



SECOND SESSION - TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

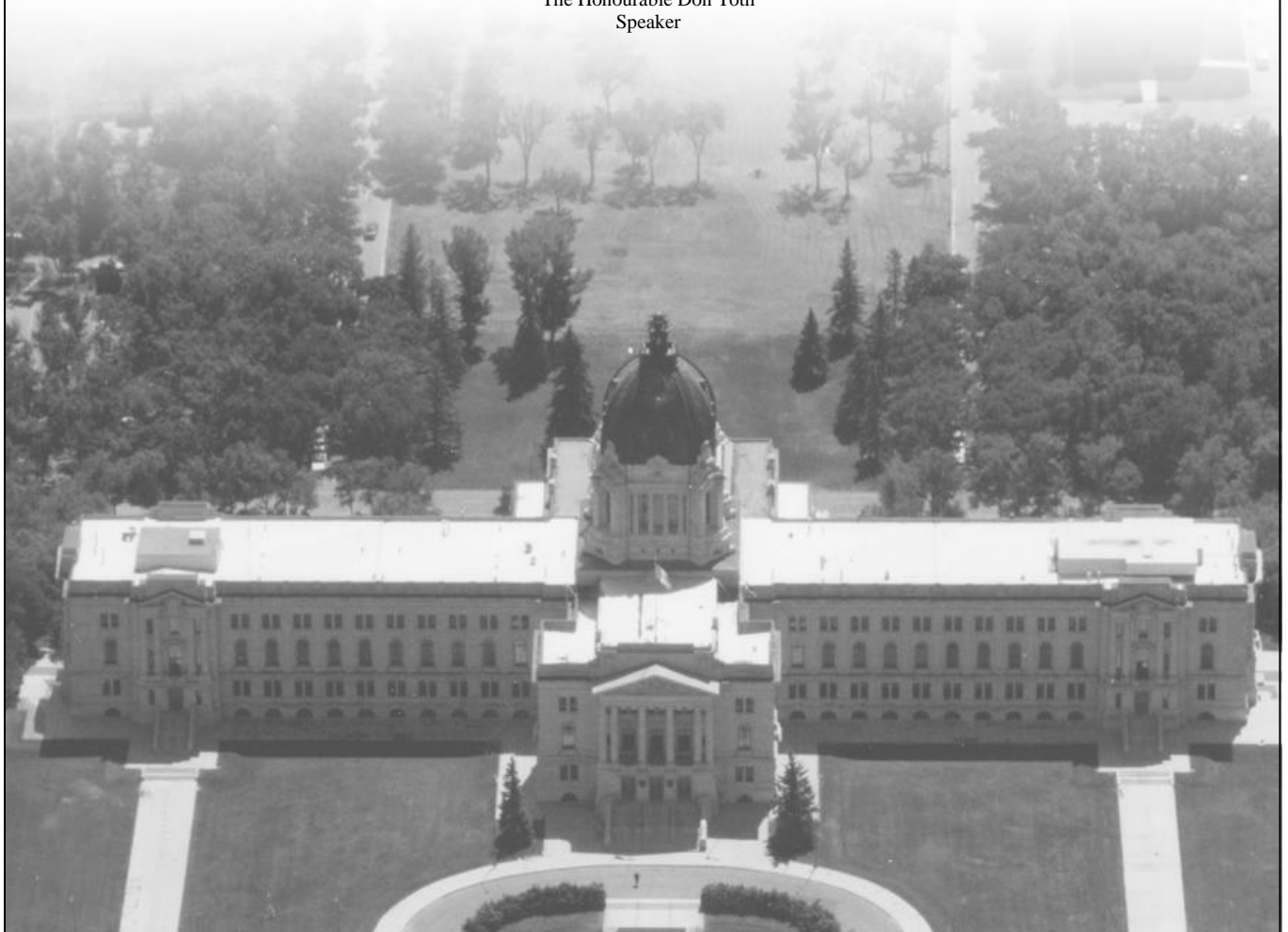
of the

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
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 Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to introduce to you and then through you to all members of this Legislative Assembly, someone who is no stranger to Saskatchewan, someone who is no stranger actually to this Legislative Assembly. They are staff of the consulate office, the US [United States] consulate office in Calgary, together with the Consul General.

And I'll introduce all of them if I may. Joining Gwen Jacobson from our protocol offices, Michelle Cook from public affairs of the US consulate. Danny Fennell has also joined us. He is the deputy principal officer. And then Tom Huffaker is here, our Consul General from the United States stationed in Calgary, and responsible for relations with Alberta, Saskatchewan, and the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, I want to just point out that Tom has been serving in this capacity since 2006 and has served very, very well both for, obviously for his citizens — for the citizens of the United States of America — but he has been a friend to Western Canada. He has been a friend to Saskatchewan and has made sure that there has been progress on a number of important files, trade issues between our two countries that are particularly important to us here in Saskatchewan, and I would say to those rest of the residents of Western Canada.

He is on a bit of a farewell tour. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, he's going to be moving on to other things. The good news is that Canada gets to keep him. He's going to be joining CAPP, the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, and performing very important work there. So we're grateful that he's going to be remaining in Canada, continuing to work on very important issues of energy and the environment for the entire continent.

But, Mr. Speaker, it is a chance for us to say today, to Tom, thank you for what you have done, representing your country here, but also furthering Western Canadian interests in a North American context. Mr. Speaker, may I ask that all would join with me in welcoming Tom to the Legislative Assembly today, and to his staff as well.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Atkinson: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the official opposition, I want to welcome Mr. Huffaker to the legislature once again, and to thank him for the work that he's done on behalf of the citizens in the United States, but also citizens that live here in the province of

Saskatchewan. We've been mutual beneficiaries because of the work that has been done between our respective jurisdictions.

On behalf of the opposition, we want to wish you well in your new job with CAPP. CAPP is a group of people that regularly meets with members of the legislature, and I think we appreciate, as all members of the legislature, having that kind of informed discussion. So once again, thank you for your work, and good luck.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Wascana Plains.

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Mr. Speaker, I'm very pleased to rise today and introduce to you and through you to the members of the Legislative Assembly a constituent of Regina Wascana Plains who is here today with her team, seated in the Speaker's gallery.

I'm very pleased to welcome Joyce Tourney, a well-known and very successful business person right here in Regina. Although she was originally from the Govan area, Joyce has made Regina her home since the 1970s and some years afterwards she began working with the Re/Max Realty organization. She hasn't looked back since then, Mr. Speaker, and has grown her business tremendously, receiving numerous awards which you will hear about later.

With Joyce are the members of her team, and I'm happy to introduce them to the Legislative Assembly. Please rise as I mention your name: Don Tourney, Leanne Tourney, Scott Predenchuk, Meriel Gordon, Dianna Malhiot, Nancy Polvi, Corrine Boivin-Englund, Natasha Blaisdell, Craig Adam, Debra Duncan, Sylvia Sanderson, Elyse Gusway, Regan Tate, Gail Herreman, and Kim Mitchell.

I ask the hon. members to join me here today in welcoming the Joyce Tourney team.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Kindersley.

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this afternoon we're joined by some special guests in your gallery, representing the Idaho National Laboratory, folks that have come to Saskatchewan today. There are three gentlemen, Michael Hagood, Harold McFarlane, and J.W. Bill Rogers. They all represent the Idaho National Laboratory.

The laboratory does a lot of work with respect to energy and environmental sectors, addressing aspects of renewable fossil and nuclear energy. They are in Saskatchewan today to do some business with the province of Saskatchewan. We're looking forward to collaborating with them, Mr. Speaker, in a number of areas of important research in terms of energy supplies for the people of Saskatchewan.

So ladies and gentlemen, and members of the legislature, I'd ask you to welcome our special guests from Idaho to

Saskatchewan and to the Legislative Assembly.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my pleasure to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Hon. Assembly, Dr. Tom Porter. Tom works within the office of the vice-president research at the University of Saskatchewan. Along with his delightful wife, Dr. Sarah Hillis, their daughter Maria, and sons, Sam and Ben, they together contribute to our community and to our fine province of Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, I'll ask all members to join me in welcoming Dr. Porter to his Assembly.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Toth: — Members, as well it's my pleasure to introduce a group of young people who've joined us, sitting in the Speaker's gallery — seven grade 7 and 8 students from Cowessess Community Education Centre. They're joined by their teacher, Ann Dusterbeck and Warren Daniels, teacher's assistant. I had the privilege of meeting with them a few short moments ago, and I invite members to join with me in welcoming these young students to their Legislative Chamber.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Today I present a petition calling for wage equity for CBO [community-based organization] workers. We know these workers in community-based organizations, the result of low wages result in high staff turnover and subsequent lack of caregiver continuity. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to read the 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 petitioners, Mr. Speaker, come from a wide range of communities throughout the province including Regina, Montmartre, Fort Qu'Appelle, Lumsden, Silton, Buena Vista, Moosomin, and Pleasantdale, Saskatchewan.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased today to rise and present a petition in support of a new Saskatchewan Hospital in North Battleford. Mr. Speaker, the petitioners note that Prairie North Regional Health Authority

has indicated that construction of a new hospital is a priority and has committed the resources to develop preliminary facility and site plans.

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, this petition is signed by residents of The Battlefords and surrounding area.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Before I move on, earlier in the afternoon I explained to the students a little bit about how the Assembly works, and unfortunately the members haven't let me down. So I've asked the members to pay a little more attention as the other members are on their feet.

I recognize the member from Saskatoon Massey Place.

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to stand today and present a petition in support of the expansion of the graduate retention program here in Saskatchewan. 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 students from the University of Regina and the University of Saskatchewan. 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 a needed reduction in the portion of education property taxes. This is needed by Saskatchewan families and business who are particularly affected by the impacts of reassessment here in 2009. The petition 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, Mr. Speaker, these are signed by concerned citizens here in Regina. I so present.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition to repair Highway 135 that runs through Pelican Narrows, Saskatchewan. This petition is signed by leadership and community members of Pelican Narrows First Nation, the village of Pelican Narrows and area. The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to pave seven kilometres of Highway 135 through the community of Pelican Narrows, as committed on August 24, 2007.

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

And it is signed by good citizens of Pelican Narrows.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cut Knife-Turtleford.

St. Patrick's Day

Mr. Chisholm: — Mr. Speaker, today is St. Patrick's Day, don't you know. It's on this day that we celebrate the patron saint of Ireland. While it's not an official holiday here in Saskatchewan, it is of course widely observed as a time of fellowship, merriment, and green beverages. I would like to note that I made arrangements at my mother's nursing home for her to be able to watch today's proceedings, as I myself am proud to be of both Irish and Scottish descent, the Irish heritage coming from my mother's side of the family.

Mr. O'Speaker, my great-grandparents emigrated to this country from Ireland and settled in Ontario. My grandparents chose to go west and were among the early settlers of this province. Mr. Speaker, when I think about the trek my grandparents made to the Prairies, I am often reminded of a specific line from a popular Irish toast, "May the wind be at your back."

Mr. Speaker, I think this line is relevant not only to the story of my grandparents, but also of Saskatchewan today. In this province we are looking forward to the future with the wind at our backs — just like my grandparents so many years ago. They were filled with optimism and anticipation for their future, just as we are today in Saskatchewan.

I encourage members of this Assembly to join me in recognizing this important day. And I will end with, "May you be half an hour in heaven before the devil knows you're dead."

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Air Cadets Participate in Interprovincial Exchange

Ms. Higgins: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure to rise today to recognize the air cadets of Moose Jaw's No. 40 Snowbird Squadron. In February the group of young cadets travelled to Pictou County, Nova Scotia for a five-day exchange visit with air cadets of the Chisholm Squad in Westville.

The excursion was part of an interprovincial exchange program developed to allow cadets to gain cultural perspectives by visiting peers in other parts of Canada. The group experienced a diverse itinerary that emphasized aspects of citizenship and cross-cultural exchange. They toured museums, Pier 21 in Halifax, and even a maple syrup processing operation.

It was a wonderful opportunity to experience the differences in cultural, topography, and history between the Maritimes and the Prairies. I know the cadets enjoyed this experience and gained much knowledge from their adventure in Nova Scotia. Ryan Johnson, commanding officer of the Moose Jaw cadets, saw the experience as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the participants.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members join me in congratulating Cathie McIntosh, commanding officer of the No. 40 Snowbird Squadron, and all the cadets who were able to take part in this exchange program. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

[13:45]

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

Canadian Oval Sled Dog Championship Derby

Ms. Wilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This past weekend I had the pleasure of attending the 13th annual Canadian Oval Sled Dog Championship Derby sponsored by the Candle Lake oval sled dogs. The event was held at Minowukaw Beach at Candle Lake.

Like last year, I had the pleasure of racing as a dignitary. It was a lot of fun holding on to the sleigh, and I recommend it to all members if they have not had the experience. It's a very healthy sport that allows you to take in the great outdoors at the same time. It was a close one, but I tied Candle Lake Mayor Nick Toporowski in the celebrity two-dog race. Those hard-working dogs are amazing athletes, and I was lucky to have the chance to spend this weekend with them, despite the blizzard conditions.

I would like to thank renowned sled dog musher and dog breeder Jim Tomkins of Christopher Lake who helped organize

the event. Big thanks also goes out to Stewart and Louise Elliot who are two of the volunteers that help make this such a successful event. We enjoyed the banquet of stew and biscuits prepared by Minowukaw Lodge. And I can't wait for the opportunity to defend my title again next year. So, mush. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Brain Awareness Week

Ms. Junor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A mind is a beautiful thing and it is so easily taken for granted. Brain Awareness Week is an annual celebration that gives us the opportunity to focus on what a marvellous thing the brain is and the importance of keeping our brains healthy.

Brain Awareness Week began in 1996 and brought together diverse groups from academia, government, professional, and advocacy groups and united them with a common theme — that brain research is the hope for treatments and preventions and possibly cures for brain diseases and disorders. It has since evolved into a powerful global initiative, and every year between March 16 and 22, hundreds of public events and activities worldwide bring the excitement of scientific progress out of the science and medical lab and into the community.

Brain Awareness Week gives us the chance to focus on the impact that brain research can have on our everyday lives and on our overall health. During Brain Awareness Week, campaign partners, as diverse as they are, share one thing in common — the desire to convey the wonders of the brain and nervous system and the far-reaching influences and outcomes of neuroscience research to the public through exciting and innovative activities. These include open days at neuroscience laboratories, museum exhibitions, lectures, workshops, and displays at malls, libraries, and community centres.

I welcome all members of the Assembly to recognize and take note of Brain Awareness Week and its impact on all residents of Saskatchewan. And, Mr. Speaker, to everyone: protect yourself and your families from one of the common causes of brain injuries. Wear a bike helmet.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Wascana Plains.

Re/Max Joyce Tourney International Winner

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise today to recognize a very special achievement of one of Regina Wascana Plains constituents, Joyce Tourney, who is here today along with her team, whom I introduced all of them earlier.

Joyce wasn't with Re/Max for long by the time her business began to take off. Initially she hired a few staff to help out and then more and more came on board as their career began to thrive. Her team now numbers 17 people, most of whom you

see accompanying her today. The team is comprised of eleven residential realtors, one commercial realtor, and five administrative staff. The Re/Max Joyce Tourney team is well known for its professionalism, knowledge, and integrity in doing business, and they have received numerous awards at the provincial, national, and international level over the years.

But the latest award is the most prestigious, Mr. Speaker. At the Re/Max International Convention in Las Vegas on March 4 of this year, Joyce Tourney and her team received the top honour possible to achieve from Re/Max. The award was presented to Joyce for being the number one team in the world against 70 countries and 100,000 sales associates. The award recognizes the highest dollar volume earned by a team within a year. This is particularly significant in view of Regina's size and with housing prices that are considered quite low.

Joyce Tourney and her team are representative of the outstanding business people and entrepreneurs that Saskatchewan produces. Our congratulations to you and your team. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

SIGA Wins 2009 National Award in Governance

Mr. McCall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in the House today to recognize the Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Association. Throughout the past few years SIGA [Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Association] has been recognized across Canada for its excellence in governance, hiring practice, and business vision. And February 10, 2009 saw SIGA receive the top award for the non-profit sector at the Conference Board of Canada/Spencer Stuart 2009 National Awards in Governance.

This is a very prestigious award, Mr. Speaker, and this year's victory follows on the heels of a good showing last year by SIGA when they lost out to the eventual winner, Mountain Equipment Co-op. This award adds nicely to a number of other recent achievements by SIGA, such as winning the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce Achievement in Business Excellence, being recognized by *Maclean's* magazine as one of the top 15 employers in Saskatchewan, and for winning the 2007 *SaskBusiness* magazine's Business of the Year Award.

Mr. Speaker, there have been a lot of things said about SIGA in this Assembly over the years, so let me add these words of congratulations to that record.

For winning the 2009 Conference Board of Canada/Spencer Stuart National Award, I ask this House to join me in congratulating Chairman Ray Ahenakew and the SIGA board, and CEO [chief executive officer] Zane Hansen, and all the staff and management at SIGA.

[The hon. member spoke for a time in First Nations languages.]

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Provincial Boys' Curling Championships

Mr. Bradshaw: — Mr. Speaker, on March 5, 6, and 7, Carrot River was honoured to host the provincial high school boys' curling championships, and I was privileged to attend and speak at this occasion. The Saskatchewan High Schools Athletic Association event is held annually at different locations throughout the province. The competition is a combined effort of the provincial SHSAA [Saskatchewan High Schools Athletic Association] board and the host high school.

Over 200 people were in attendance for this event, which featured 16 boys' curling teams from high schools across the prairies. Coaches, parents, and fans gathered at the Carrot River curling rink to cheer on their favourite team. Volunteers from the Carrot River junior-senior high school, as well as community members, worked together to make this event a huge success. These volunteers worked as officials, cooks, caterers, greeters, and in many other capacities to ensure the enjoyment of all participants.

Each team was an outstanding representative of their high school and our province. I would like to applaud the provincial champions from Yorkton Regional High School, who defeated Biggar 7 to 6 in an extra end. The member from Yorkton is still drooling and gloating over this, and is rubbing it in to the member from Biggar. Mr. Speaker, I would ask all members to join with me in congratulating the winning team of Yorkton as well as all teams who participated in this event.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Budget Expectations

Ms. Atkinson: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we've heard that tomorrow's budget will contain something unexpected in this time of economic growth. To the Premier: will he confirm that his budget will mean job losses for some of Saskatchewan's citizens?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Well, Mr. Speaker, we are now only one day away from the second budget of this Saskatchewan Party government, Mr. Speaker, and all of the answers to all of the questions will be provided in the fullness of time tomorrow.

But I can say, Mr. Speaker, that it's the intention of our government to work hard to do everything we can do to continue the economic momentum we see that has Saskatchewan continuing to grow at a time when literally no other province in Canada appears to be headed for a period of growth. It's a plan, Mr. Speaker, for the province to continue its

economic momentum, to share the benefits of growth with Saskatchewan people. Most of all, Mr. Speaker, it is a plan that will be achieved within a balanced budget — maybe the only one in the Dominion of Canada, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Atkinson: — Mr. Speaker, in a February 27 news release, the Minister of Finance said that the Sask Party has tough choices ahead of them. Now we're hearing that one of those tough choices is going to be layoffs of public sector employees.

To the Premier: how many Saskatchewan families will be devastated by job losses as a result of tomorrow's budget?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, the momentum I spoke of in my earlier answer — the momentum of the Saskatchewan economy — has meant that at a time, unfortunately, when the nation has shed 86,000 jobs in the most recent reporting period announced on Friday, the province of Saskatchewan, garnering international attention, created 14,000 jobs for the families that she's asking about, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Wall: — In terms of the budget going forward, Mr. Speaker, I can tell you that there are a couple of major campaign platform items that remain outstanding. We've already kept over 100 election promises in the first 16 months, but there's more work to be done, Mr. Speaker. There's more work to be done with respect to a long-term solution on revenue sharing for municipalities, a long-term solution with respect to the reliance on property to fund education, Mr. Speaker.

I think we're going to make some progress towards those promises as well in the budget tomorrow, done in the context of a balanced budget, Mr. Speaker. And I will say this: because of the policies of this government, there will be more jobs in Saskatchewan in the mid and the long term — not less, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Child Care Spaces

Ms. Higgins: — Mr. Speaker, in January two child care facilities closed here in Regina due to financial reasons and the lack of qualified staff. So here we saw 60 child care spaces lost, leaving parents scrambling to find suitable child care for their children. The Premier talks about maintaining economic momentum. Child care supports this, Mr. Speaker.

To the minister: with the fiscal resources of this government,

why is the minister choosing to ignore calls from Saskatchewan parents asking for more affordable child care spaces?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Deputy Premier.

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as has been reported by the media very extensively, the unfortunate incident that occurred here in Regina is something that indeed created a problem. But, Mr. Speaker, unlike what the member just said where 60 spaces were lost, in fact the Ministry of Education has reallocated those spaces. And at the Y an additional 60 spaces were provided.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, not only were those 60 spaces reallocated. We provided an additional 15 spaces for a total of 75. So, Mr. Speaker, that's not less. Mr. Speaker, that's not less — 75 is in fact more than what the city of Regina had before that.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Higgins: — Mr. Speaker, two facilities close and there's another one that is on the verge of closing. And when you look at Saskatoon, facilities up there state — and this is just from seven child care facilities in Saskatoon — the number of families on the wait-list for spaces is 835. So, Mr. Speaker, the 15 improvement really doesn't wash. Child care facilities across the province have told us they receive daily calls from parents looking for available spaces, and many facilities talk about expectant parents looking for spaces already before their children are even born.

To the minister: can families expect to see the minister take this issue seriously and provide financial support and actual spaces for child care in tomorrow's budget?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Deputy Premier.

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, unlike the former government, the NDP [New Democratic Party], who did not recognize that there was a need . . . Mr. Speaker, I want to ensure that people understand that in 2006, the percentage for daycare spaces nationally is 17.2 per cent. That's a 2006 statistic. That is the time of the NDP in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, in the province of Saskatchewan, licensed spaces were available for 5.9 per cent of the children in this province. Mr. Speaker, the worst, the worst in all of Canada.

We recognized that when we became government and, Mr. Speaker, last year, more or less at this very time, we were proud to announce that we were adding 500 new spaces. That government, that previous government was the worst in Canada and we inherited that record, and, Mr. Speaker, we're not proud of that record and they should not be very proud of that either.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Higgins: — Well, Mr. Speaker, I would suggest that the minister look back in his records. The last term of this government: 2,500 new child care spaces created; support for early childhood educators; capital grants for daycare spaces — we did a lot of work. And, Mr. Speaker, his 500 spaces that he announced, he's announced them twice and done diddly-squat to put them in place.

Mr. Speaker, they've put lots of money into physical infrastructure, but they're totally ignoring human infrastructure.

With Saskatchewan having over 15,000 more women in the labour force, month over month, we also have the highest attachment of women with children under the age of five attached to the workforce. But this government is providing no support for working women.

To the minister: does the Sask Party have any long-term plans for child care in this province?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

[14:00]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Deputy Premier.

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — Mr. Speaker, as I indicated in my answers last year at this time and again during this session that we have been in since the fall, Mr. Speaker, there is a chronic shortage of daycare spaces. That government did not recognize it, Mr. Speaker. And in fact for training opportunities, to allow individuals to pursue education, to allow individuals to rejoin the workforce . . .

The Speaker: — I know the minister has an adequate voice so we can hear him at any time, but it would be appreciated if members would just hold themselves back a bit and allow the minister to express his response to the question. I recognize the Deputy Premier.

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And in my non-agitated voice, I will also indicate, Mr. Speaker, that with the addition of 500 spaces last year, we moved to a total of 9,400 spaces in the entire province of Saskatchewan. When we look next door to the east, Mr. Speaker, to Manitoba, they have nearly 30,000 child care spaces for a province that's very similar to ours.

Unfortunately the NDP didn't recognize that for 16 years. Because you know what, Mr. Speaker? They were planning for decline. They were planning for decline. We're going to plan for growth, Mr. Speaker. And I just tell the member opposite, stay tuned to tomorrow.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

Support for the Forestry Industry

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, with NorSask mill in Meadow Lake shutting down this past Sunday, we need to plan for forestry more than ever.

Last week the BC [British Columbia] government unveiled its long-term plan for forestry. The plan has its critics, but at least it has a plan to criticize, unlike here in Saskatchewan.

The member from Batoche has been leading a task force on this issue since 2007, but we still haven't seen this report. To the minister: did he ever receive a report on forestry from the member from Batoche?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Energy and Resources.

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we all know in the province of Saskatchewan that one of the files that's very, very difficult for the province is the area of forestry. There's no question about it. We certainly understand the challenges that there are there.

The forestry industry in Saskatchewan ships the bulk of its product, lumber products to the United States for the housing market. The housing market in the United States is typically about 3 million houses, starts per year. It's under 500,000 starts today and going down rather than up. So as a result of that, it's resulted in closures all over North America. Saskatchewan isn't the only province that's expecting those kinds of things, experiencing those kinds of things. The challenge is to get the industry working again. We're working with the forestry companies. You will see a plan coming forward before very long.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, last fall the Minister of Enterprise and Innovation said that the sector team for forestry would have recommendations in a month or so. Several months have now passed. To the minister: can he tell us, can he tell this House what recommendations the sector team has made and whether they haven't acted upon them?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister for Energy and Resources.

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to follow up on the last question, the fact of the matter is that, as I indicated, forestry companies are closing facilities all over North America. Weyerhaeuser just closed two more facilities as of yesterday in North America. It's a very challenging industry.

Our plan is to work with the industry as we have been doing. We've been having very frequent meetings with the forestry industry companies. We'll continue to do that, developing a

plan to come forward in a very short period of time. But our plan will result, I believe, in plants opening in the future, and I think you will see that, Mr. Member.

The other thing that we will not do on this side of the House is we will not put at risk \$100 million of taxpayers' money into an industry that every analyst that's out there right now knows very, very well that if you would have done that, if we would have followed through on the NDP plan, that \$100 million would be gone right now.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party and their friends in Ottawa have so far spent less than 5 million to address the crisis in forestry. They've abandoned an important sector of our economy. The families and . . .

The Speaker: — Order. The members from Prince Albert will come to order and allow the member from Cumberland to place his question. The member from Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — Tomorrow's budget is an opportunity to change direction. To the minister: will he take action in tomorrow's budget to deal with the crisis? Will the Sask Party finally step up to the plate and give the forestry workers, their families, their communities the help they need?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Energy and Resources.

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — Mr. Speaker, through the Community Development Trust Fund, the province of Saskatchewan has already committed approximately \$5 million to a number of communities in Saskatchewan, and we will continue to work with the communities. We'll continue to work, as we have, with the forestry companies. We believe that we will see a turnaround in the industry. It's a matter of waiting until the United States' housing starts to improve. But we will see an improvement into the industry and we'll continue to work with the industry players with respect to it.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Tuition Fees

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, in the last few days, students at both the University of Regina and the University of Saskatchewan have been warned to prepare for an increase in tuition fees next fall. The Chair of the University of Saskatchewan board of governors said last week that fee hikes are "inevitable." And yesterday, students at the U of R [University of Regina] were warned to brace for an increase of at least 5 per cent this coming fall depending on the provincial budget.

So far, all students know about the minister's tuition management system is that they will be paying more. To the minister: as a result of tomorrow's budget, how much more will he be forcing students to pay?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to provide an update. Mr. Speaker, when we talk about tuition management, we can talk about operating grants, Mr. Speaker, that in our first budget to the universities went up 10 per cent, Mr. Speaker. We can then look at additional institutional funding, Mr. Speaker, and we can look no further than the construction that's under way in the academic health sciences. Members opposite were long on words. We were fast on action to get construction under way.

Mr. Speaker, then we can look to student loan programs and other student support. Mr. Speaker, we can think about student housing, and then the graduate retention program, the most aggressive youth retention program in the country, Mr. Speaker.

What I can say is a quote from Andrew Thomson, "... anywhere that we've seen tuition freezes put in across the country, they haven't worked," Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, yesterday a study by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives confirmed what students and their families already know. Students are facing increased costs across the board for housing, transportation, and child care. Students know that with the Sask Party in government, they are paying more and getting less.

The study estimates that an undergraduate who relocates to Regina or Saskatoon to attend university will need more than \$16,000 a year and it recommends extending the tuition freeze and providing more funding in the form of grants and bursaries. To the minister: will he accept the recommendations in this report or will he choose to hike tuition and force students to pay more?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Mr. Speaker, certainly appreciate another question regarding student affordability. In 2005, the federal government increased the Canada student loan maximum weekly loan limit from \$165 a week to two ten. Provinces were expected to also increase weekly maximums.

However, the former NDP government was one of only two governments across Canada that didn't do this. In fact, there was no increase in provincial loan limits since 1994, Mr.

Speaker — hardly grounds to talk about student affordability.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Funding for Education

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, the political charade that is the long-awaited report on education property tax will be released tomorrow. Reassessment brings huge implications for property owners this year.

To the minister: does the report contain a long-term solution for education property tax? Will the solution be implemented in tomorrow's budget?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — Mr. Speaker, for over 16 months now this government has been very clear: we need to ensure that there is adequate funding for education. We need to ensure that there is a balance on how education is funded. And, Mr. Speaker, it's no secret that Saskatchewan property owners disproportionately pay the most property tax to fund education in all of Canada. Mr. Speaker, we know that.

Mr. Speaker, as I indicated in the first week of February when I received the report from the member from Rosetown, a report that has looked extensively, that has done very significant numbers of consultations with individuals and associations . . . The member has been to speak to people on the School Boards Association, on SUMA [Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association] and SARM [Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities], and that report contains a lot of good information, Mr. Speaker, that will be very useful in the announcements that will be made tomorrow.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, in the town of Battleford, the assessed value of property has risen by 53 per cent. Homeowners are worried about this and how it will affect the grants for their local school division and how much their property taxes will have to increase to cover the difference.

To the minister: what is the Sask Party's long-term plan for education property tax? Will homeowners be handed a massive increase?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — Mr. Speaker, we've been very clear on what our plan is. In the short term, there was a rebate plan. And,

Mr. Speaker, last year the province delivered \$155 million worth of support to property owners, Mr. Speaker — \$155 million. Mr. Speaker, we recognize that the short-term plan was rebates. And we made the promise, Mr. Speaker, as we campaigned a year and a half ago, as we campaigned, we said that there needs to be a long-term solution that people in this province can depend on.

Mr. Speaker, the NDP campaigned on a promise, one very specific sector, maybe one of the largest sectors in terms of contributions to this province which is the agricultural sector. And you know how much rebate they were going to give agricultural owners? None, Mr. Speaker — not one penny.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, that minister's tired rhetoric doesn't meet the challenges of today. In Regina and Saskatoon alone, school boards will lose more than \$16 million this year through reassessment. Either property owners will be hammered with big increases or the Sask Party will need to respond through their budget. To the minister: which one is it?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — You know, Mr. Speaker, it's only going to be 24 hours till we hear from the Minister of Finance what that report will be.

But, Mr. Speaker, for the member to stand and suggest that he knows exactly how much money will be delivered by way of the foundation operating grant to school divisions, how much assessment will be used, and what kind of calculation will be used — Mr. Speaker, where's the member receiving this information? He doesn't even know what amount of money the grant will include tomorrow, Mr. Speaker. Will it be less than last year? Will it be equal to? Mr. Speaker, he doesn't know that. So I ask him, Mr. Speaker, sit on his seat for another 24 hours and he'll get the answer.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — What this member right here knows is, if that minister doesn't come down with a plan that addresses the problems, he's going to have a train wreck coming down the pipes here this . . .

Mr. Speaker, from the *Radville Star*, I quote an influential columnist: "Let us not forget the Sask Party government has had a better opportunity . . ."

The Speaker: — Order. Order. Member from Regina Rosemont.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Let me quote an influential columnist in

the *Radville Star*:

. . . let us not forget the Sask Party government has had a better opportunity to deliver on its promises than any first-year government. It's the government, itself, that keeps reminding us how great Saskatchewan is still doing . . .

The government may not have a better opportunity to lower property taxes . . .

Governing is all about choices. To the minister: what will he choose? Will he choose to provide the long-term education property tax relief the Sask Party promised, or will he hang large increases on Saskatchewan people?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — Mr. Speaker, you know, we've heard from the NDP in the past how they used to look into a tunnel and there was always a light at the end of the tunnel. They didn't realize that in fact the train was coming at them, Mr. Speaker. That freight train was released by the NDP because they didn't recognize that education should be a priority, Mr. Speaker.

We've seen for seven years of NDP government, Mr. Speaker, the funding for infrastructure, for much-needed infrastructure for schools, total of \$259 million over seven years, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm very pleased to report to this Assembly that in this first year of a Sask Party government, we have allocated \$259 million to infrastructure.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

[14:15]

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — Mr. Speaker, we've made it very clear, we've made it very clear that education is a priority. And I ask the member, stay tuned. Sleep tight. Tomorrow you'll hear the message.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Stopgap rebates are not the solution. This is where they're going. Mr. Speaker, from the same columnist, I quote:

For reasons that the government has not made clear, Krawetz is refusing to release Reiter's options until after the . . .

The Speaker: — Order. Order. Order. When a person's on his feet, sometimes it's not always easy for the Speaker to keep attuned as well when there is so much commotion going on.

I understand the member is quoting. As I heard it, I missed the

comment about quoting. But I would ask members to allow the member to place his question so the Speaker can at least follow the question and, when the minister is invited to answer, to hear the minister's response. Minister of Regina Rosemont.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, from the same column, I quote:

For reasons that the government has not made clear, Krawetz is refusing to release Reiter's options until after the March 18 budget.

This might suggest that Reiter came up with a very good plan to implement permanent property tax relief and — for whatever reason — Krawetz and the government is choosing not to act on it. Or it might suggest that the government doesn't have any plans for long-term property tax relief and will only introduce stopgap measures in the budget.

This is a concern for Saskatchewan people, Mr. Speaker. To the minister: which is it? Is the Sask Party delaying a long-term solution on property tax or have they rejected the report from the member?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the NDP have received a number of reports over time. I can recall the Scharf-Langlois governance study that suggested that there should be a change to how we indeed govern in this province. Mr. Speaker, there was the Boughen report that suggested that there should be a change in how education is funded, Mr. Speaker.

And, Mr. Speaker, there have been other reports that have been done by the different stakeholders in education. The School Boards Association had Ernie Dawson do a report for them. The LEADS [League of Educational Administrators, Directors and Superintendents] association also had a report done. Mr. Speaker, all of these reports have been very useful. But you know, under the NDP, they sat on a shelf and collected dust, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the report by the MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] for Rosetown has been very, very informative. It is very useful and it has guided us in what we will deliver tomorrow, Mr. Speaker. I ask the member to sleep tight and stay tuned.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Order.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Investment in Health Infrastructure

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to say that our government is keeping our promises to strategically invest in Saskatchewan's health infrastructure as part of our ready for growth initiative. Mr. Speaker, on February 2, the Premier announced an additional \$500 million investment in Saskatchewan's infrastructure to provide an economic booster shot for the provincial economy during the global economic . . .

The Speaker: — Order. I have endeavoured through the Government House Leader to mention to ministers that over the past number of weeks, I've been hearing ministerial statements which actually have not been very clear on new announcements, and in fact they've been reflecting announcements that the public are very well aware of. And I just want to remind members and ministers that it's been the policy that ministerial statements are opportunities to announce new initiatives by the government.

And if we're announcing information that's been already announced and is well voiced, that I would consider that as not being a ministerial statement. Unless the minister has something new to add to health care, I would find the statement not in fitting with the responsibility of ministerial statements.

Introduction of Bills. I call members to order. Apparently the Speaker was so intent on making sure members were aware of ministerial statements that he was ready to move on.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of the Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies

Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies to report Bill No. 82, *The Traffic Safety (Volunteer Firefighters) Amendment Act* without . . .

The Speaker: — Order. I recognize the Chair of Crown and Central Agencies.

Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies to report Bill No. 82, *The Traffic Safety (Volunteer Firefighters) Amendment Act* without amendment.

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

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

The Speaker: — The Minister of Crown Corporations has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 82, *The Traffic Safety (Volunteer Firefighters) Amendment Act* without amendment and that the Bill be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 82 — *The Traffic Safety (Volunteer Firefighters) Amendment Act*

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that the Bill now be read a third time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 82, *The Traffic Safety (Volunteer Firefighters) Amendment Act*, 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.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — Committee of Finance.

The Speaker: — I do now leave the Chair.

COMMITTEE OF FINANCE

Motions for Supply

The Deputy Chair: — I call the committee to order. The business before the committee is the supply resolution for supplementary estimates. I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Mr. Gantefoer: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I move:

Be it resolved that towards making good the supply granted to Her Majesty on account of certain charges and expenses of the public service for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2009, the sum of \$725,960,000 be granted out of the General Revenue Fund.

The Deputy Chair: — It has been moved by the minister . . . Order. It has been moved by the minister the supply resolution be approved as read.

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Chair: — Carried. I now invite the minister to

move the resolution be reported to the Assembly.

Hon. Mr. Gantefoer: — I move that the committee rise and that the Chair report that the committee has agreed to a certain resolution and ask for leave to sit again.

The Deputy Chair: — The minister has moved that the committee rise and that the Chair report that the committee has approved to the certain resolution, and asked for leave to sit again. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Chair: — Carried.

[The Speaker resumed the Chair.]

FIRST AND SECOND READING OF RESOLUTIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of committees.

Mr. McMillan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Committee of Finance has agreed to certain resolutions and has instructed to me to report the same and ask for leave to sit again.

The Speaker: — When shall the resolution be read the first time? I recognize the Minister of Finance.

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

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Agreed. Carried.

Clerk: — First and second reading of the resolution.

The Speaker: — When shall the committee sit again?

Hon. Mr. Gantefoer: — Later this day.

The Speaker: — Later this day. Minister of Finance.

APPROPRIATION BILL

Bill No. 81 — *The Appropriation Act, 2009 (No. 1)*

Hon. Mr. Gantefoer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move by leave of the Assembly that Bill No. 81, *The Appropriation Act, 2009 (No. 1)* be now introduced and read the first time.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Finance has moved that Bill No. 81, *The Appropriation Act, 2009 (No. 1)* be now introduced and read the first time. Is leave of the Assembly granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Clerk: — First reading of this Bill.

The Speaker: — When shall the Bill be read a second time? I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Mr. Gantfoer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. By leave of the Assembly and under rule 72, subsection 2, I move that the Bill be now read a second and third time.

The Speaker: — Is leave of the Assembly granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Moved by the Minister of Finance that Bill No. 81, *The Appropriation Act, 2009 (No. 1)*, be now read a second and third time. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Speaker: — Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion? I recognize the member from Regina Douglas Park.

[14:30]

Mr. Van Mulligen: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I just want to say a few words. We on this side of the House will be supporting the supplementary estimates. We concur, the proposals that are put forward. What we do not agree with is the way these expenditures have been characterized by the public because we think the way that these expenditures have been painted, characterized, by the government would be to mislead the public about what the true intention is of these expenditures at this point in time.

What needs to be clear for people of Saskatchewan is what the government is doing. And what the government is doing is taking money out of next year's budget and putting them into this year's budget. And the reason that they're doing that is that they know that if these funds were in fact included in next year's budget, the government would be running a deficit. And that is why the government is not proposing to include these funds in next year's budget.

The Minister of Finance has said, well that's an unintended consequence of what we're doing. We think that's the real reason why the government is doing, because they know that they will run a deficit in next year's budget if they were to proceed, as planned, to expend \$1.5 billion in infrastructure in next year's budget. And they can't do that.

So what's the solution? The solution is to move it into this year's budget where there's still lots of money because of high oil prices early in the year. Then the question is, well how do you characterize it. Well now the government has decided, why don't we call it an economic stimulus, a booster shot for the economy because they know how that has worked for their federal brothers and sisters when confronted with an issue. Just call it something that's topical, label it as such, and the public will buy that.

Well, Mr. Speaker, if this really was intended as an economic

stimulus, if that was the intent, then surely the government would have provided the people of Saskatchewan with some clear analysis, some clear figures about the jobs that would be created because of this construction and because they've decided to advance the spending. In fact the government is not in a position to do that. They have absolutely no idea what additional jobs will be created by advancing these funds at this point in time.

They can't do it in the area of municipalities because they have no idea which municipalities will simply take the money and say, we're going to proceed with the projects we were going to do in any event, and thank you for your money.

They don't know in terms of education. Well in education what they're proposing to do is to advance to school boards, by two months, money that would be received in any event. Now you can argue that's an important thing in terms of economic stimulus, but the government has provided no analysis as to what that means at this point in time.

In terms of health, there's all kinds of funds that are proposed to be allocated to nursing homes throughout Saskatchewan, which came as a huge surprise to many health districts who indicated now they're going to have to do the work as to exactly what they need to do in terms of nursing home construction. And I can tell you, based on that process and where the health districts are at, it's going to take those health districts some years to turn any shovel on any project.

So there's a real question here. Is this simply an economic stimulus booster shot, as the government said it is, or is this simply some sorry attempt by the government to advance money into this fiscal year so they won't run a deficit next year? Stay tuned, Mr. Speaker, because tomorrow people can answer that question for themselves.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion moved by the Minister of Finance, that Bill No. 81, *The Appropriation Act, 2009* be now read a second and third 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: — Second and third reading of this Bill.

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 80

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Norris that **Bill No. 80** — *The Construction Industry Labour Relations Amendment Act, 2009* be now read a second time.]

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina

Lakeview.

Mr. Nilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to speak on this particular Bill, and right off the top I want to thank the government for deciding to consult with stakeholders in this particular matter. And I understand that we will be setting out a clear procedure for doing that, also that there will be public hearings so that people in Saskatchewan will have a chance to hear from the different perspectives about this legislation.

I was disappointed, and I still am disappointed, that these consultations didn't take place prior to the introduction of the legislation. And I know that there are many individuals within the construction industry and within the society in Saskatchewan who do not understand and do not like the present method of bringing forward policy in this government.

Mr. Speaker, people in Saskatchewan are quite used to hearing different perspectives on an issue, and providing their advice and opinion. What they don't appreciate is when something is brought forward in a way that surprises everyone and actually causes some difficulties.

Now in this particular case as it relates to the construction industry, there have been many issues over the decades that have affected how the construction industry is organized in Saskatchewan. And in a time when the economy has been doing quite well and there are many construction projects, to do something which disrupts or sets out of kilter the way that the labour is organized to work with the companies in the construction industry is not that helpful.

But what is especially surprising to me, and I know that probably for many people in the province, we all received a magazine, first edition of a magazine dated spring 2009 called *Building Saskatchewan* — the official publication of the Saskatchewan Provincial Building and Construction Trades Council. And I was quite surprised to read in this magazine, with a nice picture of our Premier, this quote:

Our government believes there's great strength in numbers and the building and construction industry is a prime example. By working together we will ensure that the prosperity and growth in our province are not just fleeting, temporary phenomena but rather permanent fixtures. This magazine will provide a direct link to information for all members and surrounding communities.

Mr. Speaker, this magazine was received with this message from the Premier of Saskatchewan just a few days before the surprise presentation of Bill 80. And I'm not certain if this was part of the plan, there was a bit of a way to disguise what was happening, or if one side of the operation didn't know what the other side was doing or what was going on.

Then you turn over to the next page and here's a message from the Minister of Advanced Education, Employment and Labour with, once again, this rather familiar photograph. And I'll quote again, quoting the minister:

I recognize the important role of the Saskatchewan Provincial Building and Construction Trades Council in

our province's development, and compliment it on the professional manner in which it represents its union members.

I also recognize the key involvement of the Building Trades Council in providing labour representatives from many industry and government boards and commissions, as well as its work fostering healthy and safe working conditions for its members.

Mr. Speaker, in here there's a reference to the professional manner in which something is done. I would say, Mr. Speaker, that how this Bill was introduced and how it was brought forward to the building trades and to the union movement in Saskatchewan was not professional at all. In fact, it was the exact opposite of that.

And I say that because, in that area where relationships are important and need to be developed over the long term, every time you stick your finger in somebody's eye, it causes problems for the long term. And, Mr. Speaker, many of us who have been in this House for a long time know that how we deal with our colleagues in this place on a regular basis either assists us or comes back to haunt us. That's even more so in something like the management and labour relations. And, Mr. Speaker, it was just a real surprise to get this magazine and to get these kinds of comments just days before the surprise of Bill 80.

Now I think it was pretty clear from the initial reaction from the media and from a number of other people that, once again, the government had stepped the wrong way. And it was fairly quickly that they've now retreated and said, let's do some consultation; let's have some discussion; let's end up with a chance to look at this particular legislation here in Saskatchewan.

Now I think that when you step into this area, once again I say, of relationships and how projects go forward, I think it's important to work with all parties before you make changes. And, Mr. Speaker, I think that's where this government has failed. It's not dissimilar to what they did last winter. I thought maybe they would have learned a bit in that particular situation but obviously it appears that they have not.

Mr. Speaker, what ends up happening is that those long-standing chances for people to figure out the give and take as they work together and make sure that you have sufficient of the skills and of all the people involved to build projects, can be then of assistance to the companies that are actually doing the projects.

Mr. Speaker, we know that the project agreements that have been put together on various industrial projects or in some of the provincial government or the federal-provincial government projects have worked very well over the years. And that may be, putting the best construction on it, what the Premier and the minister were referring to in this magazine.

But, Mr. Speaker, you can't with one hand praise those kind of relationships, and the other hand start pulling out all of the supports that allow for that kind of a system to happen. Mr. Speaker, if there are particular issues or particular problems, I think most of us appreciate it when our enemies or friends come

to us directly and talk about that before they start changing the rules. Mr. Speaker, that wasn't done here, and I think it's going to be causing some troubles in the long run.

Now, Mr. Speaker, one of the issues in Saskatchewan over many years, but especially over the last 25 years if I can put it that way, has been the steady erosion of how people are trained to continue in the trades. And this has been quite a difficult process which, with a lot of good work from people from both management side and from union side, programs have been put in place. I'm not certain how this Bill will affect the apprenticeship program. I hope it doesn't damage a lot of the good work that's been done. But, Mr. Speaker, the kinds of fair relationships that have been developed in that area are not reflected in how this Bill was brought forward.

Now I think that what happens any time you disrupt the way that things have been done for a long time, you end up with people that are upset. But when you do that in a way that prepares everybody so that they know that what's going to be coming will be even better, then you don't end up with the same kinds of problems. What happened last year is that we've ended up with Bills 5 and 6, the essential services legislation and the legislation around that, have basically created a high level of uncertainty in our labour environment here.

And this confrontational approach which has resulted in the minister effectively not being all that welcome at most gatherings of important workers in our province does not bode well for the overall economy of the province.

[14:45]

And it's uncertain to those of us on this side who is directing this, because it appears that the minister often is quite congenial and quite able to meet with people when he's given that chance. But there's no question that the kinds of information and the policies that he's been asked to bring forward don't even give him a chance to have those kinds of conversations. That's unfortunate, because we all pay. But especially the workers in Saskatchewan, they'll be the ones that will pay.

Mr. Speaker, all of the people who are affected by Bill 80 are scratching their heads as to why it showed up now. Perhaps we'll get some more answers as we move forward in looking at this particular legislation. It's our hope that we will be able to be part of doing some of that.

But, Mr. Speaker, I would ask that the minister and his staff look carefully at this. And if he's really looking out for the good of our economy and for the economy of the province, he may want to pull this Bill back and reconsider it after he's had a chance to have a discussion with all the parties that are involved. Mr. Speaker, I'd much rather have the positive language that was set out in his letter and the Premier's letter — in his letter to the building trades — rather than this particular legislation and what kind of disruption it will cause.

Mr. Speaker, I know that many of my colleagues will want to speak on this as well, and I move that we adjourn debate.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The member from Regina Lakeview has moved adjournment of debate.

Bill No. 46

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Stewart that **Bill No. 46 — *The Labour Market Commission Amendment Act, 2008*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to stand this afternoon and speak to Bill 46, *The Labour Market Commission Act*, Mr. Speaker. In reading this piece of legislation and in reading the introductory comments made by the minister, the changes that are presented for *The Labour Market Commission Act*, Mr. Speaker, for the Labour Market Commission, the changes proposed do raise a number of questions for us in the opposition.

The main issue, or one of the main aspects of the changes that are proposed through this legislation, is a changing of the number of individuals that sit on the Labour Market Commission — a move from 19 to 11, Mr. Speaker. So that's one important component, the idea that there will be fewer people representing the views and the interests of various populations and of various sectors in the Saskatchewan economy.

Another change that is an important one to note, Mr. Speaker, is how these people will be appointed. And in many of the situations, it will be that it's a cabinet decision, and the cabinet is able to determine who is in and who is out. So, Mr. Speaker, whenever you're making these types of changes to an organization, it's important to ask the types of questions like, why are these certain people being selected? Should cabinet be the group making these decisions? How might that influence and determine the type of advice and input that is given about the labour market? These are certainly important points.

Here in Saskatchewan, I think all members would agree that the interests of the masses of the total population are best served when there's a group of people working together from a variety of backgrounds, able to express a variety of views, come from a variety of histories and stories and experiences, and in a situation where they're able to freely voice their opinions and their needs and concerns, and then to have that information come together in one spot where it can be sorted out, and an appropriate approach and path going forward can be determined.

When we look at the current situation of our province and the financial strength that we've been experiencing for some time, clearly the Labour Market Commission has played a very important role in that, Mr. Speaker. And I know we, as the official opposition, are very pleased with the recommendations that have come from the Labour Market Commission over the past months and years — decisions, Mr. Speaker, that have positioned us well as a province, as an economy, and positioned us well to really, now in a time when we face global economic uncertainty, hopefully in a position that we're well-positioned

to weather things that may be coming our way on the economic front.

But again, any time we're decreasing the representation on the board and changing how individuals on the commission may be selected, that does cause us to pause and ask some serious questions.

We've been of the opinion that the Labour Market Commission has played a very important role and a constructive role and a role that we can thank them for the great work that they have done. These changes that are proposed in this legislation, Mr. Speaker, would cause me to have some questions as to whether or not the government is of that same view and some questions about how these changes could affect the long-term relevance and strength and importance of the Labour Market Commission.

What we see in this Act, another change that's important to know, Mr. Speaker, is the rolling in of the Labour Market Commission into Enterprise Saskatchewan. Now on a number of occasions I've had the opportunity to speak about Enterprise Saskatchewan, back when the enabling legislation was brought in, I guess about a year ago or so, and was able to raise some concerns at that time about the approach of Enterprise Saskatchewan and the wisdom of going down that path. So certainly some of my concerns that I expressed at that time would have a great influence on how I would view whether or not it's appropriate to roll the Labour Market Commission into or under the apparatus of Enterprise Saskatchewan.

What we see with Enterprise Saskatchewan, we've seen talk, Mr. Speaker, and we've seen the rhetoric has been about the suggestion by government members that they were removing politics out of the process. But sadly what we've seen with Enterprise Saskatchewan is actually the opposite has occurred. And the changes proposed here in the Labour Market Commission are consistent with those concerns about Enterprise Saskatchewan.

One case, Mr. Speaker, with Enterprise Saskatchewan, what we've seen is a willingness to take advice when it's convenient and to ignore advice when it's convenient — contrary to some of the earlier statements that were made about Enterprise Saskatchewan, about decisions from that organization being binding. One example was the recommendation that Enterprise Saskatchewan had about school closures. The recommendation that Enterprise Saskatchewan made was not consistent with the approach that the Minister of Education chose to pursue.

So if we see instances where the advice of Enterprise Saskatchewan is not consistent with what a minister or the approach of government in general is on a particular issue, certainly that's a concern when we see it within the Labour Market Commission. For example, if there's a recommendation that comes from the Labour Market Commission and it's passed up through the many cascading levels of sectors and committees and the convoluted path that it might have to take in order to actually be heard, we don't know, Mr. Speaker, at the end of the day whether that's a decision or a recommendation that government will actually listen to. Because from the track record we've seen before on the issue of school closures, we've seen them clearly have a preference for ignoring information when it's not convenient, and following it and saying it has no

government involvement whatsoever when it is convenient. So there's an inconsistency there that is certainly troubling.

Another aspect, Mr. Speaker, that is concerning to me with the prospect of rolling the Labour Market Commission into Enterprise Saskatchewan is the risk of a decrease in its relevance or a decrease in its clout as a stand-alone agency. When it's one of the many, many sector teams that are operating within Enterprise Saskatchewan, it's not clear that to me — it hasn't been expressed to me — that the advice given by the Labour Market Commission would indeed be influential, that it just wouldn't be lost in the paper and the multiplying sector committees that we see occurring through Enterprise Saskatchewan. So to me, it's not a settling issue to have the Labour Market Commission rolled into Enterprise Saskatchewan.

We also have to ask ourselves . . . And, Mr. Speaker, this was similar to some remarks I made last night about *The Trespass to Property Act*. And that is when changes in legislation are brought forward, when the changes are proposed, what is the impetus or what is the . . . Where does the need for these changes occur, Mr. Speaker? And this happens through a process of consultation. Consultation is very important, Mr. Speaker. It's how a government, it's how an opposition stays in touch and in tune with the members of society, the various groups, clearly many of the groups that will be present on the Labour Market Commission.

So when we see legislation coming forward, Mr. Speaker, where all of the representatives of sectors have not been contacted, when they have not been consulted, when a decision has been made in a unilateral fashion from the top down, Mr. Speaker, that too is troubling. And I think it causes a questioning public to ask, why this legislation? Why now? Why is this the appropriate approach to go in this time?

Because as I mentioned earlier in my comments, Mr. Speaker, while there are many aspects of the Saskatchewan economy doing well — and there is a particular strength in a national context and in a global context — there are certainly serious challenges facing us and will continue to face us in the coming years as most analysts, economists, and commentators would agree with.

So it's important that when we have an institution like the Labour Market Commission that has been serving the province well, that has been serving the various sectors represented, has been showing some great leadership, some great collaboration, have demonstrated that they're able to listen to a variety and a broad spectrum of viewpoints and take that information and provide sound recommendations, when we have an organization like the Labour Market Commission that has, you know, a good example of co-operation and has, in many ways, embodied the Saskatchewan spirit of working together, it's puzzling why the decision would be made now in a time of global economic uncertainty to roll that into Enterprise Saskatchewan, to shrink it and to change how individuals find themselves on the Labour Market Commission, Mr. Speaker.

An important aspect, as I mentioned in my comments earlier, the Labour Market Commission is made up of a variety of groups. So we have business groups; we have labour

organizations. In the past we've had members from the social economy as well.

On the issue of representation of labour on the Labour Market Commission, it's been the policy and the legislation up until this date that the labour representatives, Mr. Speaker, are the representatives of the groups that are most representative of the labour organizations. So the individuals who would be part of an organization that would have the backing of the vast majority of labour organizations and be able to speak with a degree of, a degree of clarity for an organization that is diverse and an organization that does have many types of members, represents many types of professions, many types of workers, but is able to speak with a clarity that provides assurance to the Labour Market Commission that they are indeed speaking for the majority, the majority through a representative format.

So when we see a change, Mr. Speaker, in how individuals from the labour movement are represented on the Labour Market Commission, there are some concerns raised. And it ties into my earlier comments about the . . . Where does the impetus for the change in the legislation come from? What is the reason? Why now? Why these changes? Why this situation? And if certain groups have not been consulted to the same extent as other groups, that is a concern, Mr. Speaker, because the Labour Market Commission has been a group that has been an inclusive representative and has been a positive process for our province.

A component that we also see changed with this legislation, Bill 46, the Labour Market Commission, is the elimination of the social economy as a representative from the group. So as the Labour Market Commission has been shrunk to 11 members from 19, as the process for how individuals are selected for the Labour Market Commission has been changed as it would now be a decision of cabinet, as the input process in these changes and the reasoning for these changes has not been open and truly transparent — a similar format or a similar approach that we've seen with other bits of legislation coming forward by the Sask Party government — another critical problem that I see with this legislation is the elimination of the social economy as a group of representatives who would be on the Labour Market Commission to provide input.

[15:00]

Mr. Speaker, when we think about the strength of Saskatchewan society, when we think about the vibrancy that we have in our province, we think of how diverse it is. And we think of how many different types of cultural communities, how many different types of religious groups, how many different types of rural and urban differences we have in the province, how we have so many different types of organizations where people are involved with the social economy — the areas where perhaps they don't traditionally fall under the business category. They perhaps don't traditionally fall under the category of labour, but they fall under a category where there is still a great deal of relevance and importance to Saskatchewan people — the social economy.

And under this banner there could be a variety of different types of organizations and people represented. The one might be representatives who are youth who . . . [inaudible] . . . the

younger segment of society. How might these people involved in different community-based organizations, in non-profits, just active members in their community, what input might these young people have to the Labour Market Commission? What input might they have for the type of future that we want to have in the province? What input might they have for the types of responses needed by government to ensure that Saskatchewan is well-positioned in a time of global economic uncertainty? So I think it's important not to overlook this group which would fall under the umbrella of the social economy.

So as we shrink the Labour Market Commission from 19 to 11, excluding this group could be a potential pitfall and could seriously minimize or decrease the importance of the types of decisions that are put forward by the Labour Market Commission to government to act upon.

So not only now do we have the concern that decisions will be fed up through the system through Enterprise Saskatchewan — which we don't know a ton about and we have some serious questions about and then where we've seen government choose to ignore its own advice from Enterprise Saskatchewan — not only do we have that problem of dealing with the Labour Market Commission within Enterprise Saskatchewan, but we now find ourselves in a position where some of the important voices and opinions that are needed to ensure that Saskatchewan is on stable footing in the years to come, those groups aren't represented. And to me, that's a troubling issue.

Another group that would be losing representation within the changes proposed in Bill 46 would be poverty groups.

So in all times, Mr. Speaker, we as an official opposition believe it's important to hear from and to learn from all members of society. That includes the rich. That includes the poor. That includes everyone in the middle, Mr. Speaker.

The concerns of poverty groups who advocate for and do great work for some of the most marginalized in society and people that would be facing barriers to fully participating in the economic, cultural, and social aspects of our province, I think, Mr. Speaker, it's important to hear from these groups. I think it's important to have their input because the types of discussions that can be had when discussing any given issue with a poverty group, the types of perspectives that they bring forward are unique. As in the same way as it's important to hear from youth and hear from some of their important perspectives, Mr. Speaker, it's definitely important to hear from poverty groups.

So when we see a shrinking of the Labour Market Commission from 19 to 11, if these types of groups and these types of individuals who would be advocating for those in poverty, if those people are excluded from the process of providing recommendations to government through the Labour Market Commission, to me that's a problem. And I know many other members in this Assembly would share that concern.

Another group, Mr. Speaker, within the social economy that I could see as . . . Another group that I would know has certainly contributed a great deal to the Labour Market Commission would be representation from women's groups, Mr. Speaker. Again, not that some of the representatives on the Labour

Market Commission would not be women, not that they would not know many of the challenges faced by women. But I think it's important, Mr. Speaker, to have clear designation on the Labour Market Commission of groups that would identify and bring up and speak to women's issues, women's groups.

Clearly within our society, Mr. Speaker, there are differences that individuals and families face based on gender. There are clear differences in how the challenges that one might face as a woman in the workforce, how they balance family and work. A double standard, Mr. Speaker, that is not fair, that would not always be appropriate, but it's a standard on many issues that needs to be addressed and that those concerns need to be brought forward by women's groups.

For example let's look at the issue of pay equity for similar type of payment for similar type of work. To me that would be an important issue, one issue that the Labour Market Commission would be addressing, would be working into their discussions on broader issues. That's the type of issue, Mr. Speaker, that can easily be lost if there's not someone at the table who has the experience and the insight and the knowledge to speak on the issue with authority and with clarity.

So in the process of downsizing, if we're excluding individuals like youth, if we're excluding poverty groups, if we're excluding women's groups that can speak to very specific issues, very specific concerns, that's a problem because as I said before, we in Saskatchewan, we value the diversity in our population. We realize that we are stronger by working together, and we realize that our future will really be determined by how well we incorporate every type of person living in Saskatchewan.

Within the social economy, Mr. Speaker, there's another group that I think needs to be identified as how, in my opinion, the Labour Market Commission would not be well served by excluding individuals from this group — and that's groups, individuals representing persons with disabilities.

Mr. Speaker, in life there are many different types of situations that people find themselves in, whether it's through birth, whether it's through an accident, whether it's through a circumstance that may be within someone's control or beyond someone's control, Mr. Speaker. There's no doubt, no question that individuals with disabilities have a tremendous amount to contribute to society.

I think back to International Women's Day which occurred I believe it was on Saturday. But on Friday I had the pleasure of attending a luncheon put on by a collaboration of a number of organizations to celebrate International Women's Day. And the topic, the theme which has occurred every year — I think it was the eighth or ninth year running, Mr. Speaker — was examining, looking at, and appreciating the contributions of women with disabilities to our province.

And some of the stories that were shared that day, Mr. Speaker, by the keynote speaker who gave a great motivational talk and spoke candidly and honestly, and comments that I found truly inspirational. Those types of views and opinions need to be expressed around the table, Mr. Speaker, because those people are important.

I know the member from Saskatoon Centre, I believe, did a member statement on that function, and mentioned some of the people that had the opportunity to speak, mentioned some of the people that were recognized as lifetime achievement or recognition awards, Mr. Speaker. And it was a great event. And I suppose with that luncheon, it was a small example of encapsulating actually a number of these groups within the social economy. There was a young person, who was a woman, speaking on issues for people living with disabilities, Mr. Speaker.

So in my opinion, the types of concerns and the type of insight that can be brought forward by people in that situation, it's very important to hear from those folks. It's very important to have their contributions appreciated and to have their contributions incorporated into the decision-making process when the Labour Market Commission makes recommendations. That would be the right approach to follow.

So I've touched on a number of issues, Mr. Speaker. I've touched on how the process of consultation on this issue has raised some flags for members in the opposition and members in the larger public. How we're asking ourselves, what is the impetus for this legislation? Who asked for it? Whose interests are it serving? Who will be the individuals now around the table providing advice? The process by which these individuals are selected, has it been done in order to ensure that the information received is in fact friendly or convenient for government to follow and government to listen to?

I've also talked about how the new process, as to how the Labour Market Commission would be operating, how that's troublesome as to how its placement within Enterprise Saskatchewan. How we've seen alarming instances already in Enterprise Saskatchewan's short life where advice has been given and advice has not been followed. One can think of the school closure example.

By rolling the Labour Market Commission into Enterprise Saskatchewan, are we placing the Labour Market Commission in a position where its bite will be lost, where its relevance will be lost, where its influence will be lost? Are we putting it in a position where it's not set up for success, Mr. Speaker, but it's set up for failure? That is a concern.

And, Mr. Speaker, I've also talked about how representation on the Labour Market Commission is also threatened through the process outlined in this piece of legislation, Bill 46. How by in reducing the board from 19 to 11, how that may present challenges in ensuring that all members from society are heard from and ensuring that all members have the opportunity to have their opinions and their voices heard and to have their input fully realized and implemented into the decision-making process.

When we look at the consultation process that has led up to Bill 46, in my opinion there are a good number of questions and concerns that are identified. When we look at the process that's been outlined for how the Labour Market Commission would now act, Mr. Speaker, I think there are also grave concerns. When we look at the process of representation, how it could now be convenient for government to place individuals on the commission who would have a default position to say in what

they may want to have to be said — an overly friendly position perhaps.

Not advocating an antagonistic position or an adversarial one. But I am advocating the position for the Labour Market Commission where voices are heard with equality, voices are heard with respect, and voices are heard in an honest manner to ensure that individuals who are in a place where they have true value to bring to a discussion about the future of the labour market in Saskatchewan, when those individuals are in a place, to truly succeed and to be appreciated.

So, Mr. Speaker, those are a few of my thoughts on Bill 46, a few of my concerns, and a few of my misgivings about the approach outlined in this Bill. I know a number of my colleagues from this side have had the opportunity to speak to Bill 46, and I'm very pleased to have had the chance to do so myself. And I look forward to more comments because I know many of my colleagues do have concerns on the issues of consultation, proposed process, and proposed representation on the Labour Market Commission.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I would move that we adjourn debate on Bill 46. Thank you.

The Speaker: — The member from Saskatoon Massey Place has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 46. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Agreed. And, members, I neglected earlier on the adjournment on Bill 80 to ask for your approval of the motion. Would the members agree that . . . adjournment of debate on Bill No. 80?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Agreed. Carried. Thank you.

Bill No. 79

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Krawetz that **Bill No. 79 — *The Education Amendment Act, 2009 (No. 2)/Loi n° 2 de 2009 modifiant la Loi de 1995 sur l'éducation*** be now read a second time.]

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

[15:15]

Ms. Higgins: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise and offer a number of comments on *The Education Amendment Act, 2009 (No. 2)*.

Mr. Speaker, this is just a very short Bill, and when you look at the copy of the Bill itself that was handed out, it deals with the minister having the ability to designate schools of opportunity — not the designation per se, but for the minister to extend the school's designation as a school of opportunity for a period not exceeding three school years from the date of the original

designation.

Mr. Speaker, like I say, it's a fairly short Bill. I know that the initial opportunity was for the minister to set a timeline of two years in place for a school of opportunity once the application had been made and approved, and that there was a number of approval processes that had to be gone through even during that two-year time. So obviously there has been some concerns expressed.

There has been some, I would think, some of the schools that are looking at applying for a school of opportunity designation, some concern that the length of time it takes to fill out the applications, do the work that's needed to even make an application to the minister for the designation of a school of opportunity is quite lengthy. So I can see where there would be a preference for a three-year designation — even if there is a number of reviews that are held throughout that period of time — that three years would be more preferable to two.

And I know for a fact that many communities . . . Well the one community that I'm actually more familiar with is Chaplin that is within the Prairie South School Division, and it's just west of my home community of Moose Jaw. And I know that their school has been under review and was designated to close. But I also know that the community has put in a great deal of work and effort to look at the possibility of Chaplin being designated as a school of opportunity.

And I know when I had first met with some folks from Chaplin, we had had a discussion on it, and when the minister had passed the initial legislation, I had gone and looked on the website to see what the legislation stated, how it was laid out. Because the folks from Chaplin had told me that they had actually gone out, the community had put together funds to go out and hire someone to put the application together. So it obviously was a fairly detailed amount of information that the minister was requiring for the designation to be applied.

So, Mr. Speaker, what I did today when I was looking — or yesterday, I guess — when I was looking at the legislation again and knowing that I may have an opportunity to get up and make some comments, I actually went onto the website again and was looking at some of the information just to refresh my memory. And I got a little bit tangled up in the handbook that's posted on the Ministry of Education website. And there's a number of topics in there that caught my eye long before I made it to the school of opportunities section. And I guess I wouldn't mind just going a little bit off track, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and making some comments about the school community councils.

First off I want to say the handbook is laid out very well, and it is a benefit to everyone across the province to have the information easily accessible on the website. And I know that even smaller communities where you may not have access to high-speed in your home, there's always good contact at the local library or the regional library. You can always access high-speed Internet there, so you can have an opportunity to look at some of this documentation if it's of interest to you or if your community is looking for some information and explanations from the Ministry of Education.

So the way it's laid out, it's quite easy to get a sampling of the

information and a quick explanation for the different sections. So the handbook is pretty good itself. And I guess the first piece that I ran across where it talks about roles and responsibilities, and it quite clearly lays out the responsibility and role of the minister and the Minister of Education, the board of education, but also school community councils.

And that tweaked a few memories, Mr. Deputy Speaker, because I know there was some concern for various areas from various areas when school community councils were first put in place. And I know over the last year and a half to two years, on a number of occasions, I have had the privilege of meeting with school community council members or councils themselves right across the province. They have worked very well. And they have given communities that access into the education system, have given them input into their local schools. And it has made a world of difference in many areas for the programs that are being run and the support that the staff at the local school will receive through this community council. So I'm very pleased to see that they have worked out so well.

There was a lot of time and effort that went into making sure that there was contact with the education system for the communities where the schools are located because we know that it is important to have that community connect. But, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the handbook goes on through a number of areas. It talks about school review committees, school staff, what happens, or how the staff of the school under review, what happens there. Staff of receiving schools, what happens there; students, parents, and families, communities.

There's also a section on long-term planning, transparent and open communications which is very important under any of these circumstances, because it does take time but it is so important to have that open dialogue and communications and transparent activities so that families in the communities and the communities can feel comfortable with the decisions that are being made. And it is important, but it is all laid out quite clearly.

It also gives, step by step, the school review process: how the division conducts internal reviews, how a board moves to review a school, what the motions should be, criteria that's established for review, and what notification must be given to the public, and establishment of a school review committee. And these are all important steps leading up to the school of opportunity and this designation that this new amendment to *The Education Act* is referring to.

But, Mr. Deputy Speaker, under the school review process in the handbook it also speaks to the school review committee consults with the community. And it lays out the responsibility of not only the board of education, the school review committee, but also the responsibilities of the community, and feedback to the board of education. So when a motion of consideration for school closure or grade discontinuation is put forward, there is samples of the information that it should contain, what should be done, notification of public, and also the information to parents and school community councils.

And this is important, Mr. Deputy Speaker, because I know there are a number of communities that are again looking at issues of grade discontinuance and school closure. So I know

they will be interested in the information that's contained in the handbook and how easily it is to access the information, and how helpful it will be for them in the issues that they have to deal with.

The handbook also goes on to how the board holds meetings of electors, public meetings, notification of the public, agenda for the meeting of electors, also public representation and submissions.

There's also a section that deals with the transition, looking after people and property. And there's a great deal of upset when you have changes in schools, when you will see closures or grade discontinuance. Where do the teachers go? How is that dealt with? What happens to the buildings themselves? People and property are important in this whole piece and they can't be overlooked. So some clear direction as to how that should be done.

And then finally we get to the school of opportunity. So it lays out what is a school of opportunity. Step one, it has the development of a proposal; step two, consideration of proposal by minister; step three, evaluation of growth; and step four, decision making about the future of the school.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, here we have four short steps that talk about a community applying for a designation as a school of opportunity and having various responsibilities to set targets, meet those targets, meet those goals, and meet the criteria that's laid out by the ministry to maintain their school as a school of opportunity.

And when you look at the handbook, it is some very simple and straightforward information. It tells you what a school of opportunity is, timelines that need to be met, and gives you some key points about the school of opportunity process and what those key points are. So it's not very long; it's maybe about six pages that it lays out. And it gives you a fairly detailed flow chart that shows you the steps they're taking, what may or may not happen, and the flow of the decision making. So what we have here in the handbook is about six pages, I believe it is, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that lays out what needs to be done if a community is applying for designation as a school of opportunity in their area.

And a school of opportunity really is a school that may have a designation of grade discontinuation or be slated for closure. And if the community can make the case that there is a need for their school to remain open, that there is opportunity in their community for growth and for more students and families to relocate there, there is an opportunity for the minister to provide the school of opportunity designation. And it provides funding on top of the regular school division budget, operating grant, that will keep that school open for a period of years.

But now there is a number of . . . And that's what we're dealing with today, how many years is maximum that it may stay open, unless it moves into the criteria that proves it to be a viable school within that division.

But I have to say, Mr. Deputy Speaker, when I went on to the handbook just to give myself a bit of an overview and a refresher course on what exactly a school of opportunity was, it looks

pretty simple and straightforward when you look at the information that's contained in the handbook. But I have to warn people, it is just an overview. It's by no means a detailed requirement of what's needed for an application to the minister to receive the designation of a school of opportunity and that extra funding, and hope for the community that their education centre will stay in that community.

In the handbook, there is . . . a little more detailed on figure 6. And it gives you the minimum contents of a proposal for designation as a school of opportunity. And while it's all contained on one page, telling you what the community must put forward to the Minister of Education for him to have a look, he or she to have a look at the proposal and to make a decision on the designation, there are some very clear targets that have to be met.

So first off, what you need to do, a community has to put forward the grade configuration and what the "Proposed grade configuration of the school for which the school of opportunity designation is requested."

So what grades will be offered in the school where the proposal is being put forward. "[So] the grades . . . [that are] offered may be the same as are presently offered or they may be different."

So it needs to be a decision made by the community; how many families are moving in, what age groups the children are, and what will the needs be of that school in particular.

But there's also a requirement for a school profile:

[An] enrollment history of school since January 1, 2006, [and it must contain a] five-year projected enrolments and the source of this data, number of teaching and non-teaching staff at the time of the review, projected number of teaching staff based on enrollment projections and board policy, information about the physical condition of the school, other factors the board of education used in reviewing the school — as provided by the board of education and the school community council.

So just in that one paragraph, there is a heck a lot of work that's needed for a school of opportunity application to go into the ministry. You have to have the enrolment history, five-year projected enrolments, the data has to be verified and documented, dealing with your staff — non-teaching staff, teaching staff — projected number based on enrolment projections, board policy, physical condition of the school. So we're talking about an assessment of the building and a great deal of work compiling with your community projected enrolments and population numbers for your community. There also has to be in the school profile current peer group size by grade and by gender, average classroom size, cultural and recreational activities, and course offerings by grade as provided by the school.

[15:30]

So as we start reading this one-page assessment or a kind of outline of what's needed in your application to be a school of opportunity and be designated hopefully as a school of opportunity, there needs to be a great deal of work done. There

also has to be a list of businesses and employers, so what you need to do is, throughout the community you need to list your businesses and employers, including their addresses, a description of the primary business of each, and a profile of the workforce of each.

So I'm not even halfway down the page yet, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and we can see that to apply for a designation as a school of opportunity, communities need to have a great deal of work done, and they need to do a great deal of planning to be able to compile all this information. And it's not just works by an individual. It includes the whole community.

There also needs to be future plans and opportunities for business and employers in the community. So what you have to do is, with the support of your business community, there has to be an identification of actual business expansion plans, identification of the forces driving business expansion, identification of the risks associated with the business expansion.

So we're not only talking about the school and the assessment that goes with the building and the staff and the students, but also we start looking at more detailed information that is required by the ministry from the business community and the community at large, also projected expansion of the workforce and any projected change in the profile of the workforce, projected timelines for expansion of the workforce, and projected impact of workforce expansion on the number of pupils enrolled in the school.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, as you can see, working through this very short, one-page criteria, an overview of what's needed for a designation as a school of opportunity, you can only imagine the work that's involved and how more involved the process becomes as we just work our way through the various sections.

The next section asks for a summary of the strategic plan for the municipalities of the school division. So now we're expanding the information that's needed; we're expanding the work that's needed.

"Description of business and community partnerships that will enhance and sustain growth in the community and that will maintain a healthy community." So again we're moving beyond the school itself and the families and the students that are there. We are moving beyond into the business community. Now we are talking about healthy community and what that entails — recreational activities, and it . . . recreational, entertainment.

It just goes on and on. "Municipal infrastructure plans and initiatives to support and enhance growth in the community."

That's also, you need a strategic plan, a summary of the strategic plan, and "Financing arrangements that [will] support full implementation of the plans and initiatives outlined . . . above." So we're not just asking for what-if. We need to have concrete plans that have detail and figures attached to them.

Also the next requirement is benefits of business expansion plans to the school. So then we need to get into more detail. Once we've looked at the businesses that may be expanding

into the future, we have to look at the “Expected increase in the number of preschool and school-aged children in the community,” and also a “Rationale as to why the increased economic development will result in an increase in the number of pupils enrolled in the school by the end of the second school year following the year of designation, and beyond.”

So we’re doing projections into the out years. And also you need the “Expected increase in the value of the school, including a description of the enhanced community and business partnerships with the school.”

Then we get on to a little more detail — like this isn’t enough detail, we need more — description of the data sources and methodology used for all quantitative information in the school of opportunity proposal, and a description of the data sources and methodology that will be used to report back to the minister at 8 and 20 months.

So what we see with that last comment is that even though the community has done this much work, there is still a requirement where they will need to report back to the minister with updated information to see if the goals are being met and if the designation will continue at 8 and at 20 months.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, you can see why there has been an extension requested for the length of designation for a school of opportunity when there’s a requirement for the community to go into a great deal, a great deal of detailed work and information.

But in many cases in these smaller communities, there may not be anyone within the community who has the time for sure to volunteer to do something like this. And I know of one community for sure where they have gone out and the community has put together their own resources to hire someone to put together the information that’s required. So here’s a small community that is trying to save their school in their area and maintain its presence in their community and in the surrounding area, and they have had to go out and hire someone to put together the detail of information that’s required by the ministry.

So it is an onerous task. It’s a task that has taken a fair number of months for, I know, that community. They have raised the money on their own. They have done a number of things in their community as fundraisers and support for the school. It’s ongoing, and it really speaks well of the community and the dedication they have for maintaining a vibrant community for not only the people that live right in this town but also in the surrounding area.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it’s one page, a quick overview in the handbook of what’s needed to apply for a school of opportunity designation. But if you go into the legislation you will also see it’s fairly short. It’s only about one page. But the legislation also gets into the minister’s responsibilities, and it talks about the minister:

In accordance with any terms and conditions that may be prescribed in the regulations, the minister may make grants to a board of education that is responsible for a school of opportunity [this is once the designation has

been received], in addition to any grant that the minister may make to the board of education pursuant to . . . [other sections of the Act].

So if the minister considers it appropriate to do so, he will review the designation of a school of opportunity before the expiry date of the designation and, according to this new review that’s carried out, he may continue the designation of the school until the original expiry date or until any new date set by the minister that is earlier than the original expiry date. So it really is up to the discretion of the minister. And the minister seems to have a fair bit of discretion and impact on the decision of the school of opportunity. But the minister may also remove the designation of the school as a school of opportunity.

So these checkups not . . . Once the original application is made, if the designation is received through the minister for the school of opportunity, the school also needs to maintain a fair bit of information to make sure it is updated, to make sure they are on track with plans, and to make sure that they are carrying through with all the criteria that’s laid out in the legislation.

And there’s a number of other pieces in the legislation that talks about, on expiry or removal of the designation, the minister advises the board of education. And, I mean, there’s all kinds of things that will happen. But there is an end date in mind with a school of opportunity.

So the handbook gives you kind of a quick but fairly intense overview of what the process is and the information that’s needed, and when you go to the legislation it’s even shorter. Well it’s about as long as the criteria that’s laid out in the handbook, but it actually covers a number of various topics that are outside of the section of the handbook.

And where we go to a fair bit of detail, if you go to the regulations in *The Education Act*, part XIX.4, and you will see the “Schools of Opportunity” is a section of detailed regulations that offers minimum enrolment, review of designation, the designation itself — goes into quite a bit of detail.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, there’s also a calculation of the grants in the regulation. That’s been a question I know from a number of people that I have spoken to, how the money that will be paid to a school that receives the designation, is a school of opportunity, what formula is used to calculate the money that they will receive to maintain the school for the period of time.

So it’s all laid out; you just have to do a little bit of looking for it. But I guess my main point out of all this, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is that when we look at the designation for the school of opportunity and extending the possibility of a designation from two to three years, there has been a huge amount of work that has been put into the effort to even make the application by communities, and that work continues with checkups on meeting their goals, meeting the criteria that they have put forward in their application, and, at any time — by my understanding — the designation of a school of opportunity can be cancelled if those goals and criteria aren’t met. So, Mr. Speaker, it’s a huge amount of work for communities. Like I say, the community that I am most aware of has had to hire someone to come in and do the application, do the background work, to meet all of the criteria that’s laid out in the application.

So when the minister puts forward a piece of legislation that speaks to moving the designation or the possibility of designation from two to three years, I don't think there is anyone that would be opposed to that. It's a more appropriate time frame for communities to be able to gather the information. And once the work's done, you need to have an opportunity for communities to be able to build towards the goals and the criteria that they have laid forward.

So, Mr. Speaker, I don't have any problems with the proposal that's put forward in Bill 79, but there are still a number of my colleagues that I need to speak to to make sure that it's not a problem with anyone else, and a couple of people, a couple groups that I have to consult with. So at this time, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would move adjournment on Bill 79.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McMillan): — The member has moved adjournment on Bill No. 79. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Bill No. 9

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Gantfoer that **Bill No. 9 — *The Superannuation (Supplementary Provisions) Amendment Act, 2008*** be now read a second time.]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McMillan): — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Centre.

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to enter into the debate on the Act to amend *The Superannuation (Supplementary Provisions) Act*. I think this one has generated a lot of conversation, a lot of debate in the House. I know some of my members feel very strongly about some parts of this legislation. And I really welcome the opportunity to join in because I have some concerns as well.

Some of the points, clearly there's a lot of common grounds and common understanding that we can agree on, particularly those points, and we talked about:

... the names of individuals who retired or died during the period ... [that's covered], the amounts of superannuation or other allowances or benefits granted in individual cases or any other personal information respecting any of those individuals.

But we know and we've come to appreciate over the course of the past few years the changing economy, particularly when it comes to people with pensions, but also those entering the workforce. And how does that flow occur naturally and with some kind of expectations for those who are receiving pensions, that their pensions will be worth the pensions that they thought they had and that they could retire in comfort? The expectation that they had throughout their working years, that they could retire.

[15:45]

But also those who are entering into the workforce that, when they've gone through the education systems — the universities, SIAST [Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology] or whatever — that when they enter the workforce, that they could have some expectations that they will be getting jobs, that they could support their families and do the things that many of us, and particularly in my generation, the baby boomer generation, have come to expect whether that's buying a house, buying a house, being able to support a family.

And so this clearly has some implications and, you know, we have the opportunity to enter into these debates. It's not so much that we think just at this particular time about the implications of what's the written word, but what are the long-term implications? What are the unintended consequences of a Bill? And particularly this Bill here, when we're amending the superannuation Act, what are the consequences? What are the long-term consequences? And clearly we've had some very, very thorough speeches on those points, and I think that they're very worthwhile that we take some time in considering the points that are made.

We can all agree on some of the proposed amendments. Some of them are minor. I looked at the one regarding the calculation of pension benefits for a spouse. I think we can all agree to that. That makes a lot of sense. Sometimes when we put forward initial pieces of legislation, we don't think of some of the things that we have to, and here's an example of that.

But there's one that is very contentious, and some of it really what we can call double-dipping and the whole concept of the legalization of double-dipping. And is it really a simple, easy way to deal with an issue that really may become very costly? And of course the question I have is, does the public support that in a civil service that we take a lot of pride in? We take a lot of pride in the professional nature of our civil service. We want to see a natural growth in that civil service, where young people are coming in and they have an expectation that they can move through the civil service and reach top management positions in a natural, timely way. And if we have a point at the end where there tends to be a logjam, where it seems to be worthwhile for people who would naturally move into retirement but have decided to stay, Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is a concern. And we think of this as perhaps a fundamental shift in public policy.

And has there been the appropriate consultation given to all the different sectors within our communities? And one that I would say that I would like us to consider at length on this are those within the CBO sector, the community-based organizations — and you know, Mr. Speaker, I have been raising this issue daily through petitions since the beginning of this session — where there is a group calling for wage equity for CBO workers. And we have that on one hand, a group that we know that is very poorly paid, that is looking for wage equity, and on the other hand, here we have an Act to amend superannuation and allowing for some very, I think, high-paid salaries.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we see something kind of out of sync here. We see people who are — both groups of people are — providing very important services. But one may be very well paid and very costly to the public purse, and another group who

is also doing some very good work in our communities and are notoriously underpaid, and they're calling for some attention. But yet this government seems to be intent on doing one-offs in their type of work.

We know that the workers in the CBO sector are traditionally underpaid and continue to work in wages that float right around the low-income cut-off, and if it wasn't for the minimum wage going up — and, Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to be part of the government that put those wage increases into place — these people would continue to be underpaid.

We know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that within the CBO sector there is a high staff turnover. People cannot, cannot see the commitment made by the government, the provincial government, that their work is valued, and therefore they tend to leave. And this has a huge impact, particularly in caregiver continuity. It has a huge negative impact on the quality of care that clients receive.

Now, Mr. Speaker, some people may say, well this is not connected. Clearly it is. On one hand, you're putting aside huge amounts of money, potentially huge amounts of money, and on the other hand, on this other group, you are saying, we don't have the money. Clearly, Mr. Speaker, I think there is a connection between the two groups. And we need to talk about what are the values, what is the long-term vision for this government.

We've often asked the question: what are the long-range plans for this government? Whether it's in housing, forestry, terms of tuition today, we asked about that. What is the long-range plan? These folks don't seem to have any long-range plans, Mr. Speaker. They tend to go along with the flow.

And clearly here is an example — Bill No. 9. What are the implications when you allow and you legalize, essentially, double-dipping for some of our most highly paid public servants? What are the long-term implications of that, Mr. Deputy Speaker? And I don't think this government has thought out the implications. They're just going along with the flow. They've got some good points in there, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but clearly some represent a huge public policy shift.

And have they gone out and consulted with the communities that are affected with this? I don't think so, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I don't think so. They have not considered the implications of amending a Bill like this at all. And we have some concerns and we have some considerable questions about the financial ramifications for taxpayers. And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, this deserves some very close scrutiny.

We know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that we have seen — in fact we have seen within this session — some of the other legislation that has not been well thought out. And clearly they've had to go back to their drawing board and say, oops, we have to do a redo; we have to do a redo. And I am thinking that this may be one of those where they have to do a redo.

And again, Mr. Speaker, I just want to emphasize the questions I have, particularly about the implications for people who are looking for work who see a career in the public service, and whether that's within the CBO sector — and hopefully at some

point as they gather the experience and they think that they see themselves having a role within the public sector — whether it's a provincial, federal, or at the municipal level. But we are in charge of the provincial level, and clearly we have a responsibility to make sure that they can move into this area at a natural rate.

And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, one of the things I do worry about is that we should be looking towards young people as the hope for tomorrow because these folks come in and they have new ideas. They have a vision, and they really want to share. They want to grab the opportunity to make this province the most it can truly be. And when you have a government that's looking to reward people by allowing them to double dip and to stay in their positions, I have some serious questions. And I know many of us have some serious questions.

And so, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think that this needs to go back. And I would really encourage the government to think about do they want to move forward with this whole Bill.

I think the question around double-dipping really begs the question about what is the message to young people today when they are saying, listen, we're not going to do a thing for CBOs and we're not . . . in fact actually we eliminated the social economy. Can you imagine the expertise that would have come out of that that could have benefitted our civil service? But what we're going to do is we're going to reward those at the top who are concerned about their pensions.

And I can understand, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I can clearly understand in these trying times. We see the global economy — and particularly pensions, the hit they've taken — and people who may be in their mid-50s, late 50s, thinking about, do I really want to stop work? Clearly these people have done some very good work and have really done an awful lot for the province of Saskatchewan, and we value the work that they have done. Without a doubt they have done an awful lot. But does that mean they get to do the double-dipping? I don't think so.

We're very happy to see them stay. I know in teaching, this is an issue that quite often I see. And as a former teacher and a teacher on leave from the Saskatoon Public School Board, we've often debated this question about double-dipping. We need to see young teachers be able to take their places in the classrooms. And with double-dipping, that becomes a problem. And so we see teachers who may ask, is Saskatoon or is Saskatchewan the place where we see our futures?

Do we want to have that same question happen here in Saskatchewan, where we see a clear signal to young people, coupled with another couple of other things, and whether it's a graduate tax exemption that they won't move on, they're saying, we don't want to see people with master's or doctorates. Clearly they don't want to see that. They just want people with undergraduate degrees.

We see the whole question about housing and affordable housing. We see the question about the CBO sector. Now we see the elimination of the social economy, that there are some real questions that young people may say, is this the place where we really truly are valued? Maybe we should be thinking

about other places. And so I am deeply, deeply concerned about this, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Again, we don't see anything really in the explanation notes about the kind of consultations that they've done. We know that the government's style here is to move and pass legislation, and then consult. I don't understand that, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Usually what you do is consult first so everybody's in agreement; they understand the intentions, the implications. This government seems to prefer to move legislation forward first and then pass it, and then they seem to pick up the pieces wherever they may fall. I don't know what school they went to, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but I don't think this makes any sense at all. And so clearly, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have some questions.

And of course when we get to committee, I hope that the minister responsible is prepared to answer these questions, prepared to answer what about . . . What are the signals that they are sending to young people who want to enter into the public service? Are they really truly valued or are they not?

I don't think this government has at all considered the implications for the CBO sector because we see a couple of questions around that. We think that should be a priority, especially around wage equity, not around allowing double-dipping. Are they going to move on wage equity? And clearly for those people in the CBO sector, are they going to allow them . . . Are they sending a signal: you know what? We don't really value your work. We're not going to pay you very much. And at the end of the day, it's not really any point in coming into the public service because really, truly, we've got a logjam at the top because we're allowing double-dipping. We're allowing people to gather their salaries and we're allowing them to collect their full pensions.

And of course I think at the end of the day, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the taxpayers clearly would have some questions about this, clearly would have some questions because we know and we hope that the pensions that people are getting are fair and reasonable.

And so, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think we will definitely have some questions because we know that clearly the implications of this legislation are not well thought out. And we know that within many sectors the whole issue, the whole concept of double-dipping, it's just inherently unfair — inherently unfair when we know there are people who are looking for good, good work. They're looking for decent work, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

And if this is the message, that there is some chosen few that will be able to get, clearly, some significant cash, is that fair? Does that meet the test of fairness? Does that meet the test of decency? I don't think so, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And clearly we have some questions here.

Clearly we have some points that we agree with, and we would be very happy to move that forward. They're housekeeping.

But this is a major shift in public policy. And I know we've heard some very good speeches about this, who've raised some concerns, some real questions about this. And I have some questions about whether this government wants to be known as the government that allowed the legalized double-dipping in the

public civil service.

[16:00]

You know, and it is just an irony, Mr. Deputy Speaker. This government likes to talk about things they take a lot of pride in. I don't know how they're going to take a lot of pride in this, and I'd be very curious to know how in their message management or how they spin this, this'll come off as a win-win for everybody in Saskatchewan.

Clearly not a win-win for taxpayers. Clearly not a win-win for young people moving into the public civil service. And clearly, Mr. Speaker, I think that, I think at the end of the day when people go into superannuation, they look for fairness and decency and be treated that way, and clearly many pieces of this legislation address those concerns. But double-dipping is not one of those that meet the tests of fairness and decency and I don't think so. I don't think this'll meet the questions that the Saskatchewan taxpayers will have.

So with that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have some questions that I think need to be addressed in committee and I think that we need to have . . . I know there are many colleagues, many colleagues on this side who will like to enter into this debate. And so with that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think that . . . well I will move that we adjourn debate on the Act to amend superannuation, the supplementary provisions Act, Bill No. 9. Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McMillan): — The motion before the Assembly is to adjourn debate on Bill No. 9, the superannuation amendment Act. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Bill No. 43

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

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McMillan): — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Nutana.

Ms. Atkinson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to first of all thank you for recognizing me and allowing me to enter into this debate on Bill No. 43, *An Act respecting Trespass to Property*. Mr. Speaker, this is a new piece of legislation, as something that we have not seen in the province of Saskatchewan. Certainly in my time in the legislature, we have seen elements of the Bill in other pieces of legislation, but this certainly is a new Bill.

Mr. Speaker, I noted when the Minister of Justice got up to speak about the Bill, he talked about the need to put some parameters around private property, particularly for those people who are farmers and ranchers and others to ensure that

individuals can't come on to your property if you have your property posted.

Mr. Speaker, as someone who comes from a farm family, I do know that there have been a number of times certainly in my life when people came on to farm land and pasture land with their all-terrain vehicles, their snowmobiles, hunters, and so on. And that certainly has presented problems for people in the agricultural industry.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I think that there may be some unintended consequences in this particular piece of legislation. And I know that when you're in public life, there will be times in that public life when you may have people in the public that really don't appreciate what you're doing from a public policy point of view. And as someone who's had picketers outside of my constituency office; as someone who's had people inside my constituency office; as someone who's had people on the steps of the legislature protesting the actions of the government of the day — it does take you, as a government and a minister, outside of your comfort zone. It really does.

I have been at public meetings — I'm thinking one in particular — where a decision was made by our government and people were extremely upset and they were protesting outside of this meeting. And I had to make my way out of a public facility and to a car, and I had to go through a group of people who were very, very upset, Mr. Speaker.

One of the things that concerns me about this particular piece of legislation is that the government, the Sask Party government, does not clearly define Crown land and in fact gives itself, in regulation, the ability to define Crown land further. Mr. Speaker, what I certainly am worried about, as someone who lives in a free and democratic country, as someone who lives in a democracy, is that it is possible that the government through regulation could define Crown land to such an extent that it would make it unlawful for people to assemble peacefully to protest and show their displeasure at a particular piece of public policy.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I don't think that is what we want to do in this Assembly. I don't think we want to restrict the ability of our citizens to assemble peacefully and together say to members of the legislature, say to the government, that they are opposed to a particular piece of public policy, a particular law and so on.

And so, Mr. Speaker, what concerns me about this legislation is that the government is giving itself, through regulation, the ability to define, enlarge, or restrict the meaning of any word or expression that's used in this Act. And therein lies some of the difficulty. They also are giving themselves the ability to prescribe Crown land or categories of Crown land to which the Act does not apply.

Mr. Speaker, at the moment, the only pieces of Crown land as it's defined in this particular Bill is vacant Crown agricultural land, Crown resource land, parkland as defined by *The Parks Act*. Well, Mr. Speaker, it is possible through regulation that the government could define this very Legislative Assembly and the grounds of this Legislative Assembly as being under the auspices of this legislation.

The other thing that is concerning and disconcerting about this particular piece of legislation is that the government, through regulation, can determine who's in charge or in possession of that Crown land. And we could have a situation where a group of people wanted to assemble peacefully at this legislature to make their thoughts known on a particular public policy issue — possible that the cabinet, through regulation, could designate this Assembly as coming under the auspices of this legislation and could designate the Sergeant-at-Arms as being someone who's in charge of this place, which would prevent people from lawfully assembling. So, Mr. Speaker, I think that this legislation goes far beyond anything that a considered person would find wise in a free and democratic society, Mr. Speaker.

Now we will have the opportunity to question the minister once we get into committee. Mr. Speaker, there are a number of questions that the minister will have to consider, and one of those questions really is, does this legislation give the minister and the cabinet the ability to put Crown property — which could be sidewalks, could be the legislative grounds, it could be streets, it could be roadways — under the auspices of this particular piece of legislation that would prevent our citizenry of assembling peacefully to indicate to other citizens how they feel about a particular piece of legislation or a particular public policy?

Now, Mr. Speaker, I don't think that's what we want to do in a free and democratic society that we call Canada, Mr. Speaker. People should have the right to assemble. They should have the right to express their point of view, peacefully of course. And they should not have that right inhibited by a piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I know that I have other colleagues that want to speak on the legislation. We have more work that we need to do in terms of trying to understand the legislation. And so with these short comments, I would move adjournment of this particular debate.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McMillan): — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 43. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Bill No. 68

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Tell that **Bill No. 68 — *The Arts Professions Act/Loi sur les professions artistiques*** be now read a second time.]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McMillan): — I recognize the member for Regina Coronation Park.

Mr. Trew: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour today and my pleasure today to speak to *An Act respecting the Arts Professions and the Status of the Artist*. And I want to start by saying to any artists that ever read this or see it or somehow understand that we're dealing with this, how very much they mean to not only myself and my family, but to

all of Saskatchewan people.

Any society without arts, be they any of the myriad of arts that there are, that we think of arts, whether it's painters or whether it's performing arts or whether it's the visual arts in some form or if it's a craft or if it's theatre, all of this enhances what life is about for a society. All of this makes life very worthwhile. All of it in some form provides either a learning opportunity for us or an entertainment opportunity for us or something. Sometimes it's just you look at something and you say, that is beautiful or that gives me a sense of peace or that troubles me. Sometimes that's what an artist wants to do, is to challenge us to think a bit about what it is we're doing. So as I enter the debate on this particular Bill, I want to let all artists know how much we really appreciate them.

Mr. Speaker, the next thing I want to say about it is we can do better here in Saskatchewan than we have done. We have a good history but a history that sadly comes in fits and spurts is the best way I can describe it. Although we all challenge ourselves and challenge each other to do better, but we really can do better on behalf of the artistic community of Saskatchewan.

And we have, speaking of an artistic community . . . You know, Mr. Speaker, I was using the Internet to do a little bit of research. It's a great tool. I just punched up visual artists in Saskatchewan and there is an amazing list. And you do a disclaimer on it right away saying, this is only a tiny sampling of the visual artists and other artists that we have in Saskatchewan. But it's amazing and I urge anyone that has access to the Internet, get on it and spend a little bit of time poking around Saskatchewan arts and Saskatchewan artists, and you'll come away in a very short order with a very real sense of what it is that artists mean to Saskatchewan and Saskatchewan people.

The list — and I'm not planning to take a long time with the list of visual artists — but just to give you a bit of an idea, Mr. Speaker, the list included people like Ron Bloore, Eli Bornstein, Victor Cicansky, Hans Dommasch, Joe Fafard, Mina Mabel Forsythe, Edward William Godwin, and 16 more on that list of visual artists alone. And I say that with apologies to the 16 more. But, Mr. Speaker, with apologies to the hundreds of more, maybe thousands of more visual artists that there are in Saskatchewan, people that really take pride in what it is they're doing and what they're creating.

And they take pride whether they're creating something just for themselves or whether they're creating something perhaps for a friend or their family or to hang in their house. I mean, there's all kinds of reasons why people enter into artistic creations. Maybe it's simply an outlet for self, a form of expression that also leads to a great sense of worth and relaxation.

[16:15]

But I apologize to the — I've named seven artists — I apologize to every other artist that I didn't name because quite frankly anyone that pursues any artistic endeavours deserves all kinds of support and encouragement from us as individuals and as society.

I mean, if we were all politicians, life would be incredibly dull. If we were all carpenters — notwithstanding that Jesus was a carpenter — but if we were all carpenters, you know, you might run out of buildings to build or cupboards to make or furniture to make or whatever. And all of those things are necessary and are valued. And I'm certainly not trying to undervalue carpenters, and I certainly wouldn't want to undervalue politicians, Mr. Speaker, nor any other people in any other walk of life.

I read this little short list of visual artists, and I have to tell you, Mr. Speaker, that once in my life I've been to Washington, DC [District of Columbia] — one time. And I was fortunate enough, I was blessed to be able to, as part of that experience, I went to the Canadian embassy. And there was a group of us, and we were to have breakfast with the Canadian ambassador. At that time it was Raymond Chrétien, Jean Chrétien's nephew, who has made a stellar career in the foreign service for Canada.

And I want to tell you that even though I'm not a Liberal — and I suspect that Raymond Chrétien would potentially be a Liberal — I want to tell you I was more than a little impressed with his character, with the way he handled and field questions of us, and with his professionalism. And he was dealing with politicians and people of all stripes, but what an amazing person.

And I'll always remember there was two things about, well three things about that experience at the Canadian embassy that kind of were surprising for a boy from the Prairies. One, we had to wait close to an hour for the ambassador to get there because there'd been a bomb threat, and it's just not something that we're particularly used to here in Saskatchewan. And every time I think about it, I thank my lucky stars that my ancestors were bright enough to come to this wonderful land and this wonderful province and that they were smart enough to help make it the province it is where we tend to worry not a lot about things like a bomb. But the ambassador Chrétien had to take an alternate route to get there. We had decided to wait to have breakfast with him because it was a working breakfast and we had some questions.

But while we were waiting they said, well why don't you just check out the embassy, and we've got a beautiful view out here of the White House. So we're kind of bored. I'm stumbling around and I bumped, kicked something on the floor and I looked down and said, oh it's a Fafard. And the staffer that was following right behind me says, oh you know art? I said, no I don't know art, but I know Joe. Joe Fafard. And it . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . They're saying I'm having a hard time, and actually I'm not because it was my honour to meet Joe Fafard not long before I went to Washington.

And I've long admired — as have hundreds of thousands of Saskatchewan people and people right across the world — admired work that Joe Fafard does. He's a terrific Canadian. He's an amazing person of talent, and he's a Saskatchewan artist. Not to put too fine a point on it, I'm very, very proud to say that I have met Joe Fafard and am very, very proud of the work he does, as I am of all of the other artists, Mr. Speaker, in Saskatchewan.

Now Joe Fafard has probably done better than most artists in

terms of being able to sustain a livelihood or earn a living from his work. Too few, too few are the artists that can say that they've made a living from what it is they do.

And that's one of the weaknesses in this Bill, Mr. Speaker, the Act respecting the arts professionals and the status of the artist. One of the weaknesses in this Bill is that it doesn't go as far as it should to help artists to band together to collectively bargain to make sure that they're getting the respect they need in a tangible way — that is, financially. To make sure that you don't have — I'll call it fire sale — but distress sales of artistic material; to make sure that when you have an organization like government or larger corporations that they not only respect, but they support the arts community in meaningful and tangible ways, so that it's not just Joe Fafard, or not just Glen Scrimshaw that can make a living. And I could go on and on just in visual arts alone, Mr. Speaker.

But we need to find ways to really, really make the next steps that are necessary. We had a great start in Saskatchewan. In 1948 we had . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Well you know, Mr. Speaker, I hear members opposite moaning, oh 1948, like it's some history. Well if you refuse to learn from history, you'll never make any progress.

In 1948 Saskatchewan set up the first Arts Board in North America. That's the history of 1948. And part of why I feel so strongly about it . . . Just for members so you can note, go down in the basement and look at the government of 1948. You'll see a picture of my grandmother, Beatrice Trew, there. She was part of the group that put together that Arts Board, the very first one in North America. And she was proud of that accomplishment right to her death. And our family is very proud of that accomplishment. And that's part of why I say, great accomplishment. And it wasn't just the CCF [Co-operative Commonwealth Federation] of the day. I mean there was . . . The Arts Board has been embraced by, I think, all parties subsequent to that.

And so my plea is that all of us can embrace the arts in a meaningful way and can help make it so that artists are better acknowledged and better recognized, and that they can provide even more joy, and even more things for us to see and do and feel and taste and experience, in Saskatchewan, and even beyond.

As I was doing a little bit of research, another thing . . . It kind of expands my knowledge about what arts are. I looked under artists and they list carver, ceramics, digital, drawing, film, folk, glass, graphic, illustrator, jewellery, mixed media, landscape, photographer, portrait, sculptor, textiles, and video, just to name a few. I just quickly wrote down about half of the list.

And Mr. Speaker, I've talked about the visual arts. I've talked primarily about painting probably because it's, as little as I know of anything, painting and sculpting is probably the things that I think of as artistic first. And I have to apologize, I've got some family, a family member who was an adjudicated potter, and I have some of his pottery. He's since passed on, but it's a wonderful thing for us to be able to keep. I know I've talked with various people, other MLAs, and they treasure some of these heirlooms or these pieces of history and pieces of valuable things from the past. And when I say valuable, it's hardly a

retirement fund, but it's also not a 50 cent or a dollar water glass.

I know Saskatchewan has a tremendous history in the arts as well in terms of literature. And now I've just got to put a plug in for my favourite Saskatchewan artist, being Gail Bowen, who's written a great, great Joanne Kilbourn series, wonderful murder mystery things. But Gail and her husband Ted are friends of mine and friends of ours. And they've just really added to the vibrancy and the fabric of Saskatchewan, and I look forward to that continuing for a long time. I could go to Sharon Butala. I could go to other Saskatchewan writers.

And what they all have in common is a desire that we have an umbrella that respects artists — an umbrella organization — and they want for our society to appreciate arts even more, the arts.

Mr. Speaker, I keep going back to that people want us or artists want us to appreciate the arts more. I think of something that happened back in the dirty thirties. They had relief cars at the time, and a relief car showed up in Lemsford where my grandparents farmed just out of Lemsford. And the way the story goes, my grandmother was part of the local community, the people that were in charge of making sure that the warm winter clothing that arrived in this relief car would get distributed in a fair and reasonable manner and that no family would wind up being too cold or frozen in the harsh winter at that time.

Anyway there was many people gathered and the railcar had been spotted. They opened the boxcar door and opened up some of the packages, and, to their dismay, it was ballroom dresses; it was tuxedos; it was top hats and it was things of that nature, items of that nature, which on the bald prairie where the wind just blows constantly, there wasn't much joy for the people who saw that. In fact there was some tears because some of the families were going to be very, very cold.

My grandmother stepped forward and said, look there's obviously been a terrible mistake, and we'll look after it. We'll send this car back, and we'll do our best to get the boxcar of warm clothes to come. But there's one thing that we need, she said. We need warm clothes to survive, but we need more. She said, we need some fun and we need some joy. And we need a reminder that there is a better life, and that there will be a better life coming. We need to have a little bit of fun. So what I'm going to propose is that every person goes and gets one item and . . .

The Speaker: — Order. Member from Regina Coronation Park.

Mr. Trew: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And so what they did is they all gathered up one item — the gentlemen for the most part tuxedos and top hats and canes and so on, and the women the ballroom gowns — and they had a dance at the Lemsford community hall that Saturday. And they had a grand time. They had a great time, and they just forgot the troubles and the woes of the Depression. They forgot that they at times didn't have enough food to eat; they forgot an awful lot.

[16:30]

Anyway it's a nice story and it's true. It happened and this is what the — no pun intended — this is what the arts community can do for us. This is what a little bit of fun, a little bit of joy can bring to a Saskatchewan community.

So, Mr. Speaker, I really wish that we would take the next steps and help artists of all . . . Whether they be literary arts, visual arts and crafts, electronic recording and media arts, including film and video — and we have a growing film and video industry here in Saskatchewan — be they performing arts, including theatre, opera, music, dance, mime, circus, and variety entertainment or any other artistic field that there might be, I wish we could find ways to better value these artists and help these artists organize themselves and organize through the Arts Board and better look after their future. Because any society, as I've said, that's worth living in has got a vibrant arts community. Saskatchewan has that, but we can do so much better.

I have referred to the Arts Board being set up — the first in North America — in 1948, earlier in my speech. I don't want to go back to that other than to say, in 1948 the provincial budget was such a minute fraction of what it is today. We can do better on behalf of our artists.

We can, we should, I even think we must do better, because I love this province and I want it to be a province, a future for myself, my family, certainly my children who've made it home, my grandchildren, and I want it to be home for many generations. And it can be, Mr. Speaker, if we value the arts to the level we should.

I have other colleagues that want to speak to Bill 68, *An Act Respecting the Arts Professions and the Status of the Artist* Bill, Mr. Speaker. But for now, I want to thank you and colleagues for their attention to this very important matter. And in the interests of continuing the debate, I beg leave to adjourn the debate.

The Speaker: — The member from Regina Coronation Park has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 68. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Agreed. Rather than moving on to further adjourned debates, I want to just remind the Assembly that His Honour is here for Royal Assent. And we'll just wait a moment till His Honour arrives.

ROYAL ASSENT

[At 16:36 His Honour the Lieutenant Governor entered the Chamber, took his seat upon the throne, and gave Royal Assent to the following Bill.]

His Honour: — Pray be seated.

The Speaker: — May it please Your Honour, the Legislative Assembly at its present session has passed the Bill which in the name of the Assembly I present Your Honour, and to which Bill I respectfully request Your Honour's assent.

Clerk: — Your Honour, the Bill is as follows:

Bill No. 82 - *The Traffic Safety (Volunteer Firefighters) Amendment Act*

His Honour: — In Her Majesty's name, I assent to this Bill.

The Speaker: — May it please Your Honour, this Legislative Assembly has voted the supplies required to allow the government to defray the expenses of the public service.

In the name of the Assembly I present to Your Honour:

Bill No. 81 - *The Appropriation Act, 2009 (No. 1)*

to which Bill I respectfully request Your Honour's assent.

His Honour: — In Her Majesty's name, I thank the Legislative Assembly, accept their benevolence, and assent to this Bill.

[His Honour retired from the Chamber at 16:37.]

The Speaker: — Please be seated. I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Gantefoer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that this House do now adjourn.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

[The Assembly adjourned at 16:38.]

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