the current SaskEnergy commodity rate application is based on a 12-month market projection, something asked for by the panel.

And, Mr. Speaker, in closing, I commend the professionals at our Crown utilities for the work that they do providing services to the people of Saskatchewan and I thank the members of the Saskatchewan rate review panel for their due diligence and independent oversight in reviewing applications and providing solid recommendations to this Saskatchewan Party government. Thank you.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Trew:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the minister for a copy of his ministerial statement that he provided in advance. The good news is the rate payers at SaskEnergy throughout Saskatchewan will be receiving a rate reduction.

The bad news is, Mr. Speaker, it is far too little, far too late. No amount of spin from the Sask Party government will cover the effects of the gross overcharging that was done this winter starting October 1 and all through the coldest months of the heating season. Saskatchewan consumers — all through the longest, coldest winter we've had in many years — Saskatchewan SaskEnergy residents were paying the highest rate for natural gas in Canada — full stop, period. And no amount of spin changes that fact, Mr. Speaker.

I note that the minister referred to this request as bringing SaskEnergy's rates to the lowest since May 2003. So I did some real quick checking, and on the Henry Hub, the price of natural gas today is 4.17; in May of 2003 it was \$6.54. That's the price SaskEnergy buys from, or it's related to the price that SaskEnergy purchases gas at. It's more than half again more in 2003 than it is today.

So no amount of spin covers the fact that they've gouged Saskatchewan consumers all through the coldest winter. They should've reduced the rates May 1 or even before that. It's a shame that this Sask Party government has gouged Saskatchewan consumers all winter long, and they continue to do so.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — Order.

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

##### **Bill No. 80 — *The Construction Industry Labour Relations Amendment Act, 2009***

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

**Hon. Mr. Norris:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that Bill No. 80, *The Construction Industry Labour Relations Amendment Act, 2009* now be introduced and read for a first time.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Minister of Advanced Education, Employment and Labour that Bill No. 80, *The Construction Industry Labour Relations Amendment Act, 2009* be now read the first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Agreed. Carried.

**Clerk:** — First reading of this Bill.

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

**Hon. Mr. Norris:** — At the next sitting of the House, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — Next sitting.

#### PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

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

##### **Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice**

**Mr. Kirsch:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report that it has considered certain estimates and to present its sixth report. I move:

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

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Chair of the Intergovernmental Affairs Committee:

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

Is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Agreed. Carried.

I recognize the Acting Chair of the Human Services Committee.

### Standing Committee on Human Services

**Mr. Allchurch:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Human Services 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 Human Services now be concurred in.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Acting Chair of the Human Services Committee:

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

Is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Agreed. Carried.

### STATEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

#### Ruling on Bill No. 604 – Requirement for Royal Recommendation

**The Speaker:** — Before orders of the day, the Speaker has a ruling regarding Bill No. 604. It is the Speaker's duty to review all Bills in respect to rule 65 of the *Rules and Procedures of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan*. This rule states in part that any Bill which proposes:

. . . any new or additional charge upon the public revenue or upon the people . . . shall be recommended to the Assembly by Message of the Lieutenant Governor before it is considered by the Assembly.

This rule is fundamental to our constitution as it observes the parliamentary principle of the Crown initiative in financial matters, including accountability for all public expenditures and initiating legislation that imposes additional charges upon the public. The practice in this Assembly is for Bills to be introduced and read the first time with their further progress being contingent upon the Speaker affirming that they are in order. I have now had the opportunity to review Bill 604.

On December 4, 2008, Bill No. 604, *The Professional Public Service Employees Protection Act* was introduced by the member from Regina Dewdney. This Bill is presently standing on the order paper for second readings under the heading, private members' public Bills and orders, item no. 2 on page 5 of the order paper. The issue that I must address is whether Bill 604 contravenes the parliamentary principle of the Crown initiative in financial matters.

[14:30]

Clauses 3(1) and (2) of Bill 604 makes the provisions of the Act applicable to a majority of Saskatchewan public service and Public Service Commission employees.

Further, clause 5(2) requires that upon termination of the employment of any employee to whom the Act applies for any reason other than just cause, the employee is entitled to severance in the amount of 24 months salary.

Clause 7 of the Bill specifically binds the Crown. Given the wide ambit of the Act, coupled with the size of public service and the other entities covered by the Act, the obligation of the government for the cost would be significant to the point where it would be a new and additional charge upon the public revenue.

It is stated in Erskine May, page 882-883, 23rd edition, that:

If there is any doubt on the matter and it appears that the new proposal may entail an extension of previously enacted purposes of expenditure or an increase in the expenditure *potentially* liable to be incurred in pursuit of such a purpose (see pp 886-887), a Money resolution will be required.

And further that “. . . whereby the Crown would incur a liability or a contingent liability payable out of money to be voted by Parliament” requires a royal recommendation.

I would also refer members to the ruling of the Speaker on May 6, 1998 where it was ruled that a Bill seeking to provide compensation to certain individuals with hepatitis C was ruled out of order as it would have required an expenditure of public funds requiring the royal recommendation.

Similarly, on June 12, 2001 the Speaker ruled that the creation of a justice system review commission clearly constituted an expenditure of public funds requiring the royal recommendation.

For these reasons, I find that Bill No. 604 requires a recommendation from the Lieutenant Governor. The member from Regina Dewdney is not a member of Executive Council; therefore, I must rule that the said Bill is out of order and will be removed from the order paper.

### 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 questions 184 through 252.

**The Speaker:** — Questions 184 through 252 tabled. I recognize the Government House Leader.

**Hon. Mr. Gantefoer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In order to allow the standing committees on Crown and Central Agencies, and the Economy to do their important work, I move this House do now adjourn.

**The Speaker:** — The Government House Leader has moved this House adjourn in order to facilitate the workings of legislative committees. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

[The Assembly adjourned at 14:33.]





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# GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN CABINET MINISTERS

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**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  
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**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

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Minister Responsible for Immigration  
Minister Responsible for the Workers'  
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**Hon. Lyle Stewart**  
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**Hon. Christine Tell**  
Minister of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport  
Minister Responsible for Capital City Commission